

Living the Confronted Life

"Coming to his senses" Luke 15:17

Today's scripture verse concerns the prodigal son who had spent a lot of money on a lot of sinning. He had run out of money and found himself in a country that was experiencing a severe famine. In other words, he was really hungry, but he had no money to buy food in a country where there was little food anyway. He was desperate. In the previous verse it says that, "he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any." It was in this context of his great physical hunger that we read about the prodigal son coming to his senses. He devises a plan to go home, tell his dad he is sorry for squandering so as to get hired on as a slave in order to have decent meals.

We know about how the prodigal son came to his senses in his hunger and figured that the best place to find food was at home with his dad. What we do not hear about is whether he was coming to his senses about his heart. He had sinned greatly against God, his father, himself and others but we never really find out if he was going to take care of his heart like he did his physical hunger. Would he confront his sin, offer it up to God in sorrow and let God forgive him?

We do know that unhappiness would have marked his life if he had not repented of his sin and known God's forgiveness. Like the prodigal son, we too are sinners who need to know God's forgiveness. But in order to know forgiveness we need to come to our senses and know that sin never makes us happy or more whole. Every time we sin it causes unhappiness in our hearts. But in order to be forgiven for the sin which can never make us happy, we need to know what our sin is. Sometimes I think we are pretty dull to sin in our lives. We do not really know, feel and name our sin. If we do not know our sin and offer it up to God we can't experience His incredible forgiveness which makes us happy. Thus, we remain stuck in the mud of our unhappiness. I hope no one ever sees this in our Church!

So, how do we come to our senses about the unhappiness sin causes in our hearts? Where do we start in moving from unhappiness to happiness by offering our sin to God and letting Him truly forgive us? We need to confront our sin. That is where the Church comes in. It helps us to live the "confronted life." The Church, in her prayers, scriptures and Eucharist always challenges us to be holy and leave sin and its resulting unhappiness behind. The Church, then, helps us to come to our senses. If we are open, listening and looking, every time we go to church we will be confronted by our sin. When you see your sin, repent and leave the unhappiness of sin behind to enjoy the happiness of union with Christ and all His creation.

Soon in heaven,

Fr. John

Italy - I am leading a pilgrimage to Italy for OCP October 7th-23rd. Twenty-three out of the 45 people going are from SJTW! We will be praying for you. I will say "hello" to our boss if we see him! Fr. John

Baptism Class for Infants will be held on Saturday, October 31st at 2:00 PM in the Parish Center. Pre-registration is required for both the class and the Baptism. Please call Carolyn at the Parish Center to register. Baptisms will be held on Saturday, November 7th at the 5:00 PM Mass.

Thank YOU Beloved Fr. John and St. Joseph family for all your prayers. Yesterday I went with seminarians to the Rosary Bowl, and I was so blest to see many from St. Joseph! Your words of encouragement strengthened me to persevere through my studies (especially philosophy!). What an incredible blessing it is to be here at Mt Angel! Please feel free to come up here and pray with the monks for any of the Liturgy of the Hours...but also call me or e-mail me should you come up! 503-845-3691 or gbronsema@live.com.
Together in the boundless love of Christ, Gregg Bronsema.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 12, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Eugene Best

(Carole Anne Best)

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

+Jeral Beaty

(Mary Fromwiller)

Thursday, October 15, 2009

+Jeral Beaty

(The Bonneville)

Friday, October 16, 2009

+Estelle Kenefick

(Mary Fromwiller)

Saturday, October 17, 2009

5:00 PM-+Paul Tran

(The Tran Family)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

8:30 AM- People of the Parish

10:30 AM-+John Kenefick

(Mary Fromwiller)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 11, 2009

9:00 AM-Faith Formation

11:30 AM-Altar Server Training

Monday, October 12, 2009

5:30 PM-Monday Night Football

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

10:00AM-Altar Guild mtg-SR

7:00 PM-Choir practice

7:00 PM-KOC mtg-SR

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

7:00 PM-RCIA-SR

Thursday, October 15, 2009

7:00 PM-Prayer Group-SR

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Altar Server Training: There will be training for former and new Altar Servers in the church after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, October 11th. If you have not taken the training before you must attend or call to arrange another time for training. Former Altar Servers are also urged to attend, as some things change and you can improve your confidence. If you are unable to attend the Training Session, but would like to be on the schedule this year, please call - Marge McDevitt at 503-252-9428.

The Prayer Chain will meet Tuesday, October 20th from 9:00-10ish in the Social Room of the Church. Anyone from the parish is invited to attend and join us as we pray for those who are ill and have requested prayer support. We will finish our book The Art of Affirmation.

Don't forget to bring your appreciation book also. If you are new to the parish and would like to join us, please come we share books well. There will be refreshments following the meeting.

Anointing of the Sick: Anointing of the Sick Mass will be done differently this year. We will have a Mass at 2:00 PM on October 25th dedicated to the elderly and or ill in our parish. Any member of the Church who is seriously ill or is burdened with a condition or sickness that could seriously threaten their health or quality of life is invited to receive this sacrament. All older people are invited to be anointed also because your health is more fragile. In celebrating this sacrament, the church calls on Christ's healing mercy to strengthen the faith and body of those who are sick and/or aged.

The Fall Memorial Mass will be October 29th. We invite everyone who has suffered the loss of a family member or friend to join us in our Fall Memorial Mass especially dedicated to their memory. There will be a sign up sheet as you come in the door to write the names of those for whom you wish the Mass said. You are invited to join together for fellowship and refreshments following the Mass. **Note: No 8:00AM Mass on that day.**

Altar Guild: You are invited to attend our next meeting on October 14th at 10:00 AM in the Social Room. We will be finalizing our plans for the Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale. Come and join us for fun and to make new friends.

Monday Knight Football: Come celebrate Columbus Day, this Monday October 12th, with an evening of football, food and fun in St. Joseph's Social Room. Kick off is at 5:30 PM, and a delicious Mexican dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome; we hope to see you there.

Candlelight Rosary Procession: We ask for your prayers on Worldwide Fatima Sanctity of Life Day October 18th. One Hundred Million prayers will be offered to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary from all around the world for Life and Peace. To celebrate this occasion there will be a Candlelight Rosary Procession on Saturday evening, October 17th at 6:00 PM. at St. Sharbel, 1804 SE 16th St. Portland. For more info call Marie at 503-288-2040.

Prayer Group Schedule: Below you will find our schedule for the rest of 2009. If you would like to join our group or you just have a need for special prayer, please come by on any of the dates listed below.

October 15th

Back to Prayer Night October 29th

November 5th

November 12th

Back to Prayer Night November 19th

December 3rd

December 10th

All evenings begin at 7:00 pm in the Social Room. We hope to see you there!

Do You Need Food??? Our parish's St. Vincent de Paul can help you. You will need to call St. Vincent de Paul's Central Office (503-235-8431). They will take your information-name, address, phone number, how many in your family, how many adults and how many children. The information is then faxed to us. Our volunteers deliver to homes five days a week. A volunteer will call you before they come to your home. We also do some limited help for rent or utilities.