

## From Your Pastor



### **FOURTH SEASON ✦ ARISE SIGN-UP – THIS SUNDAY ✦ FEBRUARY 6-7**

The Fourth Season of the **ARISE Together in Christ** process will begin at St. Columbkille's during the week of February 14. The heart of the **ARISE** process is the gathering of small groups of people in homes to read and pray with the Scriptures. **ARISE** is a parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization that enables people to deepen their faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community and reach out in service to others.

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 this fourth Season of **ARISE** involves only six weekly gatherings from mid-February through the end of March.

The focus in prayer for the fourth Season of **ARISE**, which takes place during Lent is "**New Heart, New Spirit.**" The themes for the individual sessions are very rich indeed and focus on the central themes of forgiveness and reconciliation.

The **First Session** reflects on Jesus; desert experience as a model for shaping our life choices, and measuring them against the values of the Gospel.

The **Second Session** explores the transforming power of forgiveness.

**Session Three** faces up to the challenge of ever raising up, always building anew, and in particular how we are called to do this both as individuals and as Church.

The Lenten theme of light is central to **Session Four**, with the invitation to shine the light of Christ onto, into, and through our lives.

Our reflection in **Session Five** is on the great sign of Lazarus being called back into life.

The **Sixth and Final Session** invites us to reflect on the great gift of new and renewed life that God offers us in Christ: we are a new creation.

**The principal sign-up for this new season of ARISE will take place at the conclusion of each of the Masses next weekend.** Why should you consider signing up for **ARISE**?

- *To know God better.*
- *To grow spiritually.*
- *To meet new people.*
- *To talk about God.*
- *To improve ourselves.*
- *To put faith into action.*
- *To change the way we see the world.*
- *To improve relationships.*
- *To experience different prayer styles.*
- *To be rejuvenated.*

Can a program like **ARISE** really do all that? Here is a comment made by a parishioner who participated in the Second Season during Lent 2009: "It has really made this Lent special for me. I feel like a better person through this season, and the **ARISE** program was a large part of the reason for this."

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 Lent in our parish. You can always find it in the bulletin. 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.



God bless each of you.

*Mrs. Fay*