

March 13, 2010



Dear Parishioner:

During the forty days of Lent that begin on February 17, 2010 we recall with great joy the wonderful mercy of God, which overcomes all sin and evil. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God revealed a powerful love, stronger than any human power.

We call Lent a *penitential, yet joyful, season*. It is penitential because during these forty days we have an opportunity to acknowledge in sorrow the failure and evil that is a part of our lives. More significantly, it is a joyful season because we know that God's healing love can overcome all failure and brokenness. God's mercy is given freely to all who open themselves to this wonderful gift.

We invite you to join us **on Monday, March 15th** when we gather to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (penance) as a community of faith at **St. Peter Parish at 7:30 pm**. At that time, we will gather to praise God for his mercy and to hear a healing word proclaimed through the Scriptures. Our celebration will also allow time for people who wish to celebrate the sacrament individually with one of the several priests who will be joining us.

If you have celebrated this sacrament with us in the past, you know the great joy that comes from gathering as a community of people who are in need of God's healing touch. If you have not had an opportunity to celebrate this sacrament recently, we invite you to join us on this evening. The sacrament of reconciliation can be a wonderful opportunity to find wholeness in God's loving grace and, for those who feel separated or alienated, to discover a church community that strives in faith to reflect the love and compassion of God.

The vision of this sacrament will not become a reality until all people are at one with God and with each other. We look forward to seeing you when we gather as a community for the sacrament of reconciliation and open ourselves to God's grace so that all may be one in Christ. If you are unable to be present but wish to celebrate the sacrament, please join us at the regularly-scheduled time, Saturdays of Lent at 11:00 am., or call the parish office to make an appointment.

May this season of Lent be a time of blessing for you and for all who long for God's peace.

Sincerely,

Fr. Tom