

Sunday, Apr 06, 2025

We feel your pain

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once observed: “If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man’s life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.” While we cannot always know or understand the circumstances of our enemies’ lives, we are nevertheless called to forgive them, as Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery—and every other sinner he encountered. To know the secret lives of others is really God’s purview. Yet, because God forgives everyone (ourselves included!), who are we to hold a grudge?

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11 (36). *“Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”*

Monday, Apr 07, 2025

Soak up the light of Jesus

Few words in the English language have as many positive connotations as light. Pull out your dictionary and see for yourself: “radiance or illumination,” “daybreak or dawn,” “a person who is an outstanding leader—a leading light,” “a gleam or sparkle, as in the eyes,” “to brighten with animation or joy,” “spiritual illumination or awareness.” We begin to see the wisdom of describing Jesus as the light of the world, the one who brings the light of life. That’s good news to brighten any day. Let it brighten yours!

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; John 8:12-20 (251). *“Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness.”*

Tuesday, Apr 08, 2025

No ask is too big for God

Most of us do not approach God with God-sized requests. We almost always ask for too little, which is another way of saying we think a problem is so big that it’s too much even for God. But just because we cannot in our wildest dreams imagine a solution to a problem that we are currently experiencing doesn’t mean there isn’t one. Nothing is too much for God to handle or rectify or resolve. “God is not accustomed to refusing a good gift to those who ask for one,” Saint Ambrose reminds us. So go ahead, ask God for help finding a job, for guidance on how to handle a tricky situation with friend, or for a solution to whatever your problem is. Then let God do God’s thing, which is to surprise and delight us with mighty works.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252). *“We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents away from us.”*

Wednesday, Apr 09, 2025

Faith gets the last laugh

Comedian W.C. Fields would often get a laugh by exclaiming, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!” in moments of surprise. However, the men behind those names faced a grave test in Hebrew scripture. The Babylonian king ordered them to worship a false god or face execution. But these faithful men refused to bow. They boldly declared that even if God did not deliver them, they would still remain true. This is the essence of faith: not just the willingness to die for God’s sake, but the understanding that God doesn’t need to prove anything. Faith is not about believing

because of what God does for us, but because of who God is—love itself. Strengthen your faith by deepening your love for God and others.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253). *“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his angel to deliver the servants who trusted in him.”*

Thursday, Apr 10, 2025

Take a Lenten pop quiz

“How well do you know me?” quizzes—with questions like, “What’s my favorite band/movie/song/video game? Where would I most like to be? Who are my heroes?”—have long been lighthearted ways to test or strengthen friendships. With Lent particularly set aside for repentance and renewal, it’s a good time to take a “How well do you know God?” quiz. Ask yourself: Based on scripture and tradition, what do I know to be God’s likes and dislikes? Who are the people with whom God has found favor? Where am I likely to find God? Be prepared to be challenged and surprised. As Pope Francis cautions: “Everything changes if you have truly come to know Jesus! Everything changes.”

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254). *“Jesus answered, ‘... You do not know him, but I know him.’”*

Friday, Apr 11, 2025

Take a step toward reconciliation

Jeremiah and the prophets often spoke out against the injustices of their day, be they injustices against God or the people. Sometimes we can identify with those who are oppressed because we’ve had similar experiences. And, as uncomfortable as it may be to consider, sometimes we can identify with the oppressors. It can be we who denounce, who enact revenge, who pick up stones against others. This Lent, be conscious that Jesus invites us to know the full truth about ourselves and take concrete steps—both small and big—to be reconciled with ourselves, with others, and with God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255). *“O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart.”*

Saturday, Apr 12, 2025

Time to come home

Think of all the leaving and returning people do. Every day you probably leave home for some reason and come home at some point. Young people leave to start lives of their own. Relatives gather for holidays and other celebrations. Babies arrive in the world while other people depart it. In the story of scripture, the theme of leaving and returning is woven throughout the journey of God’s people. The Israelites often scatter, only to regather in God’s presence. Even Jesus, facing opposition, leaves and returns to fulfill his mission. As we approach the final days of Lent, a season of returning to God, we are reminded that, no matter where we’ve been or what we’ve done, it’s never too late to come back to our true home in Christ, where, as Saint Augustine says, “our restless hearts” finally find their rest.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256). *“My dwelling shall be with them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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