

**March 3rd, 2019**  
**Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

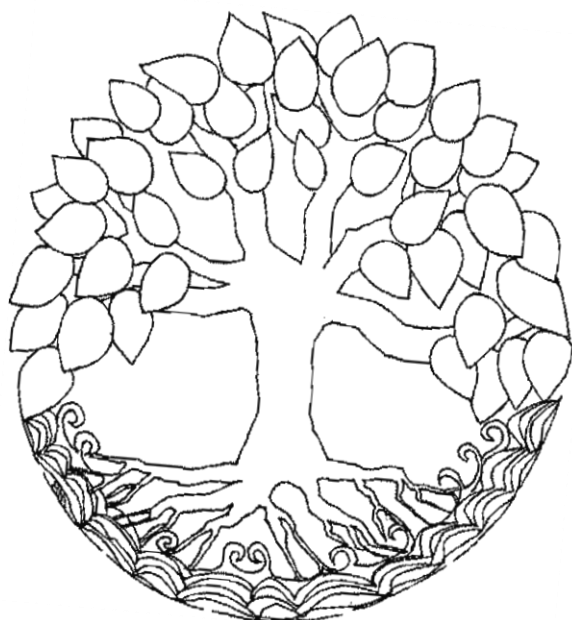
Today's scripture readings focus our attention on the quality of our moral character. They force us to take stock of how we are living our lives. Quite appropriate, for Wednesday this week is Ash Wednesday—the beginning of Lent.

The image found in both the First Reading and in the *Gospel* is that of a tree, and the quality of fruit it produces. So, we must ask ourselves what sort of fruit are our lives producing?

"The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had." How well are each of us taking care of the tree of our life? What sort of fruit are we producing in our lives as Disciples of Christ? Jesus challenges us to be honest with ourselves and with others.

How do we deal with the problems in our lives today? Do we simply focus on ourselves while ignoring the needs of those around us? Do we hear the cry of the poor? Are we ready to sacrifice our comfort for the good of others? When we see a problem are we willing to work at finding a solution? These are important issues for each of us to face.

Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.



**The Season of Lent**

The season of prayer and penance to prepare for the feast of the Resurrection begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**. Originally the period of fasting in preparation for Easter did not exceed two or three days, but by the time of the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 forty days were customary. This length of time is associated with Christ's forty-day fast in the desert before beginning His public life (Matthew 4:1-2) and also recalls the forty years Israel spent in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt (Numbers 14:34).

Lent has a twofold purpose: it is the last stage of preparation of Catechumens for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil and it prepares all of us to renew our baptismal promises at Easter.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are universal days of penance. On these days those who are 14 years of age and older are bound to abstain from meat and those from 18 to 59 years of age should also fast, limiting their food to not more than one regular meal and two lighter snacks.

Besides fast and abstinence on specified days, the whole Lenten season should be penitential, with stress on prayer, reception of the Sacraments, especially Penance and Reconciliation, almsgiving and the practice of charity.

"What every Christian should always be doing must now be performed more earnestly and devoutly...not simply a reduction in our food, but the elimination of our evil habits" (St. Leo the Great).

**Ash Wednesday – March 6th**

*Day of Fast and Abstinence from Meat*

**9 am School Mass with Ashes**

**7 pm Mass with Ashes**

**Fridays During Lent**

Mass at 9 am

**7 pm Stations of the Cross**

**7:30 pm Mass**

### **Knights of Columbus**

Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**.  
Everyone is welcomed.

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### **St. Vincent de Paul Soup/Sandwich Preparation**

**Tuesday, Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>** at **9:40 am** preparing sandwich and soup ingredients and **Wednesday, Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>** at **9:40 am** making soup and sandwiches in the Church hall.

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### **Monthly Adoration**

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** at the Domano Chapel. Mass will be celebrated at **7:30 am** and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from **8 am – 8 pm**.

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### **Society of St Vincent de Paul St Francis of Assisi Conference**

Our next Conference meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** at Sacred Heart Church following the 9:00 am Mass in the downstairs meeting room. Conference meetings will focus on the spiritual aspect of being a Vincentian and have a minimum amount of time spent on the business side of the Society. Meetings will be limited to one hour. Please \_\_\_\_\_ join \_\_\_\_\_ us.

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### **St. Patrick's Mass**

The annual Mass to anticipate the **Feast of St. Patrick** will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** at **6:00 p.m.** The celebrant will be Fr. Chris Lynch from Immaculate Conception Parish. All are welcome to join the Irish community in a celebration of the principal patron of Ireland. Don't forget to wear your green!

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### **Support Our Sponsors**

Please support our sponsors who advertise in the back of the bulletin.

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### **Wills**

*Please remember Immaculate Church and School in your will. Thank you.*

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### **Lenten Noon Hour Series**

### **With Bishop Robert Barron**

### **Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Lively Virtues**

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to join them for Lenten reflection on Mondays at St. Mary's Parish in the St. Eugene Room.

The sessions run from **Noon to 1:30 pm**.

**Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction; Pride and Humility

**Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Envy and Admiration; Anger and Forgiveness

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Sloth and Zeal; Avarice and Generosity

**Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Gluttony and Asceticism; Lust and Chastity

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Drop-in's are encouraged, tell your friends!

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**SAINTLY MARCH MOVIE NIGHTS:** On **Thursday** the **7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** of **March** – we will gather in Nazareth House at Domano Renewal Center at **6:00 pm** and the movie will begin at 6:30 pm sharp. The movies will concentrate on the lives of saints. There will be a short time for discussion and fellowship after the movie. Popcorn will be provided and moviegoers are also encouraged to bring shareable snacks. The first movie shown will be *Paul: Apostle of Christ* (parents please be advised that there are some intense scenes of Christian persecution in this movie.) Nazareth House is furnished with couches and armchairs, located by the DRC office. Suggested offering of \$5.00 per person.

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### **DYC 2019 "CALLED" May 3rd-5th, 2019**

This year's DYC is excited to have Katie Prejean McGrady as the keynote speaker along with Face2Face Ministries.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW LIVE!!** Head to <http://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca/dyc-2019-registration/> to REGISTER TODAY!

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**Fasting and almsgiving are 'the two wings of prayer' which enable it to gain momentum and more easily reach God.**  
**St. Augustine**