

BE JOYFUL! YOU ARE  
THE BELOVED CHILD OF  
THE GOD WHO SAVES!

fourth  
sunday  
of LENT



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

laetare

March 15, 2015

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**G**od so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life."

It's much easier to say "I love you" than to do "I love you". Words are not enough to express the depth of what real love conveys. Love is an extension of self: giving self to the other, wishing all good for the other even when it costs us. When this kind of love occurs between two or more people, life is enlarged, persons are enlarged. When today's



Gospel declares that "God so loved the world", this is not a "saying" love but a "doing" love. God's love enlarges life beyond imagination to eternal life. God's love enlarges persons beyond

imagination to doing "works...in God".

Such depth of God's love this Gospel reveals: God gave the only Son, allowed the only Son to be "lifted up" on a cross, and now remains patient with us while we struggle with choosing between darkness and light, evil and truth. Moreover, in the very midst of our ongoing struggle, it is God who brings us to greater belief and leads us to eternal life. Such is the depth of love God has for us!

**Words to reflect upon: God's love is not a "saying" love but a "doing" love**

### A Lenten Meditation On Accepting Our Crosses

This is me, a sinner on whom the Lord has turned his gaze. And this is what I said when they asked me if I would accept my election as pontiff: I am a sinner, but I trust in the infinite mercy and patience of our Lord Jesus Christ, and I accept in a spirit of penance.



— Pope Francis

## — THE LITURGICAL CORNER

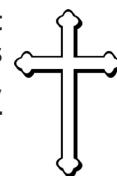
Today is **Laetare Sunday**, the midpoint of Lent, when the Church interrupts the Lenten austerity for a day and calls us to rejoice that Easter is at last within sight. The purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside and rose ones may be used instead. The church calls out "Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and come together all you that love her; rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow...I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: We shall go into the house of the Lord." May the Good Lord bless you on this beautiful **Laetare Day!**

**Tuesday, March 19th , is the Feast of St. Joseph,** Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, an ordinary sort of



man on whom God relied to do great things. Joseph had a special role in salvation history: God entrusted his only Son to him and it is in his role as guardian of the Holy Family that we honor him as Patron of the Universal Church. **Bless all families, O Lord especially the poor, those who lack a good home, those in exile. Grant them protectors like Saint Joseph. Amen.**

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Fr. Baudilio at the recent loss of his father. Please be assured, Fr. Baudilio, of the prayers of the 9:30 Community for you, your family and your father.



*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*  
1 Timothy 2:1

**LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY** for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter and Leida Fiorito.

**Prayer Requests**

*Let us join our hearts this week in mighty prayers for all our Christian sisters and brothers in the Middle East who daily face terror, starvation, deprivations of all kinds and often death just because they are Christians. Let us especially remember those courageous souls who daily dare to continue their preparation for baptism on Holy Saturday*

## THE PRACTICE OF LENT

### Praying with the Signs of the Times

In the powerful Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World), the Church affirms “that in every age, the Church carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel”. As members of the Body of Christ, we too are called to this same responsibility to learn to read the signs of the times: recognizing them, praying over them and discerning their meaning for us in light of the Gospel. It is critical that we understand the times and what needs to be done now.



Reading the signs of the times is a spiritual discipline that tries to shake off the dominant secular messages that surround us and focus on an alternate positive “**Kairos**” perspective as followers of Christ. Instead of what’s wrong with the world, **Kairos focuses** on what is coming to fullness in the present moment, seeking to understand what’s ripe and ready for justice; what fruit is ready to be harvested; what we can glean from this field. **Kairos thinking** asks, what are the opportunities for an in-breaking of grace, for justice-making, for creativity and bold initiative in this situation? What can I support and assist in this? What is God doing and how am I called to be a partner? What possibilities are being born today in our community?

### Blessed are you, Lord, Giver of all Gifts!

In those years, people will say, we lost track  
of the meaning of we, of you  
we found ourselves  
reduced to I  
and the whole thing became  
silly, ironic, terrible:  
we were trying to live a personal life  
and, yes, that was the only life  
we could bear witness to.  
But the great dark birds of history screamed and plunged  
into our personal weather.  
They were headed somewhere else  
but their beaks and pinions drove along the shore,  
through rages of fog  
where we stood, saying I

— Adrienne Rich

## Some Signs of the Times for 2015

- a world-wide hunger for spirituality
- the rise of religious fundamentalism
- the crisis of individualism (being selfish & self-centered)
- an increasingly uncivil society
- endless wars, glorification of violence
- increased promotion of intolerance and hatred
- world-wide increasing scarcities of food & water
- the ever-increasing pace of life



*What other Signs would you add to this list?*

*What will you do about it?*

*How will you pray on them?*

*Will you plead with God to do something about them or will you ask him to show you what he expects of you?*

## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



**First Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

Do you think God continues to send messengers now? What about you personally: does God send messengers “early and often”? Can you give an example? What can you do to “open your door wider” so that all the messengers can get in?

### **This Lent, Lord,**

help me leave behind the  
distractions of my daily life  
and make this a time  
of spiritual retreat,  
of letting go all  
that holds me back  
from taking the risk  
of drawing closer to you,  
allowing your Spirit  
to lead me,  
and speak to my heart.

Forty days, or four,  
or forty minutes or four!  
Whatever I can manage!  
The time spent is not the key,  
I know, but my willingness  
to look into my frailty,  
and then to trust in You  
and to seek your will for me.  
Amen.