

Catechism Corner

This Sunday in our Mass readings, Jesus tells us to love our enemies and to forgive those who hurt or offend us, just as God loves us.

Family Talk!

Why is it so hard for us to love our enemies?

Has anyone ever done anything so hurtful that you could not forgive or had a very difficult time forgiving them? Share this experience.

If each one of us really and truly followed Jesus' advice, how would the world be different?

*Love your
enemies.*

Join the religious education classes for Eucharistic adoration the last Sunday of the month from 9:15am-10:15am in the church!

First Communion is Saturday, April 25 at 11:00am at St. Joseph Church.

Confirmation is Thursday, April 30 at 6:00pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

Many people today are deeply wounded by contemporary social ills such as the breakdown of the family, abuse, poverty, or racism. Jesus...described his own mission as a work of healing and liberation.

(Unleash the Gospel, Marker 6.3)

This Wednesday we will gather as a community and participate in our Ash Wednesday liturgies. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and we receive ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. The minister will mark our foreheads with the words "Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel." The first phrase comes from God's response to Adam (Genesis 3:19). God reminds Adam of the effects of sin and of humanity's dependence on God. Read Genesis 2:4-9, and ponder that the breath of God sustains all living things. Adam and Eve turned away from God when they ate from the tree of knowledge. When we mark our foreheads with ashes at the beginning of Lent, we are indicating that we are turning back to God.

Wearing ashes on our foreheads is a tradition of repentance that comes from the Old Testament. There are several stories that mention ashes, but one that readily comes to mind is the story of Jonah. When Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh, the king covered himself in sackcloth and ashes and ordered the people to do the same (Jonah 3:6-9). Ashes and scratchy clothes were a way for people to be humble before God and show that they were willing to make a big change in their lives. We are marked with ashes for the same reason: to show that we are willing to change. The physical symbol—ashes—is for our benefit. God knows what is in our hearts; the ashes remind us to turn our hearts toward God.

This season of Lent, how can you turn your heart back to God and unleash the Gospel?



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

Religious Education Questions?

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