

Homily Outline *Mar* 4 & 5

St. Patrick's Announcement

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain has granted to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Seattle a dispensation from the Lenten obligation to abstain from meat on Friday for March 17, the feast of St. Patrick. The archbishop encourages anyone who wishes to take advantage of this dispensation to abstain from meat on another day of that week, or to substitute abstinence from meat with a personal penitential act offered for the success of the proclamation of the Gospel in western Washington, in honor of St. Patrick.

Homily

HE FASTED FOR FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS, AND AFTERWARDS HE WAS HUNGRY.

"I HAVE FOOD TO EAT OF WHICH YOU DO NOT KNOW." SO THE DISCIPLES SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, "HAS ANY ONE BROUGHT HIM FOOD?" JESUS SAID TO THEM, "MY FOOD IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME, AND TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK."

Jesus is literally nourished by his prayer, his doing the Will of the Father, and his relationship with the Father.

Am I nourished by prayer in a real way?

Find satisfaction in prayer?

Does conversation with God fulfill you?

Do I get something out of my time of prayer?

1. Living relationship of the children of God with their Father

CCC #2565 In the New Covenant, prayer is the *living relationship of the children of God with their Father* who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Kingdom is "the union of the entire holy and royal Trinity . . . with the whole human spirit." *Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him.*

From the Book: *The Fire Within* by Thomas Dubay

(Real prayer) *Christic communion is nothing less than a deep love communion with the Triune God. By depth here we mean a "knowing loving" that we cannot produce but only receive. It is not merely a mentally expressed "I love you." It is a wordless awareness and love.*

We are aware of the divine presence through the effects the Lord produces within us: faith, love, good resolutions. Indeed, we tenderly experience these effects, at least at times. God ordinarily reveals His indwelling presence not through visions but by prompting virtuous actions within us.

2. Why do people not advance in prayer?

CCC#2562 "According to Scripture, it is the *heart* that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain."

From the Book: *The Fire Within* by Fr. Thomas Dubay

- *St. Theresa's starting point is the absolutely basic condition for a serious prayer life: an earnest, continuing effort to rid oneself of sins, imperfections and attachments...*
- *...smothered by the cares and riches and pleasures of life.*
- *What, then is the beginner to do? Every follower of Christ who is serious about genuine growth must leave the spirit of the world.*
- *If you wish to advance... "will be well advised, as far as his state of life permits, to try to put aside all unnecessary affairs and business."*

3. What is the benefit of a real life of prayer?

St. Ignatius: "It is proper to God and to his angels, in their movements, to give true joy and spiritual gladness, taking away all sadness and disturbance that the enemy induces"

From the book: *Discernment of Spirits* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher

"What will happen in our spiritual lives if we become aware of God's 'ordinary' presence to us in the spiritual consolation he pours upon us? What will happen if we are 'within' enough to be aware of and identify these spiritual consolations as a loving God gives them to us day by day? Then, like Ignatius, we will increasingly 'find God' during the hours of the day. Then what may seem a beautiful but distant teaching of faith, that is, that God is ever with us, will cease to be abstract, and, with wonder, we will personally know its truth. Through awareness of the spiritual consolations stirring in our hearts we will know that our God is for us, as for the pilgrim people in the desert, a 'pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night' (Ex 13:21-22), a God who always walks by our side, leading us along the way."

Announcements:

- ❖ **Lenten schedule** at Welcome Center and on website
- ❖ **Tuesday**—School Open House @ 5:30pm
- ❖ **Wednesday**—Confession @ 5pm; Mass @ 6pm; Soup Supper @ 6:30pm in Camerman Hall; "*Growing in the Spiritual Life*" Adult series w/Fr. Lappe @ 7pm in Camerman Hall; Youth Programs @ 7pm in Parish Ctr/JPII Youth Ctr
- ❖ **Thursday**—1st Communion class (parent & child) @ 6:30pm in School; Youth Holy Hour @ 7pm in Church – all ages welcome
- ❖ **Friday**—Stations of the Cross @ 5:30pm; **KC Fish Fry** @ 6pm in Camerman Hall (prices listed in bulletin)
- ❖ Visit 40daysforlife.com/Bremerton or call 360-509-9395 to sign up for one hour to pray at Planned Parenthood during Lent
- ❖ **Ignite Your Torch NW Youth Conference July 6-9**—register early for discount; visit: ignitenw.org
- ❖ **After Morning Masses**—enjoy Hospitality with your parish family in Camerman Hall