



St. Thomas More Church
374 Middlesex Road
Darien, Connecticut 06820-2517



Lent 2010

My dear friends:

When the disciples of John the Baptist followed and approached Jesus, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Teacher, where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." Lent is about following, approaching, and listening to Jesus. It is about actively looking for his presence and "staying" with him. That is why the Church encourages the Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. They are ways of focusing our attention to actively seek God's presence in all that we do.

Our Prayer might be enhanced by attending any of our extra Masses during the week. Mass is where we have the ability to spend time with Christ in the presence of the Eucharist. When coming to the Parish Office for a Mass Card, stop in the Chapel and spend some time in the presence of the Lord. Our Fasting and Abstinence on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent are meant to clear away distractions that might prevent us from "staying in the presence of Jesus."

Our Almsgiving might be achieved in any number of ways, such as contributing to the Loaves and Fishes Program for Diocesan Soup Kitchens, the Women's Tag Sale for Charities and Education, and the Golf Outing for our Appalachia Building Project, or the Diocesan Annual Appeal for Charities, Ministries and Education. Our In-Pew Collection for the Annual Appeal will take place on the weekend of March 20th / 21st.

Our Men's Retreat at Holy Family Monastery in Farmington is scheduled for March 19th, 20th, & 21st. The theme this year is "Be Not Afraid: Living in God's Care." In a year where many of us have been deeply affected by the economic changes, this retreat could really be beneficial. The Women's Circle is featuring an excellent speaker at this year's Lenten Brunch. Reverend Monsignor Kevin Wallin is pastor of St. Augustine's Cathedral and Chaplin to the Knights and Dames of Malta.

I am happy to announce that our Parish Retreat will be given in the Fall. Our dear friends Father Nick Punch, O.P., Father Michael Champlin, O.P., and Sister Joan Burkey, O.S.F. will facilitate our Retreat from October 23rd through October 28th. In addition, these people will be conducting retreats in our area during the month of March. We will publicize these dates in our bulletin and on our Parish website.

I will be conducting a discussion of a book entitled Charles De Foucauld: Journey of the Spirit by Cathy Wright, Isj. Maryann Knag will be conducting a fine Scripture Program entitled the Messiah from King David to Jesus. Our Be More Informed Book Group will be featuring Father James Martin, S.J. on Thursday, February 25th at 7:30 p.m. His topic is: "Become a Saint in Less than an Hour!" In addition our Book Group will be reviewing Thomas Merton's famous, Seven Story Mountain. Father Bob will be offering a fine article on a Lenten topic every week in the Bulletin as well as the Byzantine Rite Divine Liturgy on Wednesday March 11th at 7:30pm.

Please take note of our Tuesday night Lenten Reconciliation Program. During Lent confessions will be heard on Tuesday night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our Reconciliation Service will take place Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Lori will be joining us for Confessions on Tuesday, March 23

Please join us here at St. Thomas More as together we look for Jesus and listen to Jesus. Remember, "God Loves You, And So Do We!"

Sincerely,
Fr. J. Barry Furey