



# ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! Thank you for your generosity and help. We have been blessed.

We are blessed with a very active parish. This is a blessing and a challenge for us. Our challenge is space. We do not have the space for any additional spiritual development; in order to develop our youth program we need facilities.

As a family, we have to look into these problems to find a solution. After completing the Master Plan for St. Jerome Parish, the Finance Council, Pastoral Council, and Master Planning Committee have met and agreed to look into building a new Youth/Activity Center for our parish. At this time we do not know the size or design and before we can proceed further, we need the blessing of Bishop Joe Vásquez. We are on our way to getting the bishop's approval.

Once approval for this project is granted, we will begin the daunting task of raising the funds necessary to build our new Youth/Activity Center. We will soon begin to implement a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection, which will be a building fund. We ask that each family prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to this building fund. We will all reap the benefits from this new addition, and indeed it will benefit our families for generations to come.

Another blessing, which we celebrate each year, is Lent. The season of Lent is that liturgical period of time the church gives us to prepare for the celebration of Easter. It is a time when the church invites us to reflect and examine our lives and how we are following Jesus. This year, Lent begins on February 13, with Ash Wednesday. It is a time of penance, a time of hearing the voice of our Lord, calling us into deeper relationship with Himself.

As we receive ashes on our foreheads, we hear, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return". These words set the tone for Lent because this is a season of repentance. Lent is a season of turning back to God. It is a season of reminding ourselves to make good use of the time we have on this earth.

As we enter this Lenten season, please remember that we abstain from meat on Fridays in Lent, and we fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The church asks everyone between the ages of 14 and 60 (except those pregnant or nursing mothers) to observe these acts of self denial.

Our Lenten Journey postcard has been mailed to all registered parishioners. This contains a listing of our Lenten services. A schedule is also in this week's bulletin.

I wish you all a blessed Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Rakshaganathan Selvaraj