

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. I will be in Anchorage for our annual priest retreat September 4 through September 9. Please pray for all of us Archdiocese of Anchorage/Fairbanks/Juneau priests. Thank you!!
2. I will be in Bethesda, Maryland, Saint Bartholomew, the weekend of September 23, 2017 for mission talks. Saint Bart's has seven masses on the weekend.
3. My friend, Eric Williams, who invited me to the Catholic Church in 1986, and basically was responsible for me eventually becoming a priest, will be visiting us October 5 to October 13.
4. Don't forget to pray the rosary with us September 13 and October 13 at 5:30 at Holy Rosary in Dillingham. This is also a perfect opportunity to learn how to pray the rosary, so please join us.

## **HOMILY**

### **CROSSES**

We wear crosses around our neck, hang up crucifixes in our homes, and give crosses to friends as gifts. Even so, as years go by we tend to lessen the effect of Jesus' suffering. The gruesome crucifixion and horrific suffering witnessed at the foot of the cross 2014 years ago is not as prevalent in our minds today.

### **SUFFERING TEACHES US TO LOVE**

All three readings inform us that suffering teaches us to love God. Jeremiah insists that those who love God are called to take up the cross, which involves sacrifice and suffering. Paul in Romans teaches us that to love God we must examine our lives and make painful changes. He asks us to transform ourselves! The Gospel tells us that the love between Jesus and the people is so great, that He is willing to die for us.

### **EVERYONE SUFFERS**

To suffer is to endure death, pain, or distress. It is to sustain loss or damage. Do you think Peter suffered when Jesus said, "Peter, get behind me Satan!" Of

course he did! To be clear, every one of us has suffered in life and will suffer throughout life. No one gets off Scott-free.

### WE ARE BEARERS OF SUFFERING

But let me be clear: Christians are not meant to be lovers of suffering, just bearers of it. The way we bear suffering is with help. Here is my point: Suffering is something we do not do alone. Suffering is a burden that Jesus commands us to share with others.

### SHARE YOUR SUFFERING

To share your suffering/burdens with others means to ask for help! Show some vulnerability. Suffering gives us an opportunity to grow in love. Think of your cross as a school for spiritual growth. Carrying our particular cross of obsession, addiction, laziness, or impatience is an advanced course in motivating us to grow more closely in love with God.

### CROSS IS ALSO ABOUT SHARING

Carrying our cross is not just about bearing physical, personal, psychological, sexual, spiritual, or emotional pain; it is also about the sharing of our gifts, talents, and our compassion with others.

### GIFT AND BURDEN

In every gift there is a burden. For example, in our busy world it is a burden to find time to help someone in need. It is a burden when you help someone and they expect even more from you. What Jesus is asking us to do is to share our God given gifts heroically with anyone in need.

### SUFFERING MAKES ROOM FOR JESUS

Theresa of Avila felt that imitating the suffering of Christ is a way to fortify our weaknesses. Suffering kills something in us. When something dies within us, guess what, Jesus has more room to enter and renew our spirit.

### CONCLUSION

Suffering is the way to effective love. Suffering separates us from self in order to give ourselves to another. So, why not welcome suffering. Look at it as a lesson in love, a way to get closer to our maker and renew our spirits (471 Words).

## **INTERCESSIONS**

### **Celebrant**

Enlightened by the Spirit of wisdom, we present our petitions to our loving God.

### **Deacon/Lector**

That the Church bring to full fruition the hopes of the Second Vatican Council, let us pray to the Lord.

That teachers and workers return to school with enthusiasm and welcome a new academic year with the love of learning, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to abortion; for the protection of life from conception to natural death; for healing and reconciliation for those who have procured abortions, we pray to the Lord.

For those who have died (especially .....):  
that the Lord of all gentleness will welcome them into his peaceful presence, let us pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our families, our community, our country, and the world.....,  
We pray to the Lord.

### **Celebrant**

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and petitions and answer them in your great love and mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## READINGS

### Jeremiah 20:7-9

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; The word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day. I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

### Romans 12: 1-2

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

### Mat 16:21-27

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct.