

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

We are toward the beginning of this season of Lent and we should all try to “settle into” our Lenten resolutions at this time. Many of us make resolutions when Ash Wednesday arrives but many of us also let those same resolutions slip a little by the time this First Sunday of Lent comes around. Our Lenten practices are meant to help us renew our faith now and for the whole year. It really would make no sense if we sought to be extremely diligent in putting our faith into practice during Lent and let things go for the rest of the year. Personally, I find Lent to be extremely helpful in making sure I am doing everything in my power to cooperate with God’s grace. None of us is perfect in living our faith but if we trust in God’s mercy and forgiveness and we believe that God can help us to do all things in His name, any time we spend in seeking to strengthen our commitment to the Lord is time very well spent.

During Lent, we should think often of the Gospel passage from Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:1-18) which calls on God’s people to pray, fast and give alms. Prayer should be an everyday practice on our part, as it was even for Jesus. Fasting is required only two days a year but making small sacrifices out of love for the Lord is something we can do often. Likewise, alms-giving, or charitable giving, is a recommended practice which comes from Jesus. Thinking of the poor and those who are in need is part of the practice of the faith. There are many ways to do that but allow me to suggest helping the Church is a way of supporting our family of faith. Regular collections, special collections and larger campaigns are different ways to support the Church and continue Christ’s work. As you may remember, we will soon be asking our parishioners to support the Capital Campaign of the Archdiocese of New York called *Renew and Rebuild*. It may require significant sacrifice from those who are able to donate but it will definitely help to ensure strong parishes. It takes a lot of support to make sure our parishes can continue to offer sacramental and other spiritual assistance to all our people.

Blessed Lent!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.