

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 2018

Dear Parishioners:

On Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, the parish will hold confirmation for 26 young people. We will be joined by some students from Assumption. I encourage you to attend the mass as a sign of support for our young people. If they are to take their rightful position in the community as future leaders, then we need to stand behind them. The youth are our future.

This coming week is celebrated as Catholic Schools Week throughout the nation. As you know we co-sponsor a school with Assumption. You can take great pride in the accomplishments of ASB. I am grateful to all those who support the school.

During this weekend, I have asked two members of our new St. Vincent de Paul Society to speak about their work and recruit additional members. We do have people in need in this community. In addition, St. Bridget's along with Our Lady of the Lake is responsible for serving a local housing project. You may receive an occasional call to assess the needs of the person who requests help. Some people come directly to the parish office. Sometimes, you go out to the person. If you call upon a person, we ask that two people go. St. Vincent de Paul Society does great work to assist the poor and needy of the community. If you are interested in serving, please call the office.

Lent is around the corner. This year Lent begins on Valentine's Day. The day before Lent is also Mardi Gras. Lent is not a time to give up everything you enjoy only to return to it after Lent is over. If that were the case, you would gain nothing. I encourage you to give some thought to what you would like to do for Lent. Think about setting aside ten minutes to pray. We will soon mail a Lenten book of meditations similar to what you had for Advent. If you came out of Lent a more prayerful person, Lent would be worthwhile. If you choose to set aside some money or alms, you might consider a charity that you would like to support. If you choose to fast, think about setting aside a portion of food and donate it to a foodbank. Or if you fast, think about your diet. Are you eating healthy food which is good for you?

If you plan ahead, hopefully you will gain more from Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth Haydock, Pastor