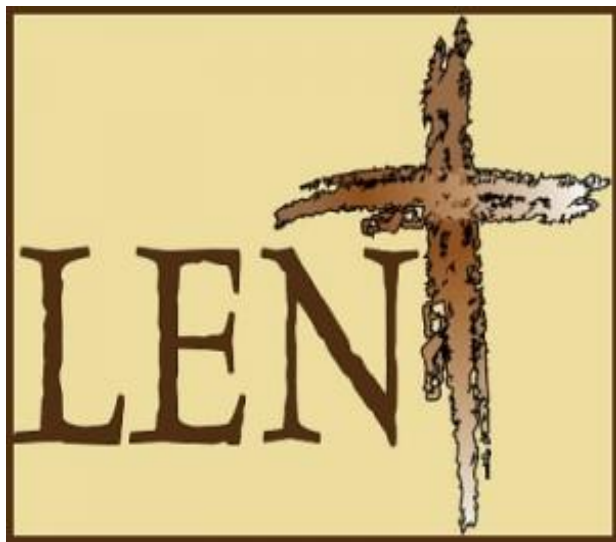


February 18th, 2018 First Sunday of Lent



A covenant is an agreement that binds two parties. In today's first reading from *Genesis*, we hear of the agreement God makes with Noah, never again to destroy the earth by water. In return, Noah and his family were to populate the earth.

In every Mass during the Eucharistic Prayer, we hear Christ's words, "This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant...." In Christ, the ancient relationship between God and humankind has taken on a human face.

Why do I say Lent is a time to renew your covenant? Well, in centuries past, Lent was observed as a time of penance. With the renewal of the catechumenate—the process of becoming a Christian—the Church now sees Lent as a time of preparation for those to be baptized at Easter, and a time of renewal of Baptism for all the rest of us. The Lenten penances we choose—and they're still appropriate—are signs of "covenant renewal," our pledge to deepen our commitment of love and service.

In Mark's *Gospel* this Sunday, Jesus calls us to that kind of repentance and renewal. In the Lenten Sunday readings this year, listen for the theme of "covenant."

Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.

Have confidence in prayer. It is the unfailing power which God has given us.

St. Peter Eymard

Fridays During Lent

Mass at 9 am

-

- 7 pm Stations of the Cross

- 7:30 pm Mass

-

Share Lent Collection:

Sunday March 18th

Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, we pray throughout the season of Lent that you will open our minds and stir our hearts to follow you more faithfully. We know that you died for us when we were still sinners, and we know we are sinners still. But you have given us a longing to be the people you want us to be: faithful, hope-filled and loving. Help us to make the most of these forty days marked by fasting, prayer and almsgiving so that we might draw near to you and give you greater glory. Amen.

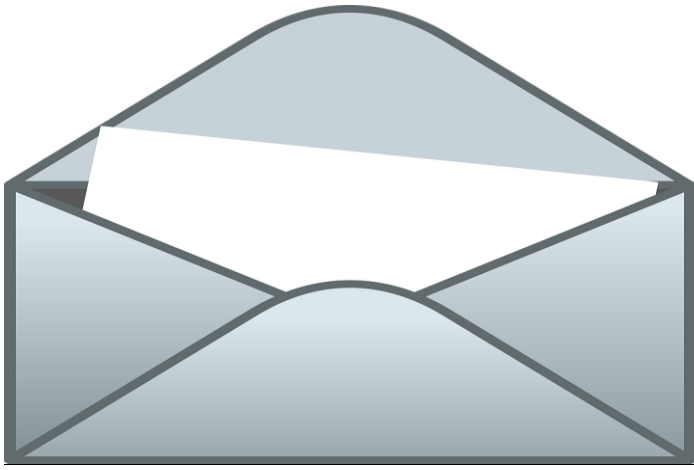
From Parish Council

Parish Hall Equipment: Property equipment belonging to Immaculate Conception Church is for Immaculate Conception use only and can't be borrowed for private functions.

Parish Roof: We requested and received an appraisal for our roofs. Total cost of replacement is **\$462,410.00** (School roofs: \$205,800 and Parish roofs: \$206,610) with a timeline between the years 2022 and 2027. The donations from the **Yellow Church Envelopes** will be allotted to the Roof Building Fund. Thank you for your generous contributions.

St. Vincent de Paul Soup/Sandwich Preparation

Tuesday at 9:40 am preparing sandwich and soup ingredients and **Wednesday at 9:40 am** making soup and sandwiches in the Church hall.

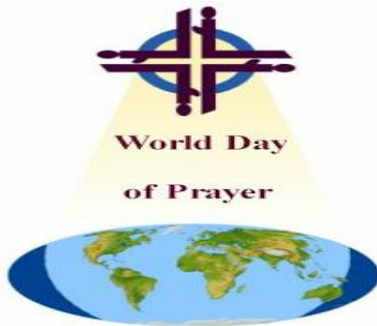


Important Change

The bank has asked us to let our parishioners know to make their cheques payable to **RCEC – Immaculate Conception**. When you are making cheques payable to the Diocesan Appeal please make them out to RCEC – Diocesan Appeal.

World Day of Prayer

This will take place at St. Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church, 1505-5th Ave. at **7 pm Friday, March 2nd**. World Day of Prayer is a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with Christians from other countries and cultures. Service is organized by local Christian Churches.



Noon-Hour Series Gospel Reflections of Lent

Mondays, February 19, 26 March 5, 12, and 26th
12 noon to 1:30 pm in St Mary's St. Eugene Room

As we journey with Jesus from the desert to the empty tomb, Sisters Irene Baker and Dorothy Ryan will facilitate reflection, discussion, and prayer on the Lenten gospels. Light refreshments will be served.

PLEASE REGISTER at St. Mary's Parish office by:
e-mail: stmarys.parish@shawcable.com or
phone: 250-564-4097

Morning of Reflection for Men & Women

The morning event **for Women on Saturday February 24th** includes two presentations, time to pray and share together and a luncheon.

The theme is "***Called by Name: Authentic Personhood in Christ***".

The day begins with Mass at 7:30am (optional) in the Domano Chapel. Registration is at 8:30 am and it goes from 9 am to 1 pm at the Domano Renewal Centre (Emmaus). The fee is \$30 (includes a luncheon) and \$5 per child for childcare.

The next mornings of reflection theme is: "I Have Plans for Your Healing..." Restoration of the Human Person

Men's Day: Sat. March 24th

Next Ladies Day: Sat. April 28th

Time: 8:30 am Registration – 9 am – 1 pm at the Domano Renewal Centre (Emmaus).

The fee is \$30, which includes lunch and there is a \$5 per child for childcare.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT—will be held on **May 19-21** at Camp Morice, Fort St. James. More details to follow. Mark your calendars.



Wanted

We are collecting stamps and postcards with ½" border. The proceeds from the sale of these items are used to provide cancer dressings to those patients in need, free of charge. Please place your items in the small black basket on the table in the church foyer.