

Live as children of *light.*

Ephesians 5:8

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. (John 9:35-38)

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all;
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

In our journey through the season of Lent we interact with a rich variety of symbols and accounts from scripture, which enliven our senses and enrich our everyday experiences. These symbols reach deep in our spiritual psyche and shed light on God's infinite love for us. If we are at all familiar with the scriptures, the symbolism of darkness and light is woven throughout the Old and New Testament. This year's theme "Live as Children of Light" is front and center today in our second reading from Ephesians. But if you pay close attention to our readings, there is a deeper meaning to this darkness and light theme.

In all three readings we experience the darkness of thinking we know more than God and the light of realization that God is infinitely wise and more merciful than we ever could imagine. How many times have we thought we know better than God? **I have** my life all figured out. **I know** exactly what God wants me to do and say and think. **I decide** what's best for me. The prophet Samuel thought he knew what God was looking for in a king...then David came along. Paul encourages the Ephesians to stop living in the dark and live in the light of Christ. The Pharisees thought they knew better and denounced the blind man as a sinner and a fraud and cast him out, which only confirmed their own blindness and unbelief.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light has become one of my favorite hymns. I believe it to be a beautiful testament to the desire and joy of living as one of God's own beloved children. When living as a child of light, there is no darkness, no fear - only love. One of my favorite psalms is our psalm today. Psalm 23 is a fitting commentary on all our readings this week. When the Lord is our Shepherd we have nothing to fear or want. When we are surrounded with God's boundless love we have all we could ever hope for in this life and the next. This is not some "Pollyanna" point of view, but a deep conviction and belief that no matter how dark it may seem in our life, no matter how difficult the path we may be traveling, or how alone we may feel in this world, our loving God and Savior is by our side, shedding light and love on our every step and decision. The man born blind may have lived in darkness, but the light of Jesus' love was always there for him and it became a distinct reality that day when Jesus instructed him to wash his eyes off in the pool of Siloam.

The brightness of God's love is always here for us; may we always bask in the warmth of that light and love these Lenten days and every day of our lives.

-What comes to your mind when you read Paul's encouragement, "Live as Children of the Light"? How have you lived as a child of the light?

-Reflect on the times when you thought you knew what was best for you and God demonstrated that God had a better plan for you.

-What are some of your favorite quotes from Psalm 23? What favorite hymns come to mind when you reflect on this Sunday's readings?

-Brian Eggers, Director of Music and Liturgy, SS Peter & Paul

Lenten Almsgiving

One of the primary commands we find in the Bible is to love our neighbor, recognizing them as our brothers and sisters. Too often we see people who don't look or sound like us as the other, and we don't treat them the same as we treat our friends and family. But we are called to kinship - a family relationship - with all people because we ARE in the same family: the family of Christ.

This Lent marks the start of what will surely be a wonderful, life-giving and solidarity-producing relationship. Our family of four parishes is entering into an intentional relationship with the family of four central city parishes - All Saints, St. Martin de Porres, St. Michael and St. Rose. This relationship can move us further towards healing the deep divide in our community, and - literally speaking - they are our neighbors. Who better to form a relationship with than the parishes next door?

As a first step in this relationship, our Lenten almsgiving will help support the All Saints Meal Program. Some of our parishioners are already involved in this important ministry, and we have an opportunity to help sustain this ministry by raising money that will allow All Saints to hire a Dining Room Coordinator who will oversee the three-dinners-per-week ministry. Many of our brothers and sisters in the central city are facing hunger and isolation, and the meal program at All Saints brings people together in community to meet their basic needs of food and human connection. We need to raise at least \$10,000 for this effort. If we all work at it, we could raise enough to support this for the next few years and it can grow into an even stronger and more supportive ministry. Sacrifice for the poor especially gives praise to God, so please be as generous as possible.

Please return your Almsgiving gift - **checks made out to All Saints Catholic Church** - on Holy Thursday. You may also turn your donation in at any of the other Triduum masses, weekend collections, or the parish office. If you have any questions please contact Andrew Musgrave at musgravea@archmil.org or 414-271-6577. As you move through your Lenten journey, prayerfully consider supporting this great community resource, both through your prayers and your alms.

Catholic East Fish Fry

Only 2 left – Fridays, March 31 and April 7, 4:00-7:00pm
SS Peter & Paul Campus Cafeteria (2480 N Cramer St)
Adults \$10; Seniors/Takeout \$9; Kids \$6

Communal Reconciliation

Saturday, April 8, 10:00am

Three Holy Women-Holy Rosary Church (2011 N Oakland Ave)

Celebrate God's unending mercy in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Communal prayer and individual confessions will be available.

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays

- before the 12:05pm Mass (11:45am) at Old St. Mary (844 N Broadway)
- after the 5:30pm Mass (6:00pm) at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig (1702 N Humboldt Ave)

Fridays

- after the 8:15am Mass (8:45am) at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig (1702 N Humboldt Ave)
- before the 12:05pm Mass (11:45am) at Old St. Mary (844 N Broadway)