



St : Josephs Parish
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

Tamil Mass will be celebrated every second Saturday at 6.45 PM

www.tamilcatholic.org



Season of Repentance

We march in this Season of Lent by doing our Fasting, Praying and Alms Giving. Lent is also called the Season of Repentance. Repentance is the activity of reviewing one's actions and feeling contrition or regret for past wrongs. While we are very busy in our fasting, praying and alms giving and perfectly following all our religious obligations did we ever take time to review our past actions at least in this Lent Season? Did we ever think about correcting our shortcomings? Or we justify ourselves "I am ok as long as I attend all Lenten services and celebrate Easter in a very grand manner".

Is our God pleased by attending all Lenten services and celebrating Easter in a very grand manner? Are we pleasing God or humans by our grand celebrations? How many times we sent out impatient emails blaming others? How many times we shouted at others when we do not get what we wanted? How many times we took revenge on others? How many times we have fallen for money, pride and lust? How many times we have cheated others in the name of serving God? How many times we glorified ourselves not God? How many times we triggered others to fight by our words and actions? How many times we said "I am the greatest" while serving God?

Did we ever think about all these wrongs? Or we have answer to justify that "I am fighting for my rights, I am fighting for truth, I am fighting for justice, and I am fighting for God" Did Jesus ever fight for His rights or for Himself? Did Jesus shout "Injustice, injustice" even though whatever done to Him was injustice? Or did He complain "My name is not mentioned in the thank you note, I did not get the position I wanted, I did not get proper compensation, and my name is not there in the founder's list"? Do we think God is glorified by all these fights?

Let us go to confession for all our shortcomings and show God our true repentance in this Lent Season. That's what God is expecting from us.

When we talk about repentance the first thing that comes to our mind is the parable of the Prodigal Son. As long as the Prodigal Son had money to spend he never cared to review his past actions but when he lost everything he had time to think about his past. And he came back to his father and said "**Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son**" (Luke 15:21).

He did not justify his action or did not blame his father or anyone else. He might have said several reasons to his father for his present condition but he did not do like that. As we read above he said only two sentences. He agreed that it was his fault and he was not worthy to be called his son anymore. That is the kind of repentance God is expecting from us.

Whenever we truly repent Jesus is always there to accept us as the forgiving father in this parable without asking any question. Apart from this parable Jesus told two more parables in the same chapter (Luke chapter 15). They are "The parable of lost sheep" and "The parable of lost coin". In the parable of lost coin Jesus said "**I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents**" (Luke 15:10).

Therefore in this season of repentance let us show God our true repentance as the prodigal son did without blaming others and definitely there will be a great rejoice in the heaven because of our repentance not because of our celebrations no matter how grand they are or not because of the large group we worship with, because God opposes the proud.
— Leenus Rich

UpComing Events

Apr 04th Saturday : Easter Vigil

Time : 8:30 pm

**Location : St. Joseph 's Church
Mountain View , CA 94041.**

Prayer

What is a prayer? When do we pray? How do we pray? Does our prayer end at attending mass, saying a rosary and reciting the standard prayers that our parents taught? It is more than that, a prayer is a conversation with God and us. The conversation includes talking, listening and responding (acting on what we hear). Scriptures teach us to pray. God speaks to us through the scriptures. Scriptures also tell us how people reacted to the words of God. Let us see some examples:

Adoration: When Moses discovered God's presence in the burning bush, he took off his shoes, covered his face and bowed low Ex 3:26.

Openness and ready to obey: When Samuel heard God's call, he was ready to listen to God 1 Sam 3: 8-11.

Praise: Mary's awareness of God's presence in her life, made her sing joyfully, " My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord" Lk 1:46.

Petition: The blind man of Jericho threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus and humbly pleaded that he want to see Mk 10:50 51.

Contrition and conversion: After seeing Jesus and experienced the graciousness of the Jesus, Zacchaeus had a change of heart Lk 19:8.

Conversion and commitment: After encountering Jesus on his way to Damascus, Saul, asked Jesus, " What shall I do?" Acts 22:10.

In Luke gospel Jesus says, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it." Just because we are born into a catholic family, or by being baptized or by merely following the requirements of our religion does not make one to be the mother and brother of Jesus. Only when we are committed to the words of the God and follow Jesus unconditionally, we become the Mother and Brother of Jesus. Moreover, prayerful people are alert to the presence of God at all times, everywhere and in every situation. So let us ask God to help us hear His words and act upon it during this lent.

— Agnes P Raj

10 - best tips to follow during lent season

1. Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil

Lent is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better.

2. Do something that hurts

Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance.

3. Don't remain indifferent

Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians.

4. Pray: Make our hearts like yours

In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference

5. Take part in the sacraments

Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him.

6. Prayer

In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness.

7. Fasting

We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves.

8. Almsgiving

Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have.

9. Help the Poor

In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ.

10. Evangelize

It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness.



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