



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

We welcomed Bishop Jeffrey Grob to our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our 8th grade students in the Religious Education program and the School of St. Mary on Saturday, March 12. While praying over the students, Bishop Grob invited the Holy Spirit to come down upon them. Now, filled with the power and the peace of the Holy Spirit, they can go forth sharing the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit throughout their lives of lived faith. I invite you to join me in praying for them and for their sponsors and families; that faith may be lived, that faith may be shared, today as well as throughout their lives.

At our monthly Parish Council meeting, Michael Lucas shared with the members of the Parish Council a little prayer he is using this Lent for his journey:

Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.
- Author Unknown

When you turn to hymn number 490 in **Today's Missal – Music Issue** you will find the music and verses for the hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*. I share the words of the verses with you as an invitation to use in your prayer these Lenten days.

There's a wideness in God's mercy, Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption, In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members, In the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader, Than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal, Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple, We should take him at his word,
And our lives would be thanksgiving, For the goodness of our Lord.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter, Like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander, From a love so true and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner, And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior, There is healing in his blood.

I find these words powerful and the melody one that is easy to sing and to use in prayer. Is there an invitation for you in the verses of this song as we journey in prayer and in faith these Lenten days?

You may have already found and use the prayer that is on the back cover of Today's Missal. This prayer for Lent is also offered to you today, to be used in your prayer these Lenten days:

PRAYER FOR LENT – O God, bless us during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, that we may be a sign of Jesus to all those living in our midst.

You are invited to join us for Mass, for the rosary, for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and for the Stations of the Cross throughout the season of Lent. You are invited to bring a friend or family member to pray with you at any or all of the above opportunities to gather with other parishioners.

May God bless you with a spiritually enriching and renewing Lenten season,