

SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS 1/22/23

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✦ Helen M. Pushchak (req. by Dr. & Mrs. William Wilcko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✦ John and ✦ Lillian Newmeyer (req. by Mike Kohan)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE 1/29/23

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) Blessings for Pauline Kowalski (req. by Christine Maxwell)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✦ Glenn Simkovitch (req. by Ray & LeaAnne Luzier)

11:00 AM (E) ✦ Mary Krajnik (req. by Helen Krajnik)

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:

01/15/23 \$ 1732.00

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD JANUARY COLLECTION – Boxed/Packaged Meals

Please check the expiration dates. Expired items cannot be distributed.

Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”

GOD WITH US ONLINE

The Eastern Catholic Directors of Religious Education Association has established an online religious education site: God With Us Online. This offers catechetical programs with some of the most talented teachers of the faith. You can register for free online classes at www.easterncatholic.org. Descriptions are given for the various subjects and dates of the classes. All classes begin at 8 PM (EST).

ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE – Saturday, January 28, 11:00 AM at Perry Square

For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.peopleforlife.org.

ADAM'S SHAME

Adam, after his sin, experiences shame, he feels naked, he senses the weight of what he has done, and yet God does not abandon him. God immediately asks, “Adam, where are you?” He seeks him out. Jesus took on our nakedness. He took upon himself the shame of Adam, the nakedness of his sin, in order to wash away our sin. By his wounds we have been healed.

-Pope Francis

JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner

GOD REFLECTED IN US

We could use all the words in the world yet not begin to describe God. He is holy, loving good and hating evil. He is just, rewarding good and punishing evil according to merit. He is kind, generous, compassionate, merciful, patient, truthful, and trustworthy. In fact, any other perfection we can think of – to an infinite degree. His being is such (limitless) that he *is* all those perfections personified: he is goodness, kindness, mercy, etc.

Our perfections are reflections of him. That is why our hearts are instinctively drawn to the really good people on earth, to the compassionate, the humble, generous and so on, because they reflect God. That is how he will recognize us when when it comes to judgment. How else to explain the Lord’s words, “*I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, you evil men. (Mt 7:23)*” People can reflect the image of God when they make choices of good over evil.

The Monster Within

There is a monster that resides within each of us. It continuously tries to distract us from what is holy and pure and necessary for our spiritual welfare. It can become so large that it can overtake us entirely, leading to spiritual, emotional, and even physical demise.

What is this “monster” you ask? It is our ego, untamed and fed indiscriminately. It is our constant need to satisfy our wants (vs. our needs). These wants can come in many forms – uncontrolled eating, drinking, sex, sleep and pampering the body just as a well-meaning, yet ill-informed parent would pamper a spoiled child. It is the need to be constantly praised, loved, and seen as superior to everyone else and his/her needs.

Now there is a big difference between pampering and satisfying the needs of one’s body. We all have natural needs that have to be satisfied for the body to survive. It is not the needs that are in question here, but rather the wants. Our goal as Christians is to tame the ego, the monster within.

GRIEF NEEDS TO BE HEARD

If healing is to come, grief needs to be heard. Memories need to be examined, lingered over and discussed. Anton Chekhov depicts this brilliantly in his classic short story “The Lament.” When Iona Potapov’s son has died, and no one will listen to her grief, she finally, in desperation, tries to get relief by telling the story of her grief to her horse.

To be resolved, grief must be brought into the open. It must be relived and shared both verbally and emotionally. If we do not open a wound to the air, it is harder to heal. There is consolation in finding someone to talk to. The listener does not have to offer advice or cite similar experiences he or she may have suffered. The one who grieves is the one who needs to talk. He or she is frustrated if the listener seeks to avoid discussing the cause of the grief. Shakespeare said it well, “Give sorrow words. The grief that does not speak whispers over the heavy heart and bids it break.”

THINK ABOUT IT....

If you harbor grievances and resentment and yet think you are praying, you are doing nothing more than drawing water from a well and pouring it into a bucket that is full of holes.

-Desert Monk