

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY

Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting is the order that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel which helps us on our spiritual journey through Lent to prepare for the greatest of all Feasts, the Resurrection of Jesus from the tomb! We are called to return to the Lord with our "whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning." It "is a very acceptable time" to "be reconciled to God".

We use the image of the heart to stand for love. Why does Jesus first speak about almsgiving? St Paul helps us with that, because what gets in the way of our love for God and securing our lives in Him alone is often where we put our security all too often: in money. The apostle reminds us: "For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains" (1 Timothy 2:10). Another translation calls it covetousness. We know that the commandments tell us not to covet and St Paul wants to get us back to God, not stray from the path because of a love for something that is not God. Only God can satisfy us.

May this Lent be a fruitful one, filled with graces that help us put into practice what Jesus encourages in today's Gospel. After forty days, we will have an encounter with the Risen Lord, so let us pray for one another to receive mercy and forgiveness as we repent and open our hearts to the Lord!

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Starasovich

