

MORE TO PRAY

Tuesday: *“But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not so much even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’” (Luke 18:13)*

We must admit our need for forgiveness. We invite you to participate in the Parish Penance Service tonight from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm when our parish priests will be joined by several visiting priests to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them - every day begin the task anew.” (St. Francis De Sales)*

Wednesday: *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)*

How easy is it for you to forgive others when they hurt you? *“He who knows how to forgive prepares for himself many graces from God. As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart.” (St. Faustina)*

Thursday: *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)*

Is there someone who has hurt or offended you that you still need to forgive? *“If a man finds it very hard to forgive injuries, let him look at a Crucifix, and think that Christ shed all His Blood for him, and not only forgave His enemies, but even prayed His Heavenly Father to forgive them also. Let him remember that when he says the ‘Our Father’, every day, instead of asking pardon for his sins, he is calling down vengeance on himself.” (Saint Philip Neri)*

Friday: *“Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1: 3)*

Pray the *Stations of the Cross* on your own or in community at Saint Andrew’s (9:00 am and 7:00 pm) and ponder the gift of forgiveness that God has bestowed on you. *“Let no one mourn that He has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.” (St. John Chrysostom)*

Saturday: Take time to review your week. Are there any obstacles that you feel still remain that are blocking you from a loving and personal relationship with God, your Father?

FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

In the words of Pope Francis, “we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us.” This week, perform a small act of mercy for the benefit of others, a reminder of Our Father’s unlimited love and mercy for us.

See the listed Corporal Works of Mercy on the Lenten Mission webpage for suggestions:

<http://standrewapostle.org/parish-lenten-mission-2018/>

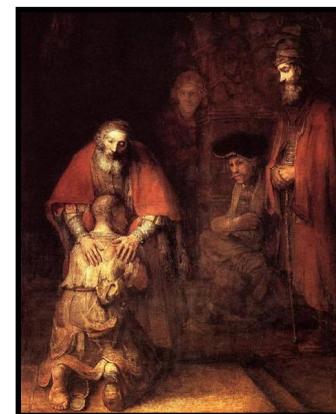
LED BY THE SPIRIT: A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH JESUS CHRIST

SAINT ANDREW APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mission Leader: Father Daniel P. Leary

February 11 - March 25, 2018

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM



SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018

**WEEK 4:
UNWRAPPING GOD’S GIFT**

11600 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

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MORE TO LEARN

- ◆ Our sins wound God’s honor and love, our human dignity to be called children of God, and the spiritual well-being of the Church and the whole world. (CCC 1487-1488)
- ◆ To prepare to unwrap the gift offered to us in the Gospel and return to communion with God after having lost it through sin, we must ask for the precious gift of God’s mercy for oneself and for others. (CCC 1489)
- ◆ We have to be honest and examine our lives.

“If we say, ‘We are without sin’, we deceive ourselves, and His word is not in us.” (1 John 1: 8)

- ◆ We have to make a decision that we will turn away from sin, break the bad habits, turn around and face God, and begin to walk toward him just as the Prodigal Son. The movement of returning to communion with God entails sorrow for and abhorrence of sins committed, and the firm purpose of sinning no more in the future. (CCC 1490)
- ◆ The priest is standing *in persona Christi* in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Only priests who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the Church can forgive sins in the name of Christ. (CCC 1461, 1495)

“On the evening of that first day of the week,” Jesus showed himself to his apostles. “He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’” (John 20: 19, 22-23)

MY NOTES:

MORE TO SHARE

- ◆ Outside of a church setting, where have you experienced forgiveness? Has this happened more than once? Does it happen regularly?
- ◆ What does the word “mercy” mean to you?
- ◆ Do you have any fears that have kept you from approaching the Sacrament of Reconciliation? What do you think are the origin of these fears? How can these obstacles be removed?
- ◆ How often should we confess our sins?
- ◆ The Blessed Virgin Mary, full of grace, wants to help us reject Satan, all his evil works, all his empty promises, and entrust ourselves fully to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Do you pray for her intercession to help you travel the path of penance and reconciliation?

MORE TO PRAY

Daily Prayer for the Week: The Chaplet of Mercy

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited on ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer. If you are unfamiliar with this prayer, use the instructional pamphlet provided at the Mission.

Daily Reflections

Monday: “Not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of His mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:7)

Perform an examination of conscience. Use the guide provided at the Mission. Pray the rosary (*Sorrowful Mysteries*) and ask for Mary’s intercession to help you make a good confession. When confronted with your own weaknesses during Lent, don’t give in to anger, frustration, and self-pity. Be patient, and see yourself as God does, with unconditional love. *“We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures, we are the sum of the Father’s love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son Jesus.” (St. John Paul II)*