

From Your Pastor



SECOND SEASON – ARISE SIGN-UP SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 7-8

The Second Season of the *ARISE Together in Christ* process will begin at St. Columbkille's during the last week of February. The heart of the *ARISE* process is the gathering of small groups of people in homes to read and pray with the Scriptures. We are hoping as many people in the parish as possible will see the formation of these small group communities as a moment of grace and will participate. The commitment to the second Season of *ARISE* involves only six weekly gatherings from late February to early April.

The focus in prayer for this second Season of *ARISE* is "*Change Our Hearts.*" The themes for the individual sessions are very rich indeed.

Session 1: Repent and Believe the Good News! We need Conversion. The Scripture Reading for reflection is from Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18 – "Give yourselves to almsgiving, prayer, and fasting in secret."

Session 2: In God's Beloved Son We Become God's Beloved as well. The Scripture Reading is from Mark 9: 2-10 – "This is my beloved son. Listen to him."

Session 3: Thirsting for New Life. Our lives are satisfied only in Christ. The Scripture Reading is from John 4: 5-30, 39-42 – "A spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

Session 4: From Darkness to Light. The focus is that living in Christ is living in the light. The Scripture Reading is John 3: 1-21 – "The light has come into the world."

Session 5: We Are Bound to God by a Promise and Covenant. The Scripture Reading is Jeremiah 31: 31-34 – "I will make a new covenant...and remember their sin no more."

Session 6: Heading into Holy Week with Christ. The Scripture Reading is Philippians 2: 6-11 – "Christ humbled himself, but God raised him high."

As we begin a new Season of *ARISE* with our Sign-up next weekend, please pray the *ARISE* prayer for the success of the *ARISE* process this spring in our parish. Moreover, please give considered thought and prayer to joining one of our small group communities. It is sure to be a blessing – for you and for the parish.

The ARISE Prayer

Gracious God and Father,
we enter into your presence
realizing you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know the cares and sufferings
we carry in our hearts.
You call us to holiness
and we trust you to lead us together
on our journey to be a renewed Church,
for with you all things are possible.
Create us anew in Jesus Christ your Son.
Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.
Heal us from every form of sin and violence.
Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.
Awaken us to the sacred; rebuild trust among us.
Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.
May your Holy Spirit empower us
to live as a community of love,
freed to share in your work
of recreating our world and restoring justice.
We believe you are doing something new,
calling us to arise together in Christ
to celebrate the fullness of life. Amen.

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God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay