



Humility before God, Gentleness toward Neighbor

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**February 14, 2018
Ash Wednesday**

Dear sisters and brothers,

It was not my choice that Lent would begin on Valentine's Day. Ironically, both days begin with the heart. There are heart shaped cards and candies to celebrate the romance of the day. Ash Wednesday begins with the prophet Amos who asks us to, "Rend our hearts, not our garments." Lent is a time to evaluate our hearts. It is a season of change. Our hearts need to become even more loving, more compassionate and generous. We know that hearts can break, become hardened or cold so we must always bring them to the Lord. I pray that this Lenten season will be rich in heart-filled moments, beating and pulsing love.

Accompanying this letter is a brochure of many opportunities to pray, learn and celebrate this Lenten Season. Monday through Friday, we will celebrate Eucharist at 8 am and 12:10 pm. Each Monday evening, we will pray Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 7 pm in the chapel. On Wednesday evenings, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated from 6:30 pm until 8 pm. On Fridays, the community will gather and celebrate the Lenten abstinence with the second annual Fish Fry between 4 pm and 7 pm. Following the fish fry, we will pray the Stations of the Cross in church. For those interested, we will start a Salesian Book Club and read *Authentic Devotion* and gather four times to discuss sections of the book. Please come to as many of these offerings as you are able.

As we begin Lent, we keep the end in mind. At the end of these forty days is the great celebration of Easter. In Lent we prepare, but we are primarily an Easter people. May the Risen Lord lead us through this holy season to make us ready to celebrate Christ's victory over death and love and life's triumph.

Live Jesus!
Fr. Matt