

FAMILY NIGHT

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Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21 2010



Sunday Readings:

Isaiah 43:16-21
God will make a way in the wilderness.

Philippians 3:8-14
The righteousness of God saves us.

John 8:1-11
Jesus forgives the woman caught in adultery.

Examine Your Heart

WHAT'S THE POINT?

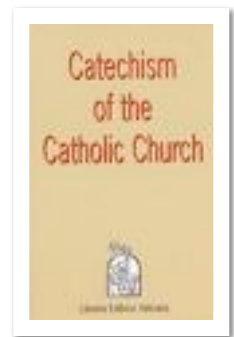
The gospel reading for today shows the great compassion of Christ toward a woman caught in sin, while at the same time it demonstrates how seriously Jesus opposes the sin of self-righteousness. Jesus sees through the Pharisees' ploy to trap Him into saying the sinful woman should be stoned as the Law of Moses prescribes and thus break a Roman law. However, Jesus cleverly turns the trick on them and exposes their sin instead and displays the mercy of God to the sinful woman. The wonderful words of comfort and forgiveness which he says to the woman, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more," are also spoken to us.

Opening Prayer: Our Father or Act of Contrition

Family Activity

1. Take a magnifying glass and examine each other's fingerprints, hair, skin, etc. Notice you can discover things you don't usually see. Compare this to examining your heart for sin.
2. Make up a test with ten questions about your family. After correcting the test, ask if they have ever thought much about these family facts. Ask if their attitudes or actions had anything to do with the outcome of some of the events. This exercise can be helpful in examining motives of the heart.

Catechism Connection



No. 2729 “. . .humble awareness before the Lord should awaken our preferential love for him and lead us resolutely to offer him our heart to be purified.”



What did the Pharisees want to do with the woman caught in adultery?



St. Meinrad

Saintly Examples

St. Meinrad was born in Switzerland in the 800's. He became a Benedictine priest. His main wish was to devote himself entirely to contemplation. He received permission to settle in the forest as a hermit. However, many came to see him because of his piety, so eventually he moved farther away and lived in his hermitage (Einsiedeln). He lived there for twenty-five years. He was able to spend much time searching his heart and praying. Two thieves found him and wishing to loot the hermitage, beat St. Meinrad with clubs and broke his skull. Finding nothing of value to steal, they ran away. His body was taken to a nearby town where it was preserved with great veneration.

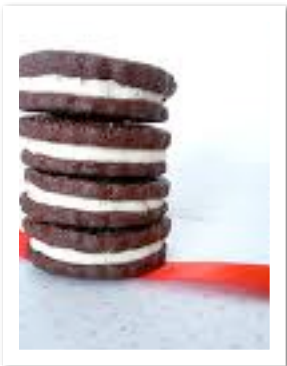
Let's Talk About It

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever judged someone for something for which you are also guilty?
2. Can you think of a reason why Jesus was harder on the self-righteous Pharisees than he was on the sinful woman? (The Pharisees thought they had no sin, whereas the woman knew she was in sin and could therefore be forgiven. The Pharisees hearts were hardened.)
3. How does God show His mercy in today's gospel reading?
4. How would you have reacted if Jesus had said these words to you, "Neither do I condemn you; go and do not sin again"?

Family Commitment

(Fill in your commitment here)



Snack

Sandwich cookies. Open them up and examine the inside. If you wish, put a candy red hot inside one for someone to find.

Closing Prayer

Dearest Lord Jesus, though we can be blind to our own sin, soften our hearts so we may see what needs to change and to ask your pardon. Our hearts long to hear your words of forgiveness. Help us to sin no more. Amen.



Quiz Answer

Stone her. (John 8:5)