



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

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LENT: PUNISHMENT OR OPORTUNITY?

ONE-MINUTE HOMILY BY REV. FR. DANNY GUSTAFSON, SJ
MARCH 2, 2022

IT CAN BE EASY TO LOOK AT LENT AS A TIME OF GLOOM OR PUNISHMENT, BUT IT'S REALLY A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. FR. DANNY GUSTAFSON, SJ, REFLECTS ON THE PURPOSE OF LENT IN THIS SPECIAL ONE-MINUTE HOMILY BASED ON THE READINGS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE, PRAYERS AND PENANCES. ARE WE BEING PUNISHED FOR SOMETHING? NO! QUITE THE OPPOSITE!



ASH WEDNESDAY KICKS OFF THE PENITENTIAL SEASON OF LENT. WE MARK OUR FOREHEADS WITH ASHES AND SPEND THE NEXT FORTY DAYS PREPARING OURSELVES FOR EASTER. IT WOULD BE ALL TOO EASY TO SEE LENT AS A TIME TO WALK AROUND, LOOKING GLOOMY, COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW WE CAN'T HAVE MEAT ON FRIDAYS, AND TELLING EVERYONE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GIVING UP FOR LENT. BUT DOING SO WOULD MISS

THE POINT. LENT ISN'T A PUNISHMENT, IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY!

In today's first reading, God tells us, "return to me with your whole heart, rend your hearts, not your garments." During this season God gives us the opportunity we need – to return to God by spending more time in prayer, and by setting aside those things that get in the way of our relationship with God. The chance to return to God with our whole hearts? Why would we be gloomy about that? ☐

HAILING FROM SIOUX FALLS, SD, DANNY TOOK HIS FLYOVER STATE SENSIBILITIES TO GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY WITH ASPIRATIONS OF GOING INTO POLITICS. HE MET THE SOCIETY OF JESUS WHILE STUDYING THERE AND JOINED THE JESUITS AFTER GRADUATING. FORMATION TOOK DANNY TO LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, FORDHAM PREP, AND BOSTON COLLEGE. ORDAINED IN JUNE 2021, HE NOW SERVES AS A PAROCHIAL VICAR AT THE CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA IN NEW YORK CITY.

FEASTS FOR FEBRUARY

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of February are:

2. Presentation of the Lord, Feast
3. Blaise; Ansgar, Opt. Mem.
4. FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Sunday
5. Agatha, Memorial
6. Paul Miki and Companions, Memorial
8. Jerome Emiliani; Josephine Bakhita, Opt. Mem.
10. Scholastica, Memorial
11. SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Sunday
14. ASH WEDNESDAY

17. Seven Founders of the Orders of Servites, Opt. Mem.
18. FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, Sunday
21. Peter Damian, Opt. Mem.
22. Chair of St. Peter, Feast
23. Polycarp of Smyrna, Opt. Mem.
25. SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, Sunday

The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11), is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy. The Memorial of Sts. Cyril and Methodius (February 14) is superseded by Ash Wednesday liturgy. ☐

OUR CENACLE CORNER

Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures

GRIEVING AS THE LORD COMFORTS

GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

A FRIEND'S CONVERSION THROUGH THE BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE

*By Edward Graveline
An email sent to Evelyn & others on January 20, 2024*

So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." John 6:32-33 The lord is all I have, and so in Him I put my hope. (Lamentations 3:23)

Right after I had the miracle in my life, I went back to NAU from Los Angeles, and Greg Henderson, a teammate, noticed a difference in me. He asked me if I wanted to go to a Bible Study. I said, Yes!

So every Wednesday morning, in Greg's room we had an adult Protestant guy go through the Bible with us. He was with an organization called, "The Navigators"

After a month or two, we finally came up to the Last Supper. Greg was not Catholic at that time. The teacher said to me, Eddie (they all called me that back then), You are Catholic, and you probably receive Communion every week at the Neuman Center, Right? Yes, I said. Well, if you really believe that that wafer is really Jesus' Body, then you would be a cannibal.

I had no idea at the time. So that night, I called my father in Los Angeles because he spent 12 years in St. Louis at a Jesuit Seminary. I told him that the Bible teacher said we are cannibals, and my Dad said, "Does he believe that Jesus is human or Divine? I said, Divine. Dad said, then we can't be cannibals because you have to have

human flesh to be one. We have Divine Flesh and you should read John 6 the Bread of life discourse.

I went back to the class and told him what my Dad said, and he told me to leave the class.



Five years ago I was at a men's event in Tucson with my St Paul Evangelization table, and Greg Henderson walked up to me. I recognized him and said, Greg, what are you doing at this Catholic Men's conference? He said, I am now Catholic, and you started me on my path to becoming a Catholic. I am now a Deacon in the Church and am the financial officer for the Tucson diocese.

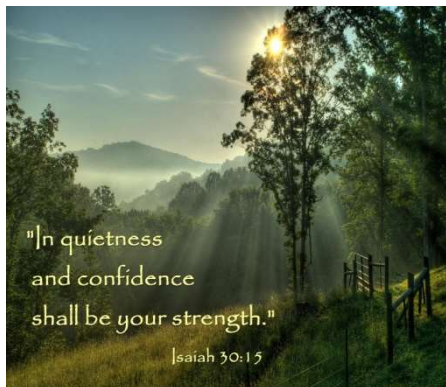
I offered up my sufferings for him when I learned he was in hospice. He died last Thursday. □

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

WHEN YOU GRIEVE, THE LORD OFFERS COMFORT

BY VICTOR H. ARANETA

The Christian faith, as communicated through the words of the Bible, is a healing faith. It offers comfort in



times of trouble, courage for our fears, and hope instead of despair. God's word makes it clear. Absolutely nothing is impossible for Him. So the next time you find yourself

overwhelmed by feelings of fear or doubt refocus your thoughts and REDOUBLE YOUR PRAYERS. Living with intense grief is a marathon not a sprint. Remember, the scripture is always there "weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning" Psalm 30:5.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you created me for a purpose not to grieve my whole life because of loss, because of someone or for a tribulation that struck me now, You will snatch me from the evil spirit of grief and send your angel of peace and tranquility, in Jesus' name. Amen. ☐



"The new beginning of life will dawn on America. My son, it's over until I say it's over. Soon, a place of worship will be given to my ministry."

Jesus of Nazareth
01202024

Upcoming Events

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
9:30 PM

IN LAS VEGAS:

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 2:30 PM
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION AND GOD THE FATHER DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 3, 2024

IN LOS ANGELES:

ST. ANNE'S FAMILY SERVICES
155 N. OCCIDENTAL BL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026
AT THE CHAPEL
PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM
MASS AT 9:30 AM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

IN LAS VEGAS:

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 1:00 PM
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS –

ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
MASS AT 9:30 AM
FOLLOWED BY DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS
AT THE CHAPEL

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
MASS AT 10:00 AM

IN LAS VEGAS:

8:00 AM
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE