

Pastoral Message for March 11, 2018
4th Sunday in Lent

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Baptism,



It is a great grace to celebrate on this Sunday our annual 12 noon **Lenten White Mass** and the Sacrament of the Sick with our area physicians, nurses, health care professionals, sick, infirmed, and elderly. May all who are anointed experience God's tender love, mercy, and divine healing in a special way.

Please join us for our **St. Joseph's Altar** this coming Friday, March 16th beginning with the Blessing of the St. Joseph Altar by Bishop Curtis Guillory at 10:00 a.m. in our Center. From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., we will have "dine-in or "to-go" pasta Milanese lunch also served in our Center. This is a community event, and all are urged to participate. Kindly call Linda Domino at 409-866-5533 to volunteer your help.

Our **LENTEN PARISH MISSION** begins on Monday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. and ends Wednesday, March 21, with Rev. Colonel Donald VanAlstyne, M.I.C., Marian Father and expert on God's Divine Mercy; as well as pastor, international preacher, and acclaimed Catholic author and artist. Rev. VanAlstyne heroically served our troops in the Middle East and other "Hot Spots" around the world. Come & be blessed by God's Divine Mercy! Kindly invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us. All are welcome.

On Wednesday, March 21, is our **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE** at 6:30 p.m. in our Cathedral Basilica. We will have many priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please plan to make your Lenten confession at this time.

This year we are blessed to have adults and children preparing for initiation into our Catholic Church through the Easter Sacraments. I urge you to continue to pray for these precious people who are preparing to become Catholics.

It has been reported that following international pressure, along with protests from many Christian church leaders and faithful, the doors of the Holy Sepulchre have reopened. This took place following a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barakat. Netanyahu announced that a committee to discuss the imposition of taxes on Jerusalem's Christian church properties would be formed and the unprecedented legislation of taxation would be suspended for the present. Christian leaders are also to be included in this special committee's deliberations. The newly formed committee will be headed by Tzachi Hanegbi, the Israeli minister of regional cooperation.

Please continue to pray for all Christians in the Holy Land, peace in the Middle East, and be very attentive as more developments are announced through official Catholic information services.

Love and prayers,

Msgr. Jerry