

Bulletin: 23 Ord A SH 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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: Love Yourself

DID NOT LIKE MYSELF

When I graduated from high school in 1975, I was a negative thinker and had low self-esteem. I was a loner. I couldn't relate socially very well with others. I made some poor and sinful choices. I did not like myself very much.

LIKE MYSELF TODAY

As life went on I began to open to God. Being open to Jesus in my life turned me around. I was able to see my calling to the priesthood. God basically called a shy, introverted, obsessive, person who doesn't like onions, to become a priest. And God stretched me. With God, I was able to do things I never dreamed of. I accepted "me" as God made "me," both strengths and weaknesses. With God I learned to love myself.

SAINT PAUL

The reading from Romans and the Gospel tell us something important: We must love ourselves first, in order to love others. Saint Paul believed, "Our love of God is expressed in the healthy and appropriate esteem we have for ourselves."

SAINT IGNATIUS

About loving ourselves, Saint Ignatius of Loyola believes, "One of the greatest gifts the Lord can give us is when we see our sinfulness for what it is, but are not overwhelmed by it."

TO LOVE SELF MEANS DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP

To love yourself is to not beat yourself up inside. Deal with your sin in a healthy way, i.e. go to confession and communion. Loving yourself means to start again, keep struggling, and don't give up. And while you doing that, cut yourself some slack! No one is perfect. Everyone sins. Letting our sinfulness pull us down is the devil's work!

GOSPEL WAY TO LOVE OTHERS

In the gospel Jesus teaches this: even those who do not love themselves, and thus cannot love their neighbors, should be treated with dignity and respect. Offer them every opportunity to seek forgiveness. After exhausting every possible effort to help them it may be clear that they can no longer be a part of the Christian family. This seems harsh. But even Christians have boundaries.

TOUGH LOVE

We have a responsibility to call people to conversion through love and forgiveness, even if it means tough love. Tough Love means being firm with those we love. Turning in an abusive friend or reporting a shoplifter may be the best thing for that person.

JESUS HELPING OTHERS

Jesus tells us everything we must do to bring someone back into the fold, including tough love. "Tell him his fault, tell him again with witnesses, tell the church." If that still does not work, then he should be expelled. The three step lesson is confrontation, intervention, and excommunication.

ACT RESPONSIBLY TO HELP OTHERS

This program tells us how to act responsibly toward our brothers and sisters who are having difficulties in life. If we love ourselves and call on the Holy Spirit, we will be able to convert a lost sheep, one who is straying from the fold.

CONCLUSION

There is no greater way to store up treasure in heaven than to lead a person back to the flock. In order to do that we have to have a good answer to the following question: How do I love and forgive myself (540 Words)?

INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant

Confident of God's faithful love, let us now speak the prayers of our hearts.

Deacon/Lector

That the Church be blessed with many new laborers in the vineyard, including priests, deacons, religious, and lay ministers, we pray to the Lord.

That national, State, and local governments ensure fluent reading by every child, we pray to the Lord.

That those who grow food for the world receive the rain and sun needed for abundant crops, 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

Eternal God, unite our prayers with those of all believers. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7-9

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked man that he shall surely die, and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked man from his way, he (the wicked man) shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked man, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

Romans 13:8-10

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, (namely) "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Mat 18:15-20

"If your brother sins (against you), go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."