

FROM FR. JOHN

## Abba, Father

“Abba, Father” Mark 14:1-15:47

The scriptures teach us that, “He (Jesus) who did not know sin became sin for us so that we might become the holiness of God.” Jesus took on the weight of our sin. Can you imagine what Jesus experienced in His passion and death as He took on everyone’s sin for all time on the cross? Just think about how painful your personal sin is and compare that with the billions of people and thousands of years of sin and its pain that Jesus took on to His own body. Our scripture today is in the context of the agony of the garden. All the weight of Jesus becoming sin for us is being cast on Him as He approaches death. Just three sentences before our scripture verse today Jesus says His soul is sorrowful even to death.

As the unfathomable weight of evil, sin and pain is cast onto Jesus, notice where He turns. In the middle of His sorrow He cries out, “Abba, Father.” His Father was the one He hoped in. His Father was who He cried out to in His desperate need. As Jesus faced it all, think about how real, intimate, close and loving His relationship with the Father had to be. He surely believed that the Father’s love was greater than all the sin and in that love the Father would be good to Him.

As the ocean of evil and suffering was breaking His heart, Jesus cried out to the same one He teaches all Christians to cry out to. You see, the Father is not just Jesus’ Father but He is “Our Father.” We all have our sin, pain and desperate need of God’s healing love. Who do we cry out to? To whom do we put our hope in? Jesus is teaching us to put our hope in Abba, Father. He is our creator and He loves us perfectly as a Father. No matter how well or how poorly our earthly fathers have loved us, we first and foremost all want God as our Father. We want His continuous and infinite Fatherly love. He has always been perfectly loving us as a Father whether we have realized it or not. This can be referred to the “Abba experience”- the same experience that Jesus knew as He suffered and died.

Perhaps the greatest spiritual need that we have in our fatherless nation is for the “Abba experience.” I offer two ways to grow in the “Abba experience.” First, we can pray the following mantra as much as we like. Pray either, “Abba, I belong to you” or “Father, I belong to you” or “Daddy, I belong to you.” Prayed with an open heart, I believe you will come to know in a very real, close, and intimate way God the Father’s love for you. Second, take some time to write/journal. Address a letter to yourself that is going to be written by God the Father to you. It is a love letter where the Father tells you very personally how much He loves you. The Father reminds you how He has shown you His great love through Jesus, the church and scriptures, and your own experience. He also shows you in the letter how He has been loving you as a Father even when your dad was not there or was hurting you.

Let God be your Father.

Fr. John



**Fatima, Spain and Lourdes Pilgrimage-** Fr. John Amsberry is leading a Spiritual Pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain and Lourdes from Sept. 26th - October 5th, 2010. For more information, call Beloved Beth at the office, 503-761-8710.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, May 24, 2010

Communion Service

### Tuesday, May 25, 2010

+Alice Misa

(Geraldine Misa)

### Wednesday, May 26, 2010

+Grace Lewis

(Robinson & Provine Family)

### Thursday, May 27, 2010

Evan Alder Alvarez

(Becky Fletcher)

### Friday, May 28, 2010

+ Sharon Burlando

(The Parish)

### Saturday, May 29, 2010

World Peace

(Carole Anne Best)

### Sunday, May 30, 2010

8:30AM People of the Parish

10:30AM +Alice & Julian Misa

(Geraldine Misa)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, May 23, 2010

9:00AM-Faith Formation

2:00PM-Prayer Walk

### Tuesday, May 25, 2010

7:00PM-Choir Practice

### Thursday, May 27, 2010

7:00PM-Bible Study Rm4

7:00PM- Back to Prayer Night

Pot Luck after in S.R.

(Last gathering until Sept)

**Inquiring About Baptisms:** The next class is scheduled for June 12th. If you are interested please contact the church office at (503) 761-8710

**Youth Group:** All Jr High & High School come celebrate a great year at "Glowing Greens" blacklight miniature golf course. Sun, May 23rd from 1:30-4:30PM. Cost is \$5.00 Permission slips on Youth Bulletin board

**The Annual Ladies Night Out** will be held June 8th. It will again be at the Old Country Kitchen. Social at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. These are the following dinners to select from: 4oz Tenderloin Steak \$20:35 6oz Prime Rib \$22.75 Chicken Fried Steak \$15.55 Fish and Chips \$16.75. Dinner amounts include gratuity. We will be selling tickers after all the masses on May 22 & 23 and also on May 28 & 29. All ladies of the parish are cordially invited to attend. Good food and good friends.

## UPCOMING DISCERNMENT

The Discernment Process will take place on Sunday, June 6, 2010, beginning at 12:00PM in the Sanctuary. At this time, ALL the parish is invited to assist with choosing nominees for three positions on Pastoral Council. This is a spiritual process done with thought and prayer of all who attend. Please attend this meaningful event.

**2010 Memorial Day Mass:** Mount Calvary and Gethsemani Catholic Cemeteries invite you to participate in our 122d Annual Memorial Day Mass at 10:00AM on Monday, 31 May. Archbishop John G. Vlazny will preside at Mount Calvary's Altar Garden (Indoor Mausoleum if the weather is poor) with the St. Pius Youth Choir leading us in song. Vicar General, Msgr. Dennis O'Donovan will preside at Gethsemani's Chapel. A small reception will follow each mass. Please call the cemetery at (503) 292-6621 with any questions or visit our website at: [www.catholiccemeteriespdx.com](http://www.catholiccemeteriespdx.com)

**Gapline:** We currently have over 300 members signed up. If you would like to be added in order to receive or request prayers please send an email to: [SJTW-gapline@hotmail.com](mailto:SJTW-gapline@hotmail.com) or call the office if you don't have access to a computer.

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

**Budget amount:** \$ 7,032.00

**Amount collected:** \$ 6948.80

**Over/under:** — \$ 83.20

**Catholic Cursillo Weekend:** Like a retreat, the Cursillo is a 3 day (Thurs. night-Sun Afternoon) opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ and joyful community with approximately 30 fellow Catholics.

**Men's Weekend Jun 10-13, 2010**

**Women's Weekend July 8-11, 2010**

Both weekends will be held at Griffin Center, Milwaukie, OR. Applications need to be received one month before the weekend. For more info and to download an application go online to: [www.natl-cursillo.org/portland](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/portland) and go to link **UPCOMING WEEKENDS** or call Juanita Wald (541) 563-2315, or Mike Davis (503) 322-3581

**Camp Out is Coming:** If you haven't reserved a spot for the camp out that is August 18th-22nd there is still time to get a pretty good campsite. We're at our favorite campground Metzler Park. If you can't come camping that's ok, come join us Saturday, Aug 21st for a pot luck gathering, softball, croquet, arts and crafts for the kids. Come and enjoy the beautiful scenery and the company of good friends! You can reserve a site online or call Patti @ (503) 915-4096 or Dianne @ (503) 998-5683. ALL reservations must be in by July 1st & payments should be sent in by July 18th.

**"Dear Altar Guild & St Joseph the Worker:** Thank you for participating in the 2010 Mother's Day Flower Sale for the Mother and Child Education Center. You raised \$429. A tremendous job this year. Thanks again for your support. From: Amy Fowler, Mother and Child Education Center."