

# Good News

March 8, 2017  
Ash Wednesday

*Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matt 4:1).* Today's readings show us two opposite responses to the temptation to be "like gods" (Genesis 3:5). Our first parents gave in to the serpent's allure, but Jesus didn't. Facing every temptation that we face, he clung to his Father and remained free from sin. Sin is appealing, isn't it? It's also incredibly deceptive, passing itself off as harmless and maybe even good for us. This Lent is a time when our lives can change. What temptations oppress you the most? A tendency toward irritation or resentment? Selfishness? Jealousy? Choose one, and decide to make some headway in just this one area this Lent. Think about Jesus in the wilderness, battling hunger and the nagging voice of Satan. Each time he was tempted, Jesus turned to his Father in prayer, even when it was a great effort even when the truths he clung to felt distant. And his Father didn't abandon him! God never turns away from us either. It's our chance to say no to the temptations we face and turn back to our heavenly Father (Word Among Us, Lent 2017, p. 25).

**Why Ashes?** Receiving ashes is a counter cultural act of faith. Ashes are used for two reasons, one as an act of remembrance and two, as a personal sign of being a witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We remember who we are and where we came from, and we give witness to a life of renewal from birth to death. The priest says either, "turn away from sin and back to Christ," or "from dust thou art and unto dust thou will return." The ashes are burned palms that were used on Palm Sunday as we proclaimed, Hosanna to our King.

**School Auction** has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2017. Dinner and Silent Auction begins at 5 p.m. Live Auction begins at 7 p.m. \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door. Price includes dinner. Proceeds go towards operating expenses such as building maintenance and repairs, utilities, technology, and supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.), copier rental and more. Since the PSR uses these services and supplies, it is right and just that we support this fundraiser.

*Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving*

**Please pray for Catechumens** Nick Messex and Tony Rogers, and Candidate, Dan Wickerham as they "elect" to continue the journey toward initiation and full reception into the Catholic Church at the Cathedral Saturday, March 4. **Archbishop Robert Carlson will be the presider.**

**The second PSR Server's Practice** for all servers is next Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m.

**St. Joachim Track Team is forming.** Permission forms are attached. If interested, please return the forms by next Wednesday, March 8.

**Lenten Regulations.** Those 18 years to 59 years must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means that one is allowed one big meal, two smaller meals, and cannot eat between meals. One must also abstain from meat on those two days and all the Fridays of Lent.