

REJOICE! YOU ARE SONS AND  
DAUGHTERS OF THE LIVING  
GOD! REJOICE!

fourth  
sunday  
of LENT



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

laetare

March 6, 2016

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

The Parable of The Prodigal Son/  
The Parable of The Loving Father



To love the unlovable recklessly,  
as does the Prodigal Parent  
is to travel through life with new insight,  
with new people, in new ways.

From somewhere subterranean  
in the human soul  
comes the call of the godlike Parent,  
the one who knows the way of  
human development,  
who knows that to be fully human  
is to forgive wrongs.

We are each the child who is squandering  
the treasure called life.

We are each the child who is judging those  
who do not live life as we do.

We are each called to be the one  
who forgives the stumbling self  
and celebrates the efforts of the other.

—Joan Chittister OSB

We are not here simply to  
wait for heaven.  
We are here to bring it!

### PRAYER

May I feel, O God,  
the passion of your love  
for those who suffer and  
are downtrodden  
by the sins of the world.

## Praying the Psalms in Lent

The psalms are the story of the human soul,  
yours and mine, in progress. Because they are  
about life, about what it means to be human,  
what it is to struggle and laugh, to be confused  
and depressed, to grapple with self-expression  
and strive for enlightenment, they are about all  
of us.

The psalms bring poetry to our ears that breaks  
open in us new particles of hope in the presence  
of the living God. Right here. Right now. And in  
particular to us.

### Psalm 57:7-9

I'm ready, God, so ready,  
ready from head to toe,  
ready to sing, ready to raise a tune:

"Wake up, soul!

wake up, harp! wake up, lute!

wake up, you sleepyhead sun!"

I'm thanking you, God, out loud in the streets,  
singing your praises in town and country.

(from The Message bible)

*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.

pray

Let us pray this week for all the  
world's marginalized and abused  
women who are suffering today. Let us pray also for the  
healing of violence in the hearts of humanity.

### A Lenten Challenge

**There are 1,800 drug puntos in Puerto Rico.  
85% of the "employees" of these puntos  
are minors!**

## A Meditation For Lent

### ‘My God, My God’:

#### When Jesus felt abandoned



When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Mk 15:33-34

What are we to make of these extraordinary words of Jesus on the cross? For some Christians, they are almost unbearable. Can it be true that Jesus thought that God the Father had forsaken him? Is it possible that Jesus doubted the love of the one he called Abba, "Father"? Did Jesus give up hope when he was crucified? Did he despair when he was on the cross?

Jesus really did feel abandoned... it is not unreasonable to imagine Jesus, in this grave hour, feeling as if the Father were absent. And remember, if he is crying out to God, he is still in relationship with God. Here we need to distinguish between a person's believing that God is absent and feeling it. The latter is common in the spiritual life. You may have had this experience yourself: believing in God, but not feeling that God is close. You ask, "Where are you, God?" Here is an important intersection between Jesus' life and our own.

Jesus does not despair. He is still in relationship with Abba—calling on him from the cross. In the midst of horrific physical pain, abandoned by all but a few of his friends and disciples, and facing his imminent death, when it would be almost impossible for anyone to think lucidly, he might have felt abandoned

So Jesus understands not only our bodily suffering, but also our spiritual suffering in these feelings of abandonment. He was like us in all things, except sin. And he experienced all that we do.

So when you struggle in the spiritual life, when you wonder where God is, when you pray in doubt and darkness, and even when you are close to despair, you are praying to someone who is fully human and fully divine, someone who understands you fully.

— James Martin, S.J.

## — THE LITURGICAL CORNER

### The Fourth Week of Lent

With this week, we begin the second part of **Lent**. We ask more and more deeply to be with and like Jesus. We desire to celebrate the approaching mystery of our salvation with greater freedom and greater joy.

Each day's Gospel will now be from the Gospel according to John. We can't avoid the feeling of being in a court room for a grand trial. There are "witnesses" and "testimony." It is a battle between the forces of Darkness and the Light. The opposition to Jesus mounts. It is inevitable that he will be killed. But, we know that the ultimate Judgment in the trial is against Sin and Death. We grow in gratitude and grace as we experience more deeply that this is all "for me."

**Tuesday, March 8th, is International Women's Day**, not a day for superficial patronizing of women and certainly not a day to completely ignore. Women everywhere know what it is to live in worlds empty of a sense of respect, blocked, mocked, ignored and trivialized—not to say enslaved, trafficked and abused—just because they are women. **Lent** is a perfect time to reflect on this condition of women world wide.

This is also a good time to recognize all the women who have enriched our lives by their love and sacrifice. Start with your own mother and then move on to the multitude of other women who have touched your life in positive ways. The list is long. Maybe one day will not be enough time for all this remembrance. But there will surely be time to pray for them: **"My sisters, may God bless you all today and every day"**.

What actions are most excellent?

To gladden the heart of a human being,

To feed the hungry,

To help the afflicted,

To lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful,

To remove the wrongs of the injured.

**That person is the most beloved of God who does most good to God's creatures.**

The Prophet Muhammad

## COME BACK TO ME, WITH ALL YOUR HEART!

— Joel 2: 12

### PARISH BIBLICAL QUOTE FOR LENT III

O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, CALL ON HIS NAME,  
MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES!

PSALM 105:1

"Experience teaches us that each time we seek the path of privileges or benefits for a few to the detriment of the good of all, sooner or later the life of society becomes a fertile soil for corruption, drug trade, exclusion of different cultures, violence and also human trafficking, kidnapping and death, bringing suffering and slowing down development."

Words of Pope Francis in Mexico recently