

March 6, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

Next Wednesday, March 9 is Ash Wednesday believe it or not. As the parish begins its observance of Lent using the theme: *"Healing Silence"*, I encourage you to take some special time to check in with God. Lent is a special time for slowing down and thinking about the habits of our lives. It is a time to reassess priorities with the knowledge that God has created us with great hopes and dreams that we all too often bury amidst other demands. Know that the Lord is always there to pick you up and refresh you. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great way to be reassured of this reality. Don't be afraid to free yourself from the burdens and worries that you carry. Turn to the Lord and know that the Lord loves you no matter what. What are you silent about? What do you need to hear? What do you need to feel?

In a special way, the theme *"Healing Silence"* is two-fold. There is need in the parish, after this past year, for some to have the opportunity to speak about their experience of the past and their questions today and on the other hand there are those who are tired of hearing about the same issue when we talk about church and would welcome another topic. Both are valid and both should challenge a dynamic Church. A journey toward healing happens when we speak, listen and become reconciled and renewed.

This brochure outlines our Lent and Easter activities and schedules. A Parish Mission will be observed from March 27-29. None of us knows better what we have been through than us, so our mission will be led by us.

Like the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind and Lazarus who we will hear about this Lent, may you look forward to Easter after allowing Jesus to open you up in new ways to see the power of His Spirit at work among us, the Church.

God bless your Lent and Easter
as we continue on a journey toward healing for all.

Fr. Norm Carroll
Pastor

