



**St. John the Evangelist Parish, Gananoque  
and  
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My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we begin another Lenten Season, this will give us an opportunity to focus what is truly important at this present moment.

We all need to find ways over the next few weeks to strengthen our relationship with Our Lord. For this to happen, we all can decide to spent some additional time in prayer and seek some quiet time to reflect upon the presence of the Lord in our lives. In addition to this, we must look for the things that separate us from God, which is our occasions of sin. Yet, we have a loving and merciful Saviour who is more than ready to extend His mercy to us.

Lent is also a time, although some what different this year, with COVID-19, that we reach out to others in various ways. Again, we can do this by prayer when we make the decision to intercede for others when we ask God to help them. We may not know them, but our prayers can do great good. We also, during this season, can share our blessings with those who are in need of assistance, for example; supporting our local Food Bank.

This Lent, we should focus less on giving up things and giving of ourselves for others with regard to the situation that we find ourselves in at this time. The best way for this to happen is that we give our hearts over to Our Lord as we are asked to do as it says in Sacred Scripture “***Rend your hearts and not your clothing***”.  
*Joel 2:18.* As we give our hearts to God, we then can truly give it over for the sake of others.

My friends in Christ, this past year has been a very difficult one, however, at this moment our Churches are beginning to reawaken and we look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Our Divine Saviour. Despite this, the joy will be within our hearts and this joy can be shared with our family and friends.

I would like to extend my prayers for each of you in this Lenten Season that God will richly bless you as we look forward to the joys of Easter.

Yours in Jesus through Mary,

***Fr. Dale***