

Living the
Gospel

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Carrying our Crosses

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

John 3.14-21

Spreading the Gospel can be difficult in our increasingly secular society. As stewards who are called to receive our gifts from God and put them at the service of the Church, this challenge can sometimes seem daunting. We may be tempted to think that today's society is just too far gone to accept Jesus. We may even see this within our own circle of friends and family members. However, this resistance from society is nothing new and nothing to fear.

In today's first reading from 2 Chronicles, we hear how God sent many people on His behalf to spread His word "but the people kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets." Even in the Old Testament, those who sought to serve God faced hardships and retaliation. Therefore, as stewards, we should not expect everything in our ministry to be perfect or easy.

Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew that whoever wants to follow Him must take up their cross and follow. To take up the cross is to take up suffering and hardships for the sake of serving Christ. As stewards, let us not shy away from these crosses but accept them willingly. The cross will forever be the symbol of our hope and salvation. To take part in the cross of Christ by carrying our own crosses is a supreme dignity. Therefore, the next time we face a difficulty in our stewardship, let us simply pray "**Lord, help me to carry this cross out of love for you.**"

Summary

In the first reading from 2 Chronicles, we hear about how God's messengers were persecuted and despised for listening to God. As stewards, we will often also face difficulties in our ministry which is a share in the cross of Christ. To suffer for Christ is a great dignity so the next time encounter sufferings in our stewardship, let us simply pray "**Lord, help me to carry this cross out of love for you.**"

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Join us every Friday throughout Lent for the Stations of the Cross immediately following the 12:05 pm & 6:30 pm Masses.



Mass Intentions

Monday, March 11th

12:05 pm † Cris Reyes on the 2nd anniversary of his death
requested by Rachel Lim

Tuesday, March 12th

12:05 pm In thanksgiving for Lettemacol-Habtu Nazaret & Yonatan Kflu
requested by Lettemical Habtu

Wednesday, March 13th

12:05 pm In thanksgiving & for the intentions of Judith Hipolito on her birthday
requested by Jesus Hipolito

Thursday, March 14th

12:05 pm † Josefino Solidum
requested by Libby Tillo

Friday, March 15th

12:05 pm † Angie Ocampo & Tommy Moll
requested Clarita Malolos

6:30 pm

Saturday, March 16th

9:00 am Birthday intentions of Josephine Agudo
requested by her mother

5:00 pm † Genadio Ferreira
requested by the Cabral family

Sunday, March 17th

9:00 am † Charito Cabantac on her death anniversary
requested by the Nilo family

11:00 am For the People of the Parish

LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSIONS

Friday, March 15th

Lent is an especially penitential season, meaning that during Lent, we are called to make an extra effort to examine our lives and to strive to live in greater conformity with our faith, to imitate Jesus in a greater way. Moreover, we also take on some extra penitential practices in order to grow in holiness and be free from the bondage of sin. Our parish schedule will be as follows:

◆10:00 am to 11:55 am | ◆1:00 to 2:00 pm
◆5:00 to 6:00 pm | ◆8:30 to 9:30 pm

Let's take this opportunity to prepare ourselves during this Lenten season!



Q&A CONFESSION

Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* points out, our faith in the forgiveness of sins is tied to faith in the Holy Spirit and the Church: "It was when he gave the Holy Spirit to his apostles that the risen Christ conferred on them His own divine power to forgive sins: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (976; cf. John 20:22-23).

Will the priest ever repeat what I have said in my confession?

A priest can never reveal to anyone what he is told in a confession. This obligation of absolute secrecy is most serious and is called the sacramental seal (CCC no. 1467).

Won't the priest remember what I said? I'm embarrassed: I don't want him to think badly of me.

The priest's purpose is not to keep a check-list on people, but to be an instrument of Christ in receiving someone's sorrow, bringing forgiveness and helping people move forward. A priest hears a large number of confessions. He is not there to judge the person, but rather the nature of the sin, and to offer counsel and encouragement to overcome the sin and to grow spiritually. He too goes to confession, so he knows how it feels to confront one's own sins and ask for forgiveness.

Why does the priest sometimes ask for more information?

The priest may ask for additional information simply to clarify what happened, to understand if the action you confessed was a one-time occurrence or a pattern, and to assess the person's understanding of the situation.

How often should I go to Confession?

Catholics are required to receive the Sacrament at least once per year. However, if you are aware of having committed any mortal (serious) sin, you should receive the Sacrament. That being said, all are encouraged to take advantage of the Sacrament on a regular and frequent basis. Frequent reception helps us keep aware of our spiritual progress and provides the grace to overcome our sins.

Can I receive Communion without going to Confession?

When you receive the Eucharist you affirm that you are in a state of grace, reconciled with God and the Church. Since the Sacrament of Confession provides that reconciliation, if you are in a state of mortal sin you must abstain from receiving the Eucharist until you go to Confession. A mortal sin consists of a serious action through which a person turns away from God's law and charity, fully understands it is wrong and chooses to commit it freely. If you have committed venial sins, you may still receive the Eucharist. Venial sins are sins which wound our relationship with God, but consist of less serious matters than mortal sins or are performed without full knowledge or consent. Penitents are

encouraged to confess venial sins regularly, since the repetition of these sins can lead to more serious sin.

I'm divorced. May I receive the Sacrament?

If you are civilly divorced and have not remarried or were validly married after receiving a declaration of nullity for your prior marriage, you may participate in the Sacrament. If you have remarried outside of the Church and have questions about your situation, we encourage you to speak with a priest. ~ <https://stmaryscaldwell.com> ~

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please support us on Sunday March 17th,



2024 after the 9am and 11am Masses for a pancake breakfast hosted by the CWL of the parish.



Tickets are \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 for a family of 4 (which is two adults and two children under 12yrs) Come! Join us for some fellowship with your parish community over a delicious breakfast of hot pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea and juice.

Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

SVPD LENTEN FOOD DRIVE



Help feed our neighbours in need this Lenten season. The Society of St. Vincent De Paul is collecting non-perishable food items to support the Good Shepherd Ministries food

bank. "A small donation can go a long way for a family or neighbour in need." Donation bins will be available in the church foyer for the duration of the drive.

Most needed items are: canned tuna, soup, vegetables, granola bars, cereal, beans, chickpeas, peanut butter & jam. This is the last weekend for collection.



Thank you in advance for your generosity!

INSPIRED BY GOD'S LOVE SUPPORT SHARELIFE'S MISSION



Today, as we contemplate God's boundless generosity, may we, too, be moved by this same spirit of generosity. May this inspire all of us to be kind, compassionate, and move us to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at

<https://sharelife.org/donate/>

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