

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

Marblehead, Massachusetts

Lent 2021

Towards Rebirth and Renewal

Dear parishioners, my brothers and sisters in Christ,

We begin on Wednesday, February 17th, our Lenten Journey 2021. Lent is that period in which we join brothers and sisters preparing to celebrate new birth through baptism in the Lord. It is also a time in which we as a community seek deep renewal of our life in Christ into which we invite them.

We have experienced these many months an exceptional season of prayer, self-denial and, thankfully, mutual support because of the public health crisis of covid-19. The rigors of Lent will seem mild in comparison with what has become our daily bread. We are yearning and stretching towards a time of rebirth and renewal so much needed.

This year, our Lenten celebration should be aimed at consolidating the gains we have made during these months of trial. We can do so by focusing ever more intently on the new life that is ours in Christ Jesus. It is the Lord who invites us to a communion of mind and heart through prayer, giving and restoring strengths of body, mind and spirit. It is the Lord who made a gift of his life in sacrifice for our healing and for our good. It is the Lord who has reached out his hand to draw us up and out of the paralysis of sin and to awaken in us a genuine, giving love for one another.

This year, our Lenten celebration is more meaningful than ever because it is a time of rebirth and renewal for our Parish community as we enter together a new phase of our history after a time of internal change and multiple transitions. We will be at our best with and for one another to the extent that we come alive in new ways with and for the Lord. Our life of prayer restores us; our learning from Jesus teaches us how to increase the good of one another before the Lord; our willingness to open our hands and hearts to lift each other up in mutual respect and service is a measure of the truth of our hope in the Lord.

May our Lenten celebration this year help us realize with success the yearning to relegate the times of lockdowns and distancing to the past. May we realize, too, the strengths God has built up with us as individuals, families and community. May we prepare for an Easter Season truly renewed and ready to be filled with the Spirit of the Lord, eager to announce Good News in every aspect of our lives, our society and our world.

On the reverse side of this letter I hope you find a number of ideas and encouragements for a wonderful celebration of your Lenten renewal and Easter rebirth.

Yours in the Lord's service,

Msgr. Timothy J. Moran
Pastor