

WE THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD

The Son of Man

John 12:20-33

As the Gospel opens, Jesus is well aware that his time on earth is coming to a close. In fact, he admits that he is “troubled,” but adds, “Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Upset as he admits he is, he still puts the Father first.

In today’s Gospel, a voice responds to Jesus’ prayer by saying, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” In the second part of this passage, Jesus tries to explain to the crowds his true identity, the Son of Man, and the real meaning of the cross — the salvation of all the world.

Through his obedience to the Father, Jesus reveals God’s glory.

He foreshadows his crucifixion and death through the language of service: “If someone might give service to me, let him follow.

Where I am, there also will be my servant.”

As we enter the final weeks of Lent, we are called to bring forth the glory of the Lord as we follow Christ in service to God and one another. Let us remember not just the pain of Christ’s passion, but the reason for his death — to bring us the gift of reconciliation with God the Father.

FOR REFLECTION

- › Am I carving out enough time to pray this Lenten season?
- › Is there someone in my life that I need to forgive?
- › How am I doing on keeping my Lenten discipline?

Lenten Prayer

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“This is the promise that he made us: eternal life.”

— 1 John 2:25

Thank you, my God, for your steadfast love, which guides me in this life and waits to welcome me home to the next.





Robert Callaway

OUR FAITH

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

According to Church law, all Catholics “having reached the age of discretion” are required to confess all “grave sins” at least one a year. It is also recommended that they confess venial sins. Lent is the ideal time to make a good confession. Most parishes offer extended confession times and even special penance services.

Catechism CONNECTION

“It is called the sacrament of forgiveness, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent ‘pardon and peace.’ It is called the sacrament of Reconciliation, because it imparts to the sinner the life of God who reconciles: ‘Be reconciled to God.’”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1424

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Fasting

Fasting, one of the Lenten practices, is often observed as fasting from food. It is not because our bodies need to be punished (or that we need to go on a diet). We fast to allow our physical hunger to remind us of our spiritual hunger, our need for God. We fast to remind ourselves of our baptismal commitment and need for renewal.

Fasting not only reminds us of our dependence on God but also on the needs of others, the hungry and the poor. Fasting is a Gospel value, but not fasting by itself. Fasting and almsgiving are Gospel twins. Our tradition of fasting has never been to purge, to deprive the body for deprivation’s sake, but to have more to give away. We fast in order to place ourselves in solidarity with the poor and hungry. If the grocery money saved by our fasting does not somehow help feed the poor and hungry then our fasting is empty and useless.



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FAMILY ACTIVITY

Random Acts of Kindness

Part of penance is service, and we are called to serve one another with joyful hearts! As a family, write out several random acts of kindness that can be carried out over the week. Include things like smiling at someone, picking up trash, inviting someone to play a game, making a phone call to a grandparent, and helping someone carry a package. Throughout the week, have each family member draw a slip and complete the action. When everyone has completed their random act, talk about what happened and how it felt. Be sure to pray for the recipients of your acts of kindness.



Nominations for:
Pastoral Council
Faith Formation Commission
and **Catholic School Board**

Nominations will be accepted **through Monday, April 9**. To nominate yourself or another parishioner complete the nomination form found in narthex (to the right as you enter) and place in the gold nomination box.

Please take time to think of fellow parishioners who would provide good leadership for the Parish. You may also nominate yourself. Nomination forms are also available in the narthex next to the Gold Box. Place completed form in the Gold Box.

Pastoral Council - The Council is the vehicle for dialog about the life and activities of the parish, a forum for planning and evaluation. The role of the Pastoral Council is, through on going pastoral planning, to maintain the integrity of the parish mission and the goals and objectives related to it. The pastor seeks a collaborative relationship with the Pastoral Council, considering its guidance and active involvement in reaching consensus. The council meets monthly and members are elected to serve a 3-year term.

Faith Formation Commission - The Faith Formation Commission determines goals and objectives to meet the educational & faith formation needs of the total parish community, which include: the religious education program, youth and child ministry, spiritual growth opportunities, adult and family education, and sacramental preparation. Members are elected to serve a 3-year term.

Saint Cecilia Parish Catholic School Board - This Board is a permanent standing committee of the Faith Formation Commission specifically charged with governance of Saint Cecilia School subject to the policies and regulations that proceed from the Archdiocesan Catholic School Board, the Archdiocesan office of Faith Formation and Education, and in conformity with verification standards of the State of Iowa. Members are elected to serve a 3-year term.

2018 Elections Nomination Form

For Pastoral Council, Catholic School Board & Faith Formation Commission

Deadline for nominations is Monday, April 9th at 4pm. Completed nomination forms can be placed in the Gold Box in the Narthex, placed in the collection basket or submitted to the parish office.

Parish Elections are May 19 & 20. (Absentee ballots are available in the parish office May 14-18. Absentee ballots may only be completed in the parish office)

Please take time to think of fellow parishioners who would provide good leadership for the Parish.

You may also nominate yourself (if so, please write "self-nominated" next to your name).

Pastoral Council—3 Vacancies to be filled

Name

Phone/cell number

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Catholic School Board—2 Vacancies to be filled

Name

Phone/cell number

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Faith Formation Commission—2 Vacancies to be filled

Name

Phone/cell number

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Explanation of Pastoral Council, Catholic School Board,
And Faith Formation Commission on the back**

Seder Supper

Parish Seder Supper

Holy Thursday

March 29, 5:30 - 7 pm Parish Social Hall

Each year St. Cecilia Parish celebrates a Seder Meal on Holy Thursday evening. Traditionally, the Seder is a festive meal for family and friends which is shared by the Jewish people during the Passover.

Our parish Seder is a meaningful marker on the Holy Week Journey and helps us to experience some of the journey that Jesus walked in the last days before his death and resurrection. It was at a Seder Meal, with his friends, that Jesus celebrated his Last Supper and instituted the Eucharist. The Seder Meal emphasizes our spiritual heritage as children of Abraham and Moses as well as brothers and sisters in Christ. It combines Old Testament ritual and Scriptures and Jewish culture.

All members of the parish family are invited to participate in the Seder Meal: adults, kids, families, singles, seniors. There will not be a charge for the meal, but contributions are welcomed. The Seder will finish in time to attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm. Call Deacon Gary or Kay Aitchison at 296-2966 no later than Monday March 26, or e-mail gaitchis@iastate.edu for reservations.