

# Pastor's Letter

February 22, 2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

Dear Church Family,

I've mentioned before that one of Pam and my favorite TV shows is Finding Your Roots. In each episode two famous people learn about their family histories, sometimes going back many centuries. It's very interesting to see the effect that hearing these family stories has on the show's guests. Very often they respond very emotionally, as if they just happened yesterday, not to someone who lived decades or even hundreds of years ago. And even though they may have never heard of these ancestors of theirs before going on the show, there is often a strong sense of connection.

In our first reading for today, we hear the story of the fall from grace of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Throughout the season of Lent, we will be learning how God moved in history to heal the rift between us and God caused by this original sin. Knowing the salvation story as recorded in Holy Scripture is important. Even Jesus, when he faced temptations from the devil in the desert, turned to God's Word for guidance and strength. The Bible contains the wisdom and promises of our Creator. It tells the stories of our spiritual ancestors and how God helped them face the challenges and temptations of their lives and what happened when they did or did not listen to God.

What they went through is not so different from what we face today. We are still looking for answers to the same questions they asked: What is the good life? Why am I here? Where am I going? God has the answers for us and the church presents those answers to us in Scripture and Tradition.

In this season of Lent, we are invited to give our attention to these stories in a fresh way, to step outside the distractions of material pursuits through a season of intensified prayer and fasting so that we can really hear the story of our salvation and recommit ourselves to walking with God on the path that Jesus Christ has opened up for us by his life, death, and resurrection. May these forty days clear our minds, warm our hearts, refresh our souls and help us find our spiritual roots.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

## **Winners of the St. Edward/Bloomfield Cemetery raffle were, as follows:**

Daryl Duesterhaus, Brian Veihl, Denny Woodworth, Kay Dempsey, Kim Bush, Lori Hildebrand, Gary Starman, Paul Bealor, Steven Frese, Mike Tryba, Janette Otto, Seth Knox, and Heather Andrews.

## **Bulletin Deadline**

All information must be submitted by noon on Tuesday. Submit to: [church@stsbej.org](mailto:church@stsbej.org)

## **“Healing” Rosary**

Please join us in praying a “Healing” Rosary for all parishioners, family members and friends combating any illnesses at this time. It will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church. Bring family members and friends. All are welcome!

## **QCES Mass Attendance Cards**

Mass attendance cards are available at the back of church.