

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

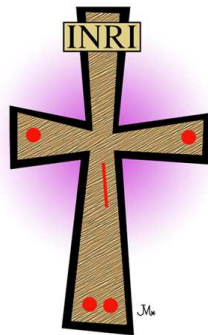


*“Do to others whatever you would that others do to you: there you have the Law and the Prophets.”
Mt 7:12*

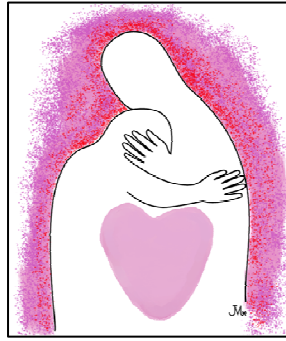
It sounds very easy and fair to measure according to our own standards. However, knowing our weaknesses we know that there are times when we nearly demand of others acts of mercy that we ourselves do not often practice. During the first week of Lent let us reflect on these words and the mercy that God shows us every day.

How can I practice being merciful as Jesus was?

PRAYER: *Lord, God fill my heart with your love and give me courage to spread it. Teach me to be merciful to all people.*



SECOND WEEK OF LENT



*“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive back.”
Lk 6:36,38*

We are called to be children of God. This is our privilege and also our task. We are chosen to spread God’s love around us and be a blessing to one another. This is the only way to receive God’s blessing. Let us take some time to think about our actions.

Do my actions deserve God’s blessings?

PRAYER: *Lord, God help me to show my love through my daily interactions with others. Enable me to ask in every encounter: what would your response be in that situation?*



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THIRD WEEK OF LENT



*“Leave it one more year, so that I may dig around it and add some fertilizer; and perhaps it will bear fruit from now on. But if it doesn’t, you can cut it down.”
Lk 13:9*

In the passage for the Third Sunday of Lent Jesus shows tremendous patience of the gardener in dealing with the tree that does not bear fruit. I have to admit that there are times in my life in which I do not bear much fruit. Thank you Lord for your patience with me and for your faith that some day I will change my ways. Help me Lord to focus on bringing fruit wherever I am and whatever I do.

What needs transformation in my life?



PRAYER: *Lord, God give me courage to look honestly into all that is hidden in my heart and help me to transform it into love that bears abundant fruit. Teach me patience with myself and others.*

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT



“Father I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.”

Lk 15: 18-19

In this parable the son after spending all of the possessions he received from his father humbly returns to ask forgiveness. He is ready to earn his sonship once more. His father is awaiting his return with joy and accepts him as his beloved child. Often we do things that God would not have approved because of our weak human nature. However, God is always there with His love and is ready to offer us his forgiveness if only we are able to recognize our failings and humbly ask for forgiveness. We just need to recognize that God's forgiveness is unconditional, not something to be earned.

How can I offer the same forgiveness that I have received from God?

PRAYER: *Lord, God I thank you for your never ending love and acceptance. Fill my heart with those gifts that I will also be able to wholeheartedly forgive others.*

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT



“Let anyone among you who has no sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Jn 8:7

These words are directed also toward me not only the scribes and Pharisees that brought the woman caught on adultery. Oftentimes we throw stones of our judgment and criticism in the face of others. Perhaps during this week of Lent we should focus on our own shortcomings and work on improving our relationships with others instead of paying attention to wrongdoings of others.

What would help me to see goodness in others instead of their shortcomings?

PRAYER: *Lord, I ask your forgiveness for focusing on others' weaknesses and paying too little attention to growing in love and charity.*



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SIXTH WEEK OF LENT



“It is quite clear that this man has done nothing that deserves a death sentence.”
Lk 23: 22

This week of Lent focuses our attention on Jesus who was condemned to die even though he was innocent. The same people who were shouting “Hosanna” in the Gospel that we read during Palm Sunday liturgy later in the week were also shouting “Crucify Him”. This is what our human nature is and what all of us have to work on to make a difference in places that still condemn Jesus and others because they are different. Let us take a good look into our own lives and see what prevents us from blessing each other and in this way bringing glory to our Father in heaven.

In what way during this week can I bring blessings to God through others?

PRAYER: *Lord, God help me to remember that whatever I do affects other people and my love toward you. Fill my heart with your goodness and love and give me courage to reflect them in my life.*