

## Repentance

Luke 13: 1-9

March 6th, 2010

1. Do you give people another chance after they make a mistake?
2. Are there opportunities for deeper conversion (turning more toward God) and productivity you could take advantage of?
3. When you attend church, are you more concerned with following all the rules and procedures or on focusing your heart toward loving God and others?
4. What are the conditions that bring a person to repentance?
5. Does anything happen without God's knowledge of it? What comfort should that give us?
6. How did God show mercy and patience to you?

## Fasting

Matthew 6: 16-18

Matthew 9: 14-17

March 13, 2010

1. We all experience physical hunger from time to time – for example, when we wake up in the morning. Do I or can I connect this physical feeling with my hunger for God? Would this moment be a good time for a brief prayer expressing my hunger for God?
2. Jesus warns us not to look gloomy when we fast because when we do we are missing the point – that our spiritual life grows stronger. When I deny myself something, what attitude do I adopt? The one mentioned in the Gospel or a different one?
3. Do you think of your body's condition as connected in any way to the condition of your soul? If so, what does your body tell you?
4. Have you given any thought to other forms of fasting in addition to food and drink? Noise, media, useless conversation, the Internet etc.
5. Has fasting ever come up in conversation at home? Would it be a worthwhile topic with your wife and children?

## Prayer

Mark 14: 35-36

3/20/10

1. How does prayer help us when we are deeply distressed?
2. Is it wrong to continue asking God for something if we don't receive an answer right away?
3. Are you struggling to follow God's will? Does following God's will scare you to death?
4. What should our response be when we feel we are praying according to God's will and yet our prayers seem to be unanswered?
5. What is the closest you have come to facing your own personal Gethsemane---where you went through a time of soul-searching, anxiety or loneliness?
6. What has God done for you that gives you confidence that he will take care of you?

## Almsgiving

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

3/27/10

1. How has your feeling about almsgiving changed as you've grown in your faith? What motivates you to give alms?
2. What are ways that we can teach the practice of almsgiving to our children and our families? In today's material world, what are ways we can teach our children that it's better to give than to receive?
3. To use St. Paul's words (quote below); what does sowing and reaping mean to you?
4. Have you ever received the generosity of almsgiving from someone else? How can the power of this experience and our love of God, turn us toward the needs of others?
5. Are we meeting our Lenten promises? If we've missed or fallen away from some of them, how can we still make a difference in these few remaining days of Lent through almsgiving or our other weekly themes of repentance, fasting, and prayer?

"Consider this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Cor 9:6)

## Easter Vigil Saturday

Viewing of "The Passion of the Christ"

4/3/10

## Divine Mercy Sunday

John 20: 19-31

4/10/10

1. How is God's love and mercy present in your and your family life?
2. How do we become the instruments of God's healing touch and expressions of His divine mercy?
3. Do you feel that the sacrament of Reconciliation gives you healing and peace?
4. Has there ever been a time in your life when you or someone you love questioned God's love and forgiveness?
5. What questions or doubts about God or life in general are you struggling with? How do you resolve these questions/doubts?
6. What are some particular experiences that you had when God loved you enough to be "tough" with you? What did you learn from these experiences?