

PASTOR'S DESK

When I saw comments from Pope Francis that the Lenten Season should be marked by a feeling of joy, I wasn't sure if this connected to my traditional experience or upbringing. Lent has always been a time of penance, almsgiving and sacrifice. And so it is, yet it is so much more. I have to say that I am enjoying these weeks as never before. Our liturgical, spiritual and special programs have been well received and attendance has been better than recent years. Our fundraising efforts, especially the Fish Fry Dinners have been truly joyous affairs where the extended community has come together in laughter and friendship. I truly count my blessings that I am not just the pastor, but a true member of Transfiguration Parish. The Monday before Ash Wednesday, we gathered for Mardi Gras and used the time to also address some hopes for the future. We want everyone to feel as a part of our community as I do. One of the ways we can do this is to be intentional in our welcoming new members, former members who may have drifted away, and current ones that feel more on the sidelines than in the thick of the action. Join us this Monday, March 31st as we gather at the Southern Site to discuss ways in which we continue and improve upon our best practices. Julie Carrigan, who along with her Evangelization Team at Holy Trinity of Cohoes was honored with a diocesan award this past May, will highlight their efforts and share insights on how we can respond to this special call of discipleship here at home. Please join us. Because Monday's presentation was rescheduled from an earlier date, we will be having our Soup and Scripture event on Tuesday at the same time and place. This will be held at the same time as the Confirmation Rehearsal and I encourage parents, grand- parents and drivers to join this experience if you are not a sponsor or needed at the rehearsal. Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates as well as all of us that we always remain open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God bless you!

Father George