

Saturday, March 13, 2021
Saturday of Third Week of Lent

The Pharisee's prayer is never heard because he makes one gigantic mistake, which is a lie: "I am not like the rest of humanity." When we think in this way, that we are better than others, God does not listen to our prayers. Of course, He hears and knows everything but God will not hear even a "thank you" prayer when it derides others. He wants us to love the sinner but hate the sin. That is why Hosea says that God desires love, "not sacrifice, knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." To know God is to know love. David's prayer (Psalm 51) after his double fall of adultery and murder begs God's mercy. He receives that mercy and it transforms him - he now has experienced, and thus knows, the power of God's love. The humble prayer of the sinner, of the publican, brings the justice of God, which is mercy.

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Starasovich

