

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday falls on March 5. On Shrove Tuesday, March 4, the Daily Mass at 12 noon will be celebrated in the Upper Church. Afterwards, there will be donuts in the Narthex and in the courtyard a special ceremony of burning palms to produce the ashes for Ash Wednesday. You are asked to bring used palms and palm crosses to Mass on the weekend of March 1-2 or to the daily Masses on March 3-4.

During Lent this year we are running a mini-capital campaign to raise the funds necessary for the modular classrooms and gym renovations. In order to secure a loan from the diocese for half the amount we need to raise \$1.5m in cash and two year pledges.

Now here's the deal: OLR has just over 1,000 households registered. If we split the burden evenly every registered household would make a cash gift or two year pledge of \$1,500.00. However, not everyone can do this so those who are better off will need to do more.

Most of all, we need 100% participation to make this work. On the weekend of March 29/30, we will ask for your gifts and pledges. The diocese has already helped us by giving approval for this campaign and allowing the gifts and pledges to be exempt from the 10% diocesan tax. As you prepare for Lent, please consider what you can do.

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker