

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we move into the season of Lent, I hope to encourage you to make this season of reflection and preparation a spiritually enriching journey for the next 40 days. I would invite you, if you are able, to take advantage of some of the opportunities that we have available at St. Thomas both in person and via live stream.

This week, on Wednesday February 24th, Fr. Jim will host the first of a two-part series on the sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Jim would like to invite you to join him in the Church at 7:00 p.m. for a short presentation to strengthen your understanding of this beautiful sacrament. This event will also be available via live stream, so if you are not able to attend in person, I would invite you to tune in via FaceBook livestream. Do not forget to mark your calendar for the second half of the presentation on Wednesday March 3rd, 7 p.m. in the church.

If you have an opportunity, please join Ted Meany for a Lenten Bible Study held on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. You do not need a Zoom account to join this session. If you are interested, please contact the parish office and you will receive a Zoom link to join from your computer. We are happy to help you learn how Zoom works if you need assistance. Ted has an incredible gift in sharing his knowledge of the Bible and you are certain to gain new learning from this interactive event.

Our Friday tradition of Stations of the Cross will continue this year. Stations will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Church, however we are making some adjustments for Covid. Please use the Signup Genius if you would like to participate in person at St. Thomas. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aaaa82faafe3-stations> Stations will also be live streamed for those that are unable to attend in person. Our of concern for others, we ask that you take and keep your Stations of the Cross booklet to use each week.

On February 27th, the Rite of Election will take place at St. John the Evangelist in Vancouver. We have two Catechumens from St. Thomas who have been preparing to be received into the Catholic Church and I would ask that you keep Zach Ericcsen and Jordan Fowler in your prayers this week as they prepare to participate in the Rite of Election. In addition to our two Catechumens please keep Steve Sollom, Todd Lincoln and Andrew Twyman in your prayers as they prepare to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church as well as Ashley Hoang as she prepares to receive Confirmation and Eucharist.

I hope that we will be able to offer something to each of you during this Lenten season to provide you with the opportunity to grow closer to Christ. As I mentioned last week, there are many wonderful resources available through our parish subscription of Formed.org. If you need assistance in learning how to access those resources, please do not hesitate to ask.

Whether you have decided to give up Starbucks this Lent or if you have chosen to replace thirty minutes of scrolling with a reflective meditation, I pray that your sacrifice helps deepen your faith and provide you with a richer understanding of our Lord's love for us.

Your sister in Christ+

Lorrie Conway

Pastoral Coordinator