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# "Proclaim the Good News!"

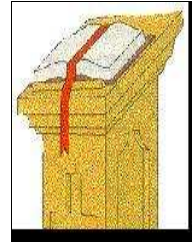
## "Proclaim the Good News!"

Newsletter for the lectors of Immaculate Conception Church

### New Lectors!

Through our annual parish stewardship commitment renewal, several parishioners have expressed an interest in ministering as lectors. Interviews and a formation session will be taking place in the next few weeks. When the formation session has been completed, IC newest lectors will be officially introduced in the next newsletter, and be included in the April—May lector schedule.

Please keep them in prayer, as they discern the calling of the Holy Spirit to minister to our parish community in this way!



### Liturgy Helps!

#### Preparation! Preparation! Preparation!



Preparation for proclaiming the Scriptures at liturgies must come from reading the text, meditating on what was read, and prayerfully asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand the message and content. Preparation should begin early in the week, and not be rushed. Only through sincere preparation, will you allow God's word to fall upon the hearts of the assembly. God bless you in your preparation and proclamation!

### *Palm Sunday Liturgy*

The lectors who are scheduled for the *Narrator* and *Voice* parts of the liturgies, are asked to please review the "*Lector Procedures for Palm Sunday Liturgies*", which has been sent to you along with the schedule.



The Lector Workbook does not divide the Gospel reading into the various parts.

Therefore, feel free to ask a sacristan for a copy of the Lenten Missalette to help you in your preparation.

### "We are now on the web!"

The Lector Schedule and the Lector Newsletter are now on the parish website ([www.immaculate.net](http://www.immaculate.net)). To access the link, go to "Ministry Schedules" on the home page.



If you haven't already done so, visit our new website! It is filled with up to date information on parish life and helpful resources!



*Ash Wednesday*

*February 17th*

"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;" - *Joel 2:12*

## Lent: More Than Penance

from *Lenten Lunches: Reflections on the Weekday Readings for Lent and Easter Week*

by Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk

To think of Lent only as a time of penance is to do it an injustice. While the traditional practice of "doing something" for Lent is praiseworthy, there is much more to this wonderful season than just additional practices of piety or acts of penance and mortification. In Lent the Church calls us to *metanoia*.

As a former Greek teacher, I take delight in pointing out that the word *metanoia* connotes a change of mind and heart, altering one's mind-set toward whole new ways of thinking and acting. This involves taking a look at where we are and trying to see where we ought to be. It involves testing our values and discerning how they stack up against the values that Jesus offers his followers.

Fortunately, *metanoia* is not something we have to do all by ourselves. God's word gives us a lot of help in the process, as does the example of our brothers and sisters in the Lord who are engaged, during these weeks, in the same exercise.

Lent is also the season of final preparation for those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The Church invites its members to pray for these catechumens, but also to renew their own commitment to the life that began in them when they were baptized and so became members of God's people.

Finally, Lent prepares us for Holy Week, for those most sacred days in the Church's year when we celebrate the suffering and death of Jesus, the Lord's gift of himself in obedience to the mission he received from his heavenly Father. Of course, the suffering and death of Jesus—and his resurrection—present questions and challenges to each of us in the context of our own mission as followers of Christ and so in our process of *metanoia*.

During the weekdays of Lent, therefore, the Scripture readings for the Eucharist are concerned with three main themes. The selections for the first three weeks have to do almost exclusively with change of heart: what it means and what it involves. They present the classic motifs of Lent: prayer, care for our neighbor, repentance for our sinfulness.

The fourth and fifth weeks offer us a series of selections from the Gospel according to John. These deal at first with the basics of Jesus' mission and thus further outline the change of heart that is required of us while, at the same time, teaching us about what the catechumens—and we—are to seek from him in Baptism. As the season progresses, the readings lead us into the Passion of Jesus, showing us the tensions and controversies that finally led the leaders of his people to do away with him.

Sometimes the Church plays us only one of these themes. Sometimes two or even three of them are presented together in a sort of harmony so that we become aware that a change of heart and beginning a new life and participating in the sufferings of Jesus are all part of what it means to be his disciples.

**Daniel E. Pilarczyk is archbishop of Cincinnati and past president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. His latest book is Live Letters. His other books include the prizewinning Believing Catholic, Thinking Catholic, Practicing Catholic and Bringing Forth Justice: Basics for Just Christians, all by St. Anthony Messenger Press. (reprinted from the American Catholic website: [americancatholic.org](http://americancatholic.org))**

### From dust you are taken..to dust you shall return

A little boy came home from Sunday School and went into his room to change his clothes. When he emerged he asked his mother, "Is it true we come from dust?" "Yes dear," replied mother. "Is it true that when we die we go back to the dust?" "Yes dear, that's right." The little boy ran into his room and came out all excited, "Mom, I just looked under my bed and there's someone either coming or going!"

