



Holy Cross Catholic Church

5227 N. Bowdoin St, Portland, OR 97203

Office: 503.289.2834

Email: holycrossoffice@archdpdx.org

Website: www.holycrosspdx.org

Office Hours: 9am - 4pm (Mon. thru Fri.)

Holy Cross Catholic School

5202 N. Bowdoin St., Portland, OR 97203

Office: 503.289.3010

Email: dlarsen@archdpdx.org

Website: www.holycrosspdx.org/school

Welcome:

If you are a new parishioner, or visiting for the first time, welcome to Holy Cross Catholic Church! We are happy you are here and hope you find our parish home to be a warm and welcoming place. If you would like to become a member of our parish, please check with the parish office or give us a call.

Homebound: For Communion to the sick or the homebound, please call the parish office.

St. Vincent de Paul: *Closed until the completion of our New Community Center & SVdP Food Pantry in 2024.

Funerals: To ensure the availability of a priest and the church, please call the office before you make arrangements with the funeral director.

Baptism Preparation: Classes offered as needed. Please contact the parish staff for more information. Se ofrece una clase cada tercer sábado del mes a las 10 de la mañana.

Senior Luncheon: We are working on re-establishing the Luncheons and will notify everyone when we are ready to offer lunch once a month for Seniors and Friends.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Mark Bachmeier
holycrossoffice@archdpdx.org

Hispanic Ministry: Carmina Perez
503.289.2834

Rel. Education/Youth Ministry: Andrea Swanson
503.206.8069 or aswanson@archdpdx.org

Director of Evangelization: Mary Jane Weber
503.953.8328 or mweber@archdpdx.org

Parish Office: Lori Kreutzer
503.289.2834 or holycrossoffice@archdpdx.org

Business Manager: Deb Volker 503.289.7130

CASE Administration: Tessa Johnson
tejohnson@archdpdx.org or 503.791.6848

SCHOOL STAFF

Principal Holy Cross School: RJ Tagorda
503.289.3010 or rjtagorda@archdpdx.org

Development Director: Julie Johnson
jjohnson@archdpdx.org

Legacy Giving Director: Sister Mary Ryan
503.289.2834

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday - Friday: 8am Rosary, 8:30am Mass

Saturday: 5pm Vigil, English

Sunday: 9am, English & 12pm, Español

Adoration: Thursdays, 8:30am-8:30pm

Adoración al Santísimo: jueves, 8:30am-8:30pm

Reconciliation: Wednesdays, 7pm & Fridays, following the 8:30am Mass.

Reconciliación: miércoles, 7pm y viernes, 9am

Anointing of the Sick: Second Wednesday of each month following the 8:30am Mass.

(Anointing is available at all hours in emergency.)

School Mass: Fridays, 8:30am (Sept.—June)

St. Vincent de Paul: *Closed until the completion of our new Community Center & SVdP Food Pantry in 2024.

February 10th & 11th, 2024: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Church Teaches...



As we listen to St. Mark's Gospel this weekend, we need to do so with open hearts, because Jesus has something to say to us (as He always does).

It is good for us to remember that people in the days of Jesus' public ministry believed in a theology (or a system) of "reward and punishment." It was a system that was nice for those who thought of themselves as "blessed" because of their privilege, good luck, or good health. It was not such a good system for anyone who was sick or who had a string of misfortune. The result of this kind of thinking was that poor people, sick people, those who were foreigners, or who were struggling with their identity in some way or other, ended up being treated as "less than," unworthy, or as outsiders.

Into that stepped Jesus, the Son of God, who refused to buy into that thinking. He saw a leper (Mark 1, 40-45) and treated him with respect – acknowledging his dignity. In doing so, Jesus exposed the thinking of His day as far from the design and plan of God. Jesus touched the man, and in doing so, He did not just heal him, He recognized that he was fully capable of being a sign of God's presence and action in this world.

An important lesson for this week: compassion is not just pity or feeling sorry for someone. It is passion, it is suffering, it can be heart-wrenching, and it is a response from the very depths of one's being. We seek to follow the lead of Jesus' compassion – He who did not just touch the leper with His hands, He also touched him with His heart. Jesus felt what the man felt: the desperation of being alone, cast off, shunned, and despised. It is as though Jesus would have gladly traded places with him – and, in some ways, He did! In the end, Jesus was the one who ended up alone, cast out, with a broken body, so bloody and bruised that no one wanted to touch Him.

Jesus came among us so that the mercy, the kindness, and the compassion of God could be revealed. Each day, He sends us into the world, our part of the world anyway, to share the same mercy, kindness, and caring ... through our acceptance of others, our compassion for them, and our willingness to be reconciled, not just with God, but with each other.

How will we rekindle hope for others, bring them joy, or restore their self-respect and pride this week ... mirroring the infinite love of God in everything we say and do?



The Holy Cross Worship Schedule—

- ❖ Daily Mass: Tues. - Fri., 8:30am
- ❖ Confessions: Wednesdays, 7pm & Fridays, following the 8:30am Mass

(Appointments for Confession are also available throughout the week.)

Bulletin Announcements



A Message from the Principal, Mr. Tagorda—Catholic Schools Week is always such a wonderful week of celebrating the important work that Catholic schools do each and every day.

We celebrated our students with bingo and free dress days, we celebrated our donors by writing thank you letters, we celebrated our faith by attending Mass together and by giving our staff a day of reflection. Thank you for your partnership with us in the formation and education of your children!

* * *

Save the Date!— The 2024 Holy Cross Donor Dinner is a celebration of our school and it is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 5th at 6pm at the University of Portland Bauccio Commons**. The featured speaker will be Dan Zavage, Holy Cross School Class of 2020.

This evening is for adults only, other than specific students who may have a particular role at the dinner. Invitations will be going out in the mail this week (fingers crossed!) or you can use the following link to RSVP.

www.holycrosspdx.org/school/support-holy-cross/donor-dinner/

For additional information, please contact Julie Johnson, Development Director, at jjohnson@archdphd.org or 503.240.6785. Thank you!

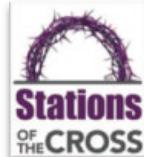


FEBRUARY 14TH, MASS SCHEDULE—

- 8:30am Mass (Rosary, 8am) / *No Anointing at Mass (*Anointing moved to Wednesday, Feb. 21st*)
- 5:30pm Mass (English)
- 7pm Mass (Spanish) / *No 7pm Confessions

Stations of the Cross—Beginning, Feb. 16th, join us each and every Friday during Lent for a chance to pray the Stations of the Cross.

We will gather in the church to pray at 5:30pm and then make our way to a simple soup supper in the Parish Office Front Room. Spanish language Stations are at 7pm. Please join us!



Strengthening the Church at Home

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal Today!—Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities.

Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous.

More information can be found at:
www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Bulletin Announcements: Activities & Opportunities

Jean's Place Outreach Opportunity!—

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward the Christmas bags for Jean's Place, a Portland women's shelter. Fifty-five women enjoyed a gift bag at Christmas!



We will be putting together Valentine's Day "craft bags" for the residents of Jean's Place. Interested in donating the following new items?

- ♥ Bags of Valentine's Day Candy
- ♥ Packs of Assorted Thin Markers & Colored Pencils
- ♥ Small Sketch Pads and/or Doodle Books

Please bring your donations to the Parish or School Offices by **Sunday, February 11th.**

Questions? Contact Mary Jane Weber at 503.953.8328.

Register for Camp Howard

CAMP HOWARD EST. 1953

SESSIONS RUN FROM JULY THROUGH AUGUST 16TH!

FUN ACTIVITIES OFFERED

OVERNIGHT WEEK-LONG CAMP

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

REGISTER NOW

503-231-9484

www.cyocamphoward.org



We thank our St. Vincent de Paul workers for their years of dedication to feeding the hungry here in North Portland.

While it is true that our Food Pantry is now closed (until our new Community Center opens), we are directing our labors and financial support to the SVdP Conference at Holy Redeemer parish.

Please continue to use your "blue envelopes" to support this vitally important ministry in North and Northeast Portland. Anyone interested in volunteering at the Holy Redeemer Food Pantry, please call 503.880.2780, or email: svdp@holyredeemerpdx.org



World Marriage Day, the second Sunday of February, is observed annually throughout our country as an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The theme for today (and this week) is "Love Beyond Words" – promoting the idea that the permanent, faithful, and fruitful love in a sacramental marriage is truly beyond words.

The Church's willingness to celebrate World Marriage Day is a tribute to husbands and wives as the foundation of the family, the heart of what we call "the domestic Church."

When we think of marriage, words like love, faithfulness, trust, sacrifice, forgiveness, and perseverance (and many other values) easily come to mind. For us in the Church, the idea of "sacrament and covenant" embraces all those expressions as we consider the loving and graced relationship of a man and a woman in a union that is faithful, fruitful, and forever. **Happy World Marriage Day!**



Our Capital Campaign Committee is excited to announce that we recently reached a total of \$1,426,000 toward our goal of \$1,500,000 (in pledges and gifts)! Let's not lose our momentum! But let's also remember that pledges need to be fulfilled. If you have pledged a gift toward the new Center and you need a reminder, please let us know in the parish office. We will be glad to send you any information you need to help your "promised gift" become a reality.

It is still true that if you have already responded to the Campaign you can **add to** your gift and if you have not yet given to the Campaign, the beginning of the new year is a perfect time to step up!

As we look back at our long history here in North Portland, it is clear that we are living with a legacy left by those who have gone before us (from four parishes). We are deeply grateful for that legacy of faith, prayer, vision, determination, and action which previous generations have given us as a gift. And yet, there is still much to be done so that our present dream may be realized. Please join us in the effort to become even more of a beacon of light and hope for our whole community and our neighbors.

News: Our general contractor (the Grant Company) was waiting for the asbestos abatement to be completed at the convent and they have now submitted a "permit request" to the City of Portland for demolition. Soon, we may see the first signs of construction (and demolition) equipment, fencing, and brightly colored vests worn by construction workers. Given that St. Joseph is the patron and protector over our new Community Center project and over workers, please ask for his continued generous help!

Family Resources—February 11th, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Key Dates/Events:

February 11th:

- Youth Masses
- Family Faith Fun Day!

February 14th:

- Ash Wednesday! Beginning of Lent

February 17th:

- Teen Mass & Chill, 5pm Mass
- Dinner & Play afterwards

February 18th:

- GIFT Classes
- NO Confirmation Classes

February 25th:

- Sacramental Prep Classes
- Confirmation Classes

Middle School Youth Groups!

Hey middle schoolers!

Come and join us twice a month:
Each **first Sunday of the month**
for 5th-8th grade Youth Group:
1:15-2:30pm (next: 3/3)

Each **first Wednesday of the month**
for 6th-8th grades from 2:15-3:45pm
in the parish offices. (next: 3/6)

Of course, join us for Mass each Sunday and
help to lead our Family Faith Fun days, too!
Come, bring your friends... ALL are welcome!



LIFT High School Youth Groups!

It's a new year and 2024 brings with it our
high school youth groups: LIFT Varsity!

Teens, if you are in high school,
come and join us twice a month:

Each **first Sunday of the month** from
6-7:30pm in the school hall. (next: 3/3)

Each **third Saturday of the month**
for **Mass & Chill**: 5pm Mass and then dinner
and playtime. (next: 2/17)

Of course, join us for Mass each Sunday and
help to lead our Family Faith Fun days, too!

Come, bring your friends... ALL are welcome!
No registration is required and it is free!

Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School **July 22nd-26th, 2024**

- All children, ages 5 to 11 years are welcome to attend!
- All youth, grades 6 and up are welcome to help lead!
- Registration will be available in April!

For more info, please go to:

Vacation Bible School - Holy Cross Catholic Church
(holycrosspdx.org) or contact

Andrea Swanson, Director of Religious Education/Youth Ministry, 503.206.8069.



**Join us for our next Family
Faith Fun Day... TODAY!**

Join us for our growing tradition
every second Sunday of the month!

We have **Youth Masses** at 9am & noon,
engaging young people more deeply in the Mass!
Then, we have a **Family Faith Fun Celebration**
between the Masses, from 10am to noon.

We have activities, games, and crafts to excite
your family's faith! All activities are bilingual!

Come join us!

FEBRUARY

Holy Cross is here for you and your family!

Is your family searching for the chance to grow
in faith? Is your family wanting to be closer with
our North Portland Catholic community?

*Please reach out to us for
more information!*



Important Dates

- February 11:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
• Catholic Home Missions 2nd Collection Weekend
- February 14:** Ash Wednesday, Mass Schedule:
• 8:30am, (*No Anointing Mass)
• 5:30pm (English)
• 7pm (Spanish) *No 7pm Confessions
- February 18:** First Sunday of Lent
- February 19:** Presidents' Day, Church/School Offices
Closed
- February 21:** Mass of Anointing, 8:30am/Confessions, 7pm
- February 22:** Adoration, 8:30am-8:30pm
- February 23:** Confessions, following the 8:30am Mass



Next Week's Readings: February 17th & 18th

First Sunday of Lent

- 1st Reading:** Genesis 9, 8-15 **Psalm:** 25
- 2nd Reading:** 1 Peter 3, 18-22
- Gospel:** Mark 1, 12-15



Lent begins this week! This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. So as to avoid being surprised, give some thought (over the next couple of days) to being well-prepared.

Previous bulletins have offered us these “let’s get ready” hints: find a Lenten prayer partner; focus on a particular part of the Scriptures; plan your fasting ahead of time; create a plan for how (specifically) you are going to reach out in kindness to a family member or neighbor; take to heart what it means to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.”

One more idea: Join us as we pray the Stations of the Cross (or pray them alone, in church or at home). This is typically a communal prayer where we make a “spiritual pilgrimage” to the sights of Jesus’ last few hours of earthly life. The Stations follow Jesus from His sentence to death by Pontius Pilate through His burial in His tomb. Some believe that His mother Mary visited the scenes of the Lord’s Passion every time she was in Jerusalem. The Stations of the Cross allow us to do the same: to participate in Jesus’ Passion through meditation, contemplation, and prayers. Join us at 5:30pm on the Fridays of Lent.

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Mass Intentions for February 13th—18th, 2024:

- Tues. Int. of the Diep Nguyen Family by Diep Nguyen
- Wed. Ash Wednesday / People of the Parish
- Thurs. +James Wilson by Theresa Lang
- Friday Int. of the Lamont Family by the Lamont Family
- Sat. (5pm) +Steven Larsen by the Larsen Family
- Sun. (9am) Ints. of the Lamont/Montalbano Families by the Lamont Family

(12pm) People of the Parish

To arrange for a Mass intention, please contact the parish office.
Please plan ahead if you are requesting a specific date.



In our prayers, let us remember all those who have died, including: Lesly Collins, Mary Jo Tully, Steven Walker, Connie Marbott, and Roman Salazar-Santiago

Let us pray for all those who are ill or homebound, including: Darlene Thayer, Shayna Ramirez, Sue Anne Boettcher, Mary Ragland, Irene Heaverin, Bob Hungerford, John Bachmeier, Greg Busch, Amanda Holmberg, Anita Verbout, Erma Faoro, Christina Gardener, Carl Cawley, Tiem Nguyen, Jim & Marvella Graiff, Kathy Ackley, Sandra Blossom, Ann O'Reilly, Richard Lund, Sr. Mary Ryan, Annie Braunstein, Donna Hatley, Chris Kelly, Rose Petersen, Jane Bachman, Ann Renon, Jack Link, Bernie Maloney, Tina Paradiso, Rupert Liddie, Tim Brezo, and Georgie Ferguson

Stewardship



February 4th & 5th, 2024

Weekend Offertory: \$7,951.15

Online Giving: \$2,475.00

Total: \$10,426.15

**Weekly Offertory needed \$11,805.00*

St. Paul shares with us in today’s second reading (First Corinthians 10, 31f) three ways he imitates Christ. First, “doing everything for the glory of God.” Next, “avoiding giving offense” to others. Lastly, “not seeking my own benefit, but that of the many.”

These three actions of love take what we call intentionality—we have to intend to do them. And they also take a lot of practice. They are, after all, “the grateful response” of a disciple of Jesus who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and then shares those gifts out of love for God and neighbor.

As a pre-Lenten test, let’s do a check of our priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If God is not first, we have some work to do.

Putting God first in everything keeps us from putting other “gods” (like our pride, ego, money, and possessions) before Him. Before making any decisions this week, let’s each ask, “Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?”

LA IGLESIA NOS ENSEÑA



Cada año, la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio de EE. UU. y el Día Mundial del Matrimonio brindan una oportunidad para que la Iglesia Católica se concentre y celebre la vocación al matrimonio y la vida familiar. **Este año**, la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio en EE. UU. se celebrará del 7 al 14 de febrero y el Día Mundial del Matrimonio, que se conmemora el segundo domingo de febrero, se celebrará hoy, el 11 de febrero.

El tema de la celebración de la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio para este año es “Amor más allá de las palabras,” que recuerda el amor abnegado en el matrimonio que tiene sus raíces en las promesas matrimoniales que la pareja hace en matrimonio.

La verdad es que “el amor va más allá de las palabras,” pero también *empieza* con las palabras. Reflexionen sobre la naturaleza de las palabras hechas carne: al igual que Jesús encarnó esta verdad, el matrimonio es un amor encarnado. Tomen tiempo para reflejar en las promesas expresadas en sus votos matrimoniales, examinando cómo vivir plenamente las palabras de esas promesas en su vida cotidiana. También, tomen tiempo para evaluar sus hábitos de comunicación como pareja, sabiendo que el amor requiere innumerables intercambios de palabras y ofreciéndoles un productivo camino a seguir.

Una oración: “Padre, te damos gracias. Nos arrodillamos ante ti con humildad, esperanza, y apertura, deseando personificar tu amor encarnado. Que en nuestros pensamientos, palabras, y acciones, nuestro amor sea como el tuyo – dando vida abundante. Amén.”



Desde hace 30 años, el 11 de febrero se conmemora la *Jornada Mundial del Enfermo*. Coincide en el calendario litúrgico católico con la festividad de la Virgen de Lourdes y, hoy, el sexto domingo del año.

En una sociedad tecnificada y tecnológica como la occidental, la *Jornada* nos recuerda que la enfermedad forma parte de nuestras vidas y que todos debemos afrontarla en diversos momentos, a nivel personal o en personas de nuestro entorno. Reflexionar sobre la naturaleza del dolor y la fragilidad de la condición humana nos enriquece como personas. En el ámbito de la salud, aprender a cuidar es una destreza necesaria del buen médico.

Santísima Virgen de Lourdes, ruega por nosotros.



La “Corresponsabilidad” es un compromiso con el Señor, de pensamiento y de corazón; una forma de vida que necesita renovación constante y transformación. Esta época del año ha sido siempre un tiempo en el que nos proponemos avanzar hacia un nuevo año, reflexionando en los cambios que necesitamos hacer en nuestras vidas y resolviéndonos a avanzar a través de esos cambios. Tal vez quienes buscan hacer resoluciones para ser mejores corresponsables puedan encontrar una fuente de inspiración en uno o más de los siguientes ejemplos:

La Corresponsabilidad de la Oración: Propóngase fortalecer su relación con el Señor a través de la oración. Ponga atención en la frecuencia con la que usted hace oración y en lo que le impide orar. Si es principiante, comprométase a tiempos cortos de oración diaria.

La Corresponsabilidad de la Familia: Propóngase apartar más tiempo para reunirse con su familia. Cenen juntos, planee citas habituales con su esposa/o, organice paseos con la familia, y asistan a Misa juntos. Practique la paciencia y el perdón.

La Corresponsabilidad del Dinero: Propóngase hacer sagrado su presupuesto anual. Revise la prioridad de sus metas financieras para asegurarse de que el Señor está en primer lugar en sus gastos. Y también, si no lo han hecho, favor de discernir su respuesta familiar a la Campaña Capital de la parroquia.

PARA REFLEJAR....



El 14 de febrero vamos a comenzar nuestros cuarenta días de Cuaresma, cuarenta días de preparación para Pascua.

¿Para qué estos cuarenta días

de penitencia y conversión? Para volver a nuestras raíces – a Dios, a lo mejor de nosotros mismos y, en consecuencia, también a nuestro prójimo.

La Cuaresma es un “tiempo favorable,” un tiempo de gracia. Vamos a estar convocados el miércoles de ceniza para iniciar nuestra peregrinación con Cristo a Jerusalén, el lugar donde Él sufrió y moriría antes de Resucitar con gloria. Esto quiere decir que vamos a estar convocados con Él para sufrir y para morir a nosotros mismos y al pecado.

* * *

Horario del miércoles de ceniza: 8:30am Misa escolar (todos estarán invitados); 5:30pm Misa (Inglés); y 7pm Misa (Español).

Horario cuaresmal: Adoración al Santísimo todos los jueves (8:30am a 8:30pm). El Viacrucis todos los viernes a las 5:30pm en Inglés y 7pm en Español. Las confesiones a las 7pm los miércoles (pero no el miércoles de ceniza) y a las 9am todos los viernes.

* * *

Nota pastoral: En el pasado, hemos visto a gente viniendo el miércoles de ceniza a las 8pm o más tarde (sin asistir a Misa) solamente para recibir la ceniza. Esta práctica no funciona: la ceniza no es como mágica – es expresión de que intentamos alejarnos del pecado y ser fiel al Evangelio.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

Equipo Pastoral 503.289.2834

Pláticas Pre-Bautismales:

Tercer sábado del mes a las 10am.
Recuerde que necesita registrar a su hijo/a
antes de asistir a la plática.

Bautismos:

El primer sábado del mes a las 9:30am y
el **último domingo del mes** después de Misa.

Estas fechas son solo para niños
menores de 6 años.

Los niños mayores de 6 años
deberán de comunicarse a la oficina
antes de apartar alguna fecha.

Preparación Sacramental para:

Iniciación Católica para Adultos (RICA)
y Bodas – por favor llame a la oficina

Misas de Quinceañeras:

Misa de Acción de Gracias para Quinceañeras
en grupo, el segundo sábado del mes a la 1pm.

Confesiones:

Los miércoles a las 7pm,
los viernes a las 9am,
y por cita entre semana.

Adoración al Santísimo:

Cada jueves de las 8:30am a las 8:30pm.

Misa con Unción de los Enfermos:

Segundo miércoles del mes inmediatamente
después de la Misa de 8:30am.

En nuestras oraciones recordemos:

...a todos los que están enfermos, incluyendo:

Darlene Thayer, Shayna Ramirez, Sue Anne Boettcher, Mary Ragland, Erma Faoro, Irene Heaverin, Sr. Mary Ryan, Greg Busch, Bob Hungerford, Anita Verbout, Carl Cawley, Amanda Holmberg, Jim & Marvilla Graiff, John Bachmeier, Sadrac Lopez, Kathy Ackley, Richard Lund, Sandra Blossom, Donna Hatley, Annie Braunstein, Rupert Liddie, Chris Kelly, Rose Petersen, Jane Bachman, Bernie Maloney, Tina Paradiso, Jack Link, and Tim Brezo



...y a todos los que han muerto,
especialmente Lesly Collins, Steven Walker,
Mary Jo Tully, Connie Marbott,
y Román Salazar-Santiago

*"Te pedimos, Señor, que tus siervos que
han muerto ya para este mundo, vivan ahora
para ti y que tu amor misericordioso borre los
pecados que cometieron por fragilidad humana.
Por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor."*

HORARIO PARROQUIAL

11 de febrero: VI Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

14 de febrero: Miércoles de Ceniza *No habrá Confesiones a las 7pm

15 de febrero: Adoración, 8:30am-8:30pm

16 de febrero: Confesiones, 9am

18 de febrero: I Domingo de Cuaresma



Corresponsabilidad Parroquial—

4 de febrero: \$10,426.15

¡Gracias!

*(El Ofertorio semanal necesita llegar al
presupuesto Parroquial: \$11,805.00)*

Poner a Dios de primero en todo de nuestras vidas nos ayuda para no poner otros “dioses” (como nuestro orgullo, egoísmo, dinero, y posesiones) antes de Dios.

San Pablo comparte con nosotros en la segunda lectura de hoy (1 Corintios 10,31—11,1) tres maneras en las que él imita a Cristo. Primero dice, “háganlo todo para gloria de Dios.” Después, “no den motivo de escándalo” a los demás. Por último, dice, “procuro dar gusto a todos en todo, sin buscar mi propio interés, sino el de los demás.”

Estas tres acciones de amor requieren “intencionalidad” (tenemos que hacer una decisión que vamos a hacerlas) y también requieren mucha práctica. Son “la respuesta agradecida” de un discípulo de Jesús que reconoce y recibe los dones de Dios y los comparte por amor a Dios y al prójimo. ¿A quién estamos imitando?

LA LITURGIA — LECTURAS

I Domingo de Cuaresma, 18 de febrero

Primera Lectura: Génesis 9, 8-15

Salmo: 24

Segunda Lectura: 1 Pedro 3, 18-22

Evangelio: Marcos 1, 12-15

EL DÍA DEL SEÑOR



Asistimos a la Misa cada ocho días porque Jesús nos invita a su mesa y sacrificio. Él lo mandó explícitamente a sus primeros discípulos al instituir la Eucaristía: “Hagan esto en memoria mía.” Asistir a Misa no es más que cumplir este mandato del Señor. Y no es solo una memoria histórica, es una memoria que lo hace presente. Jesús nos invita y se nos entrega. No responder o ser indiferente a su llamado, sería un desprecio bastante considerable.

Un problema serio de dejar de ir a Misa, es que significa el comienzo de una religiosidad centrada en uno mismo, en la que lo que Dios manda deja de ser la regla, para ser reemplazado por lo que yo siento, pienso, y me cae bien; una religiosidad frente al espejo. Uno ha dejado de ponerse frente a Dios para ponerse frente a sí mismo. Quien deja de ir a Misa ha desplazado a Dios del centro y esto se paga. Es como el pecador a quien puede parecer que su pecado no tiene consecuencias, pero tarde o temprano descubre que de Dios nadie se burla. Que sí tiene serias consecuencias dejar a Dios.

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