

From Fr. John:

On Being Human

“The Pharisee spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you I am not like the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous’” Luke 18:11

A wife sat by her husband as the priest was giving the Sunday homily. She thought that the father was saying a lot of good things her husband needed to hear and heed. Each time a good point was made she would either elbow or pinch him to make sure he was listening to the ways in which she felt he needed to grow. Can you see the scene? Here this wife was picking on her husband in the middle of Mass during the middle of a homily! Finally, the husband nicely asked his beloved spouse to stop hurting him in the middle of Mass.

Jesus tells the story of two people going to the temple to pray; one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee is confident that he has a good relationship with God because he has followed the law and the prophets. He thanks God he is not like the rest of greedy, dishonest and adulterous humanity. The tax collector, known as a dishonest traitor to his own Jewish people, simply cries out to God for mercy. He knows his sin and God hears his plea to be healed from the damage his sin caused. Jesus ends the story by saying that the despised tax collector leaves the temple with a good relationship with God while the Pharisee does not.

Maybe what the Pharisee was struggling with is what many of us struggle with today. In so many ways we try to deny our humanity. The psalms say we are weak and short-lived. We are like grass in the fields that withers away and dies. Yet, in society we deny death and try to stay forever young. Often it is difficult for us to reveal to another our weaknesses, sins and broken heart. But this is all a part of being human. St. Paul says we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Yes, we all want God's glory but sometimes we trade it for something that takes us away from it. That is part of being an imperfect human being. What Jesus calls us to do is follow the example of the tax collector and get right with God by imploring His mercy.

Maybe the wife in Mass, like the Pharisee in the temple, was focused too much on her husband's human relationship with God while denying she was just as human as anyone else. Her greatest concern as to which sinner is right in their relationship with our perfect God should be about herself. God does not want us to deny that we are human and sinful. He wants us to dive into knowing our sins so that we can hand them over to Jesus and be saved into His glory. It is through feeling and knowing our own sinfulness that we can feel and know God's mercy. If we continue to deny our need as human beings to be saved from our sinful and condemning selves, then our relationship with God will be experienced as weak, shallow or non-existent.

Run to meet your humanity and then offer it up to God; warts and all. He will take out the bad and bring the good to completion - a saved human being living in the glory of God forever.

Blessed by the BEST and nothing less,
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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 26, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

+Jacob Ward

(Frances Neibauer)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Pat Robison

(Frances Wenner)

Thursday, October 29, 2009

+Lorraine Lucero

(Emily Weir)

Friday, October 30, 2009

+Al Ternes

(Frances Neibauer)

Saturday, October 31, 2009

5:00 PM-+Hans Schweizer

(Millie Kappenthuler)

Sunday, November 1, 2009

8:30 AM- People of the Parish

10:30 AM-+Daniel Best (Mom)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 25, 2009

9:00 AM-Faith Formation

2:00 PM-Anointing of the Sick

Mass

Monday, October 26, 2009

5:30 PM-Monday Knight Football

in the Social Room

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

7:00 PM-Choir practice

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

7:00 PM-RCIA-Teaching Mass in

the Church

Thursday, October 29, 2009

7:00 PM-Confirmation Class

7:00 PM-Back to Prayer Night

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Friday, October 30, 2009

4:00 PM-Homeless Outreach

Saturday, October 31, 2009

2:00 PM-Baptism Preparation Class

in Parish Center

Can/Bottle Recycling

Family Rosary Night: We will pray for priests and vocations with a special Rosary led by the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday November 3rd at 7:00 PM. See you there.

Coffee and Donuts are served in the Social Room after the Sunday morning Masses. Please join us!

CARE MINISTRY

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 at 10:00 AM. 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.**

WOWS Lunch will be on November 4th. This is a social activity open to all widows, widowers and those who are single for any reason. We will enjoy a 1:00 PM lunch at La Carreta Restaurant at 660 NE Burnside in Gresham. We will have the bus, holding the first 14 callers, at the parish ready to leave at 12:30 PM. The bus ride is \$2.00. For reservations please call, Becky, at 761-8710x105 by Monday the 21st.

Back to Prayer Night Presents Dina Marie Hale of KBVM Catholic Radio as guest speaker on Thursday, October 29th at 7:00 PM. This month BTPN is also a pot luck. So, if you can, please bring something yummy to share with everyone.

Weekly Contributions

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 7,101.06

Over/Under: + 69.06



JR HIGH

Nov 1 9:00AM Meeting Rm 5

Nov 8 9:00 AM Meeting Rm 5

Nov 13 Homeless Outreach

Sunnyside Methodist Church

4:00-8:00 PM

Nov 22 9:00 AM Meeting Rm 5

SR HIGH

Oct 25 7:00 PM Meeting Rm 5

Nov 1 7:00 PM Meeting Rm 5

Nov 7-8 Crooked River Weekend

Sat 8:00 AM—Sun 4:00 PM

Nov 22 Real Life Exhibit

11:30 AM- 3:30 PM

Questions: Call Janet
503-761-8710

Hats & Scarves: We will again be collecting hats and scarves this year, but with a greater focus on blankets. You can also make a cash donation to Project Keep Warm and I will buy blankets and gloves. Thank you for your help - more information to come in future bulletins.

Homeless Outreach: On Friday, October 30th we will host the dinner served at the Sunnyside Coffee House. We will be feeding around 200 people and will need volunteers to help us prepare dinner and serve the guests. We have a great time and welcome you to come and join us. We start preparing the food at 4:00 PM and serve the dinner at 6:00 PM. Please call Jan at 503-254-2212 for more information. The soup kitchen is located at SE 35th & Yamhill (off 39th between Hawthorne and Belmont).