

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Monday, March 30, 2020



Dear Parishioners:

Today Is **Monday, 5th week of Lent: Scriptures Daniel 13: 1-62 OR (shortened version) Daniel: 13: 41c – 62; Psalm 23; Jn 8: 1-11**

Sometime we think of God as the "Great and Terrible Wizard of Oz," breathing fire, threatening and judgmental, demanding seemingly impossible tasks before answering our prayers. Well, God isn't like that, but neither is God a "mamby-pamby, do what you want, have no concern for anyone but yourself, everything is always beautiful and don't worry about the consequences, gosh you're swell" either. The Scriptures today clearly show that God is both a God of mercy and a God of justice. Yes, we stumble and sin but He's not willing to strike us dead for the least (or even the greatest) offense without the chance to atone for our sin. God also shows us that what He expects of one person He expects of everyone else. God is quick and willing to forgive our sins when we turn to Him with true sorrow and contrition, but He will not avoid due punishment which we bring upon ourselves when we think we can get away with everything. Our God is a God of mercy but He is also a God of justice. There is a Heaven and there is a Hell. Think about that.

We have been offering confessions on Saturday afternoons, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. but very few people avail themselves of the opportunity. Fr. Niru and I will hear confessions again this Wednesday evening, April 1, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the church. However, Pope Francis says that if you can't go to confession, take your sorrow directly to God. He says: "People who cannot get to confession because of the coronavirus lockdown or another serious reason can go to God directly, be specific about their sins, request pardon and experience God's loving forgiveness. This is the right time, the opportune moment. An act of contrition done well, and our souls will become white like the snow." He further says: "Do what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says. It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your Father, and tell Him the truth. Say, "Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me," and ask for pardon with all your heart."

Make an Act of Contrition and promise God, "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God." "As the catechism teaches, you can draw near to God's forgiveness without having a priest at hand. Think about it. This is the moment."

For those who might not remember the Act of Contrition you learned as a child, here is a very short one: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I am sorry for having sinned because I love you."

A bit of humor: This is it. The day your dogs have all been waiting for. They day they realize their owners can't leave the house and they get your 24/7! Dogs are rejoicing everywhere. Cats couldn't care less.

Remember: "The love of Christ impels us..." (2 Cor. 5:14)

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