

A LENTEN MISSION - WHY?

Up until last year, I know that the tradition here for a “Lenten Mission” had been the five or six Wednesday evening Masses leading up to the Triduum, with extended homilies at the center. Last year we tried something different for St. Joseph, but really something quite common for other parishes—a three night Mission—and it seemed to work well. So once again this year, we’re offering this opportunity during the first full week of Lent: **Monday, March 6; Tuesday, March 7; and Wednesday, March 8, at 7:00p.m. each night.**

But the question is “why?” I suppose one simple answer would be “It’s Lent, and we should do something extra during these days to nourish our faith.” A Lenten Mission provides the members of a parish—and even those from outside the parish—an opportunity to focus intently on some aspect of our faith along with a challenge to live out that faith day by day. It could also be compared to an intense spiritual workout, though in church rather than in a gym. Let’s face it: who doesn’t need a bit of exercise to keep in shape and stay healthy? If we do that, regularly or irregularly, for our bodies, how much more important is it that we do it for our souls and hearts and minds?

If you’ve been to Mass this weekend, you’ve heard Fr. Tom Dore preach and provide a bit of a preview for what to expect on these next three nights. Hopefully, he will have inspired you to want to hear more. So please plan to get a bit of spiritual exercise this week by coming to church each night at 7:00p.m. Prayer will be a part of the first two nights, along with hospitality afterwards; and the Mission will conclude with Mass and an extended homily on Wednesday.

So please set aside some time this week to exercise your mind and heart and soul in preparation for the remaining days of Lent and in anticipation of the monumental days of remembering and celebrating the great event of our redemption: the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus.

Fr. Bob