

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Jesus tells Nicodemus in today’s Gospel that the light has come into the world, but that people loved darkness rather than light. Now, what sense does that make? Who would love the darkness more than the light? The truth is all of us would, in one way or another. All of us have parts of our lives that are unhealthy, perhaps even destructive. Those negative habits hold us in the darkness. Even though we know that the light is for our good, we cling to the darkness. We choose darkness over light. Perhaps we have been hurt. Someone has treated us poorly or betrayed us, and we cannot bring ourselves to forgive that person. Every time we think of him or her, our stomach churns and our anger rises. We know that holding on to that hurt will lessen our lives. Yet, we do not let it go. We choose anger and hurt over freedom. Perhaps we are in an unhealthy relationship. We want to be someone’s friend. We want to love someone. But the person who we are trying to love does not respect us, ignores us, or even abuses us. We know that we should change the relationship, even leave that relationship. Yet, we are afraid, and so we remain in an unhealthy relationship even though that relationship has no freedom and no future. Perhaps we are jealous of others. We compare ourselves to what others have. We want to be what others are. By making these comparisons, we become unhappy because we cannot have what others have. Yet, we continue to compare ourselves to others. We will not let go of our jealousy. We choose darkness rather than light.

We all have areas of darkness. Yet, we keep clinging to what hurts us. What can we do to break this negative cycle? Jesus shows us the way. In the Gospel he tells Nicodemus, *“Those who walk in the truth, come to the light.”* The way to the light is to acknowledge the truth about ourselves and about our relationship to God. We leave the darkness, not by focusing on the darkness but by focusing on the truth. The truth on which we focus depends upon the darkness in which we find ourselves.

If we are unable to forgive, the truth on which we should focus is our own imperfection. Have others hurt us? Yes. Was that wrong? Certainly. But we ourselves are not perfect. We ourselves have hurt others, and we ourselves must depend upon their forgiveness and God’s forgiveness. When we can claim the truth of our own imperfection and our dependence upon the forgiveness of others, it can free us to forgive and to leave the darkness behind.

When we are jealous of others, the truth on which we must focus is the truth of being blessed. We might not have what others have, we might not be what others are, but we do have talents, relationships, and real gifts. It is by being thankful for those gifts that we can find joy in the real life that God has given us.

When we accept the truth of our own imperfection, we can forgive. When we accept the truth of our own value, we can leave destructive relationships behind. When we accept the truth of how blessed we are, we can come to find joy in our lives. Now of course, it is not always easy to face the truth and enter the light. But it is well worth the effort. If we do not choose to enter the light, our only other option is to remain in the darkness.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Mar. 11th - Is. 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
- Tue. Mar. 12th - Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
- Wed. Mar. 13th - Is. 49:8-15; John 5:16-30
- Thurs. Mar. 14th - Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:18, 31-47
- Fri. Mar. 15th - Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Sat. Mar. 16th - Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
- Sun. Mar. 17th - 5th SUNDAY IN LENT
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33



COPY OF OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2023.

ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Mar. 13th - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers
- Fri. Mar. 15th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers
- Sat. Mar. 16th - 5:00 PM - C & C Tang, J.Yuguinay, S.Ojerinde, N. Marquez-Ambrosio.
- Sun. Mar. 17th - 9AM - J & S Yip, A & V Collins, A & A Chan, I.Petti. 11AM - Elisa, Klyde & Kyle Tan, S.Szomora, A & A Babas, W.Pham. 5PM - J.Paja, D.Dang, J.Plata, L.Vilawarayan, M.Cabuhayan, J.Cayabyab, Z.Bambilla.



TAX RECEIPTS for both, your church and Project Advance, contributions have been mailed. Thank you for your generosity and support!

PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE HAVE ENCLOSED A

EXTRA LENTEN SERVICES PLEASE JOIN US, FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, ON FRIDAYS AT 7 PM, FOLLOWED BY MASS.

SHARE LENT - A 2nd collection will be taken up, next weekend, at all the Masses. The theme of this year's campaign is "Reaping Our Rights."



IN MEMORIAM

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of two long time parishioners.

Mrs. Erlinda Santos, whose Funeral Mass will be held this coming Tuesday, Mar. 12th, at 11:00 am, and **Mrs. Maria Zanchettin**, whose Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, Mar. 14th at 11 am. May they rest in peace!

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

The Season of Lent is the most appropriate time of the year to reflect and discern our need of forgiveness. It is also important to remind ourselves that we do not sin alone, nor do we get forgiven alone. We need to acknowledge the times we sin together as a group, a society, a church, as well as the times we sin on our own. **Our Penitential Service will be held this Thursday, March 14th at 7 pm. There will be a number of priests available to hear confessions. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.**



ST. JUDE'S PARISH - LENTEN MISSION

"God's Healing Love"

March 11, 12 & 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm



This weekend we welcome **Fr. Greg Bramlage**, of the Missionaries of the New Evangelization, of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, who will be preaching our Mission. He will introduce us to a new understanding of God's Mercy and share with us the incredible healing that results when we repent of our sins, forgive those who've hurt us and pray with expectant faith. He will teach us how to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and enter into a more profound relationship with Jesus and God the Father. Please come with an open heart and expectant faith.

Monday, March 11th

"Healing Through Forgiveness"

Tuesday, March 12th

"Healing Through Repentance"

Wednesday, March 13th

"Healing Through the Name of Jesus Christ"

Each night there will be a collection to help off-set the cost of the Mission and to help Fr. Greg build a Centre for the New Evangelization in the Diocese of Tyler, Texas. **Cheques should be made payable to St. Jude's Parish.**

CHANGE IN MASS TIME

Please Note: that due to the Lenten Mission, our Novena Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 pm, this coming Wednesday, followed by the Mission talk.

SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to our Girl's Basketball team who won the CISVA Basketball Championship!

- Spring Break: Our school is now closed for Spring Break. We wish all our staff and students a safe and enjoyable holiday. The school re-opens Mar. 25th.

LEGION OF MARY NEWS

Calling all active and auxiliary members, the 2024 ACIES will be held at Blessed Sacrament Parish (3040 Heather St. Vancouver), on Saturday, Mar. 23 at 9 am.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” - John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increased time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and the greater Church.

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Cenaculo (The Passion of the Christ)

Join us this Lent as we gather to watch The Passion of the Christ, brought to you by the Philippines Historama Society of BC and the Filipino Catholic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. ?????

Let's come together in reverence and reflection, exploring the profound journey of Jesus, who sacrificed His life for us. Don't miss this opportunity for a shared spiritual encounter during this sacred season!

Next Sunday, Mar. 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby. Cost is \$20. For tickets and more info, please call Mike at 604-375-2138, or Marilou at 604-828-9856, or Carmelita at 604-551-4883.