



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Reconciliation & the Season of Lent (Part I)*

*There are times in life when each of us needs to begin anew. We recognize that our former ways are hurting us or preventing us from being who we so desire to be. We need a fresh beginning, a new way of thinking, acting and living. The Church invites us to a newness of life which calls for a deep personal conversion in each of us. More than ever, our world needs disciples and witnesses to the Gospel of Christ.*

*Beyond embracing the disciplines of Lent which are Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving, Lent is a time for us to be renewed in our spiritual life. If we are going to be made new, we have to be*



*willing to change the way we think, act, and live our faith in our secular world today. All of our Lenten works*

*must flow from, and lead us to change in order that we may become new people in Christ. In our Gospel passage today John 8:11 Jesus tells the woman and us, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." It is not that Jesus ignores our sins, but since he loves us so much, he decided to take our sins upon himself and put them to death once and for all.*

*One of the Lenten gifts that the Church places before us is the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession. Celebrating this sacrament is never an easy*

*thing to do for most of us. It takes courage to be willing to take an honest look at our lives and to single out those areas that speak of selfishness and sin...not only, perhaps, by what I may have done, but also by what I have not done! It is easy to sit back and just be content with ourselves. The Gospel calls us to much more, and if we are honest, truly honest, we all stand before our loving God as sinners! That is why Christ died on the wood of the cross for us! It was our sins that he bore through the wood of that cross, and it was for all of us that He died.*

*Soon we will be entering into Holy Week and concluding our Parish Lenten Retreat centered on Boundless Compassion - Compassionate Listening. I am grateful to those who availed themselves to take part in this Retreat and I thank Deacon Lon for his dedication to this effort leading us to *Reawakening Our Hearts with Hope!* It is my hope and prayer that each of us, through boundless compassion and compassionate listening, will make room in our hearts for forgiveness, leading us to peace and a closer relationship with Christ.*



*Peace and Blessings*

*Fr. Peter*