

# Pastor's Letter

March 30, 2025—4th Sunday of Lent

Dear Church Family,

Many kids, when learning to ride a bicycle, do so with the help of training wheels and/ or with dad or mom running along beside them holding onto the seat until the child learns to balance themselves. Eventually, the training wheels come off and they have to pedal off on their own. In our first reading for today we see Israel coming into the promised land and eating the produce of the land for the first time. At this point, God stops sending the manna on which they have been living since they came out of Egypt. It's time for them to move into a more mature relationship with God. God will still be there to guide and help and protect them, but now they must take more responsibility for themselves.

As each of us matures spiritually we go through the same process. Many times, people who are starting out on their journey toward God have the experience of feeling like God is carrying them along. It's easy to pray. God feels very close and his working in our lives seems very clear. As we mature in faith, we may not experience these consolations to the same degree. We might not feel God's presence in the same way or find it as easy to live our faith as it was at first. This doesn't mean that God is not there or that he doesn't care about us anymore. It means that God is giving us space to stretch our spiritual muscles so that we can become stronger and grow into the fullness of the new creation we became at our baptism, as St. Paul talks about in our second reading.

This isn't always easy and sometimes we lose our balance and fall. We sin. But God is always ready to pick us up, tend to our scrapes and bruises and help us start again. We confess our sin and are reconciled to God, and we get back on our way. That's what the Prodigal Son did when he came to his senses after squandering his inheritance. Once he was ready to own up to his self-centeredness and start to rebuild his life, his father was right there to help him get back on his feet. Our heavenly Father is just as eager to help us if we will let him. May God give us the courage to persevere in faith as we outgrow our spiritual "training wheels" and mature in our practice of living out the call of Christ to be his disciples.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



## Stations of the Cross

Please plan to join us for Stations of The Cross this Lent. Everyone is welcome! **St. Joseph** will have stations following Sunday 9 a.m. mass with the PSR classes. Through Lent, except March 30. Everyone welcome. April 13 will be Mary's Version of the Stations.

**St. Brigid** stations will follow the 8 a.m. mass on March 14, 21, & 28 and April 11.

**St. Edward** stations are Fridays at 7 p.m. If you would be willing to lead the stations, please sign up for a time at the back of church.