ARCHDIOCESE of KINGSTON

Friday, February 6th, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Starting on Ash Wednesday, we will spend the next forty days in the desert of the Lenten season. We will enter this barren landscape so that we may more joyfully enter the garden of the Resurrection come Easter Sunday. Now is the time to consider which attitudes, habits, and attachments we can put away to make this penitential journey towards the Cross lighter. At the same time, we clothe ourselves in the thoughts and actions that will conform us more closely to the Risen Lord (see Ephesians 4:22-24).

The forty days of Lent are traditionally marked by three pillars intended to help us on this journey: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is the third pillar, almsgiving, which we focus on together as an Archdiocese with the ***Archdiocesan Lenten Collection***, beginning this year, on ***February 18th, 2026***, and lasting until March 27th, 2026, the Friday before Holy Week. Taking up our collection on Ash Wednesday allows us to cultivate a collective spirit of detachment and charity throughout the entire Holy Season. As we have done in recent years, a committee of parishioners under the age of 40 will convene in the coming months under the patronage of St. Martin De Porres. Together they will identify local initiatives and organizations that are currently addressing the greatest needs in our Archdiocese and beyond. The fruit of their discernment informs the final suggestion of agencies selected for donations.

Through your incredible and generous support last year, we raised **$89,825.73** and allocated **$89, 800** to various works of charities within our Archdiocese and beyond. The remaining $25.73 will be rolled into this year's collection for ease of distribution. Please be assured that your ongoing contributions are making a profound difference in the lives of many.

This Lent, in our 200th year as an Archdiocese, let us collectively seek "To know Christ and the power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3: 10) in new and profound ways. I invite you to consider how the Holy Spirit may be using the promises of the Paschal Mystery to help you walk more closely with our Lord during this sacred time of our local and universal Church. I pray that the Lent and Easter seasons may bring you and your families an abundance of blessings.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston

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