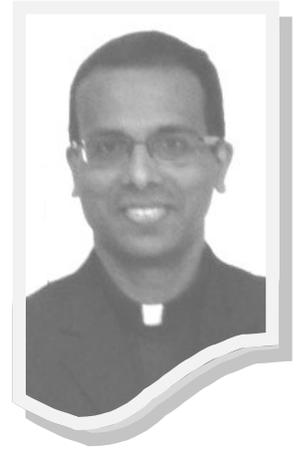




## From the Pastor



### “Come follow me, I call you by name”— A Parish Renewal Mission

**L**ent is a time of personal renewal and conversion. It is a time of reflection and preparation for the celebration of the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. We prepare for it in various ways. Spiritual preparations are the key. To help us with this, we have a Parish Lenten Mission in English from March 11th to March 14th.

I would like to welcome Fr. Greg Schmitt, who will be presenting the Parish Mission to our parish. Fr. Greg will celebrate the Masses this weekend to invite you personally. The Mission will begin at 6:30 p.m. each day and will consist of a talk for about an hour and fellowship time afterward. Father will be talking about a different topic each day. He will celebrate the Holy Mass at 12:15 p.m. on weekdays and will be available for confessions and spiritual counseling during the day.

I encourage everyone to put everything else aside, and make time to attend the Parish Mission each evening. Babysitting is available for free—thanks to our school teachers who are making themselves available for this task. It is a special time of blessings for our parish. Everyone is invited to attend these events and receive the many blessings that God has in store for you.

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter. “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life,” reflects John in today’s Gospel. John’s reflection is in line with the theme of our Parish Mission, “Come follow me, I call you by name.” Out of God’s love for each of us, He called us to follow Him. We accepted the invitation by our baptism. His love for us calls us to conversion. Conversion is not a onetime deal. It is ongoing—an everyday task. Lent is a special time to reflect on this task. Our Parish Lenten Mission will really help us to delve deep into ourselves to bring about that conversion. I will see you all at the Mission.

—Fr. Jose Thomas