

THE INVITATION OF LENT

My dear friends,

What do you think of when you when you hear the word “Lent”? I’ve quickly learned that at St. James it means Fish Fries! I’m sure that you will agree that Lent means other things as well. Often people think of fasting, deprivation, sorrow and penance. It is this. And it is more. Lent is an invitation to delve into our lives, our feelings, our priorities, our actions and reactions in order to clearly see ourselves—strengths, weaknesses, good decisions and poor ones.

The invitation of Lent is a personal, singular offer to each one of us to come closer to God and to understand ourselves. The purpose of Lent is not simply to make us feel bad about ourselves; it is to bring us to the realization of how much we need God, how much we need forgiveness, and how readily that forgiveness is there for us. It is also an invitation to make a new start, to find activities and habits that bring us closer to God and to each other. As a Lenten discipline we might give up something we enjoy, commit ourselves to prayer, reading the bible, or by doing silent good deeds to help others.

Lent is a journey of love and understanding. We receive ashes on our foreheads as a mark of our mortal nature and then we receive Holy Communion, the pledge of our eternal life with God. We cannot separate ashes and repentance, and perhaps even regret for past actions from the reconciling love of God. The journey of Lent brings us see how our lives and God’s love for us are intimately connected.

Come, join in this holy Lent. Seek understanding, engage in honest repentance and find God’s love active in your life.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+