

# A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus

March 1, 2020



## **The New Adam**

Ever wonder what life would be like if Adam and Eve had never eaten the fruit from the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden? Without the corruption of sin and the resultant death that follows in a person's life, we would've all had the perfect life as intended by God in paradise. From the Book of Genesis in the Old Testament we hear the familiar account of Adam and Eve and how the serpent deceives them into eating the forbidden fruit. The serpent tricks our First Parents into believing that they will be like God's if they eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Instead of gaining superhuman powers, Adam and Eve have their eyes opened to sin and death, which bring separation from God. Instead of living an innocent existence in the presence of Divine Love, Adam and Eve find themselves through their choice "naked and ashamed." They hide themselves from each other and from God demonstrating that they are resisting the truth that they are made in the image and likeness of God. Rather than living freely in God's presence, they now have to deal with the consequences of having put themselves on the same level of God. With sin and temptation at work in human existence, people throughout time have had to struggle with good and evil. Jesus is referred to as the "new Adam." "Being born of a woman (Galatians 4:4)," Jesus is thereby necessarily a direct descendant of Adam. Through God's plan for salvation Jesus enters into our human reality to undo the damaging effects of sin and death that separate the sinner from God for eternity. "For by a man came death: and by a man the resurrection of the dead. And as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)." St. Paul also states, "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous (Romans 5:19)." So in summary, the first sin of Adam brought about by disobedience to God's command resulted in death and separation from God as well as the marring of our true identity. One holy action of the New Adam—Jesus—carried out in obedience to God began a new pattern. Through Jesus Christ, all people can truly become the new creation God intended from the beginning; the divine image, and in ordered relationship to God. Take time this week to thank Jesus Christ for the new life he gained for us through the shedding of His blood!

## **Confirmation Interviews**

In the coming weeks Confirmation Students from St. Patrick's and Most Holy Redeemer/St. Canice will be going through their final preparations for receiving the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. One of the final steps of the Confirmation process is being interviewed by the parish priest. This interview conducted each year allows the candidate to demonstrate their knowledge of the Catholic Faith as well as an opportunity for the parish priest to question the student about their vocational discernment. Each candidate is to be present at the interview with a parent or responsible adult and are respectfully asked to sign up for the Confirmation interview with their respective Confirmation instructor. Many thanks to Kim Chmelik and Chris Rosival who are the main Confirmation instructors in the area parishes.

## **Most Holy Redeemer Lower Level Clean-Up**

There will be an opportunity for some sprucing up of the Most Holy Redeemer Church lower level. Staff and volunteers have identified a need for sprucing up the lower level of the Church and throwing out unnecessary clutter, painting the walls, disposing of unused and broken chairs, tables, pews, decorations, random stuff etc... Groups like the Knights of Columbus, CCW, Mission Quilters are encouraged to identify items that are to be saved and find homes for them. Part of this process will see some of the heavier tables and used folding chairs going up for sale at a low price. The hope is to replace some of the worn tables and chairs with newer ones. There are also three long covered pews that are up for the taking. Please contact the Most Holy Redeemer Parish Office for more information.

Lenten Blessings!

Fr. Tom Niehaus