

FROM FR. JOHN:

MERCY

“Jesus said to his disciples: Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” Luke 6:36

Sing unto the Lord, for the wonder of His mercy, the mercy of the Lord endures forever!

I had a conversation with someone the other day about sin. We were talking about sin and how it can be so frustrating to struggle with the same sins time and time again. Not to rationalize or justify sin, but our conversation reminded me of St. Paul's struggle when he expressed, “The things I do not want to do, I do and that which I want to do I do not do.” (see Romans 7) Basically St. Paul is confessing his struggle with sin. The thing he wants to do is follow God's will but he finds himself choosing to sin, which he does not want to do. From St. Paul to us, all human beings have struggled with sin. We all know that we need God's mercy for our sin. The good news is that God is ever ready to pour out his gift of mercy into our hearts.

Mercy is something that cannot be earned, it can only be received. It is much more than a nice thought or a philanthropic act. Mercy is Jesus totally giving each one of us His life on the cross so that we might be saved from sin and death to live forever. St. Paul talks about how God proves his merciful love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (see Romans 5:8). It is incredible and awesome to have God extending his faithful mercy to us in the middle of our sin! Even as we spit upon His face as he hangs on the cross, He is dying for us that we might be saved.

Sing unto the Lord, for the wonder of His mercy, the mercy of the Lord endures forever!

God wants us to have the same mercy for each other that He has for us. Can you imagine a merciful world? Think about how much mercy, or lack thereof, you see in your daily interactions, on TV or hear in music. The world cries out for the mercy of the Father that Jesus commands us to have. In order to be merciful like the Father, we first of all need to continually beg for God to reveal His mercy to us. Secondly, we should take heed of Jesus' words in the Lord's Prayer, “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” That means that the mercy we extend to others is the mercy we will experience in our own heart. If we only give a little mercy we will only have a little mercy.

In your heart, mind and actions, who do you need to extend mercy to this day? Remember to be like Jesus who extends us His faithful mercy even while we are spitting in His face.

Sing unto the Lord, for the wonder of His mercy, the mercy of the Lord endures forever!

Soon in heaven,
Fr. John



Fr. John's New Book - It is almost here! The title is: "**More of You Through Prayer.**" God-willing, there will a book signing after all the Masses the weekend of October 3rd and 4th.

RCIA and Confirmation: Our first meeting for those interested in becoming Catholic and high-schoolers interested in being Confirmed is set for Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 PM in the church. Call the Parish Center to sign up **NOW at 503-761-8710.** Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 14, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

+Don Fromwiller

(Mary Fromwiller)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Robert Best

(Mom)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Olga M. Guarriello

(John & Sandy Guarriello)

Friday, September 18, 2009

+Paul Tran

(The Tran Family)

Saturday, September 19, 2009

5:00 PM-+Frank & Allen Paluck

(Julian Paluck)

Sunday, September 20, 2009

8:30 AM- +Gloria Lux

(Rosemary Linhart)

10:30 AM-People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

9:00 AM-Prayer Chain mtg-SR

5:00 PM-Catechist mtg-SR

7:00 PM-Choir practice

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

7:00 PM-RCIA/Confirmation Begin in SR

Thursday, September 17, 2009

7:00PM-Prayer Group mtg-SR

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Friday, September 18, 2009

5:00 PM-LOOP Scrapbooking in SR



Faith Formation Classes begin on Sunday, October 4th.

Registration will be in the school hallway following both Masses on Sunday, September 13th. **Save \$5 on tuition by registering on or before Sunday, September 13th.**

Ministry Fair coming Saturday, September 26th and Sunday, September 27th. We ask all organizations to have someone represent them at the Fair.

Care Ministry

The Prayer Chain will begin meeting again the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We will meet Tuesday, September 15th 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 continue 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.

WOWS Dinner: This is a social activity open to all widows, widowers and those who are single for any reason. We will enjoy our last 5:00 PM dinner of this year on September 22nd at The 4th Street Brew Pub in downtown Gresham. We will have the bus, holding the first 14 callers, at the parish ready to leave at 4:30 PM. The bus ride is \$2.00. For reservations please call me, Becky, at 761-8710x105 by Monday the 21st.

Back to Prayer Night and Community Pot Luck!

Back To Prayer Night returns,
Thursday, September 24th, 2009!

With our special guest speaker
Sharon Standley.

Please come and be inspired! And don't forget to bring something yummy to share at the pot luck! The evening will begin in the church at **7:00 PM** followed by the pot luck in the Social Room. Hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendars - Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast coming Sunday, October 4th after all Masses in the Social Room and Basement.

Weekly Contributions

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 7,788.80

Over/Under: + 756.80

SEEKING: Young adults(21+) for our High School Youth Ministry Core Team. Be a part of helping our youth grow in their faith. Be energized by sharing your faith with the teens. To learn more about being on the Core Team contact: Janet @ 503-761-8710

Youth Group Registration:

September 13th High School Youth Group is open to all 9th-12th graders. High School meets Sunday evenings 7:00-8:30 PM.

Jr High Youth Group is for all 7th-8th graders.

NEW TIME: Sunday 9:00-10:00 AM

The **LOOP** ladies are planning to hold an all Parish Baby Shower for the Pregnancy Resource Center in Gresham. This center helps 300 to 400 young girls each month, from our community, to avoid abortions and get started with basic supplies for their new babies. We feel this is a very worthy cause to support and hope you'll be able to come, enjoy some fellowship and do a good deed by donating some new baby items for the cause. There are only certain items that the center can accept, so a list will be available in the Narthex. The shower will be September 13th after the 10:30 AM Mass in the Social Room. You may contact Claire Clow if you need more information. 503-804-0980.

Coffee and Donuts: Volunteers are needed for Coffee and Donuts. If we do not have volunteers we will no longer have Coffee and Donuts in the Social Room after the Sunday morning Masses.

We do have Coffee and Donuts scheduled for **Sunday, September 20 and 27th.** If you wish to volunteer there will be sign up sheets available during the Coffee and Donut hour on the above dates.