

MORE TO PRAY

Tuesday: *"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)*

God initiates our love relationship, a deep and *"intoxicating love."* (St. Catherine of Sienna). He is so madly in love with his creatures that he loves them into life and himself into death for their sake.

Wednesday: *"If you, then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him." (Matthew 7:11)*

God is generous with his love. We don't need to be perfect, we just need to ask. *"It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to love."* (St. Therese of Lisieux)

Slowly pray the words of the Our Father, the prayer that Jesus taught us. What are the words teaching you about God's love for *you*?

Thursday: *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is begotten of God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4: 7-8)*

The ability to love is the outward fruit of God's inner transforming work. Love is the greatest evidence that a person knows God. *"Our hearts were made for you, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you."* (St. Augustine of Hippo)

Friday: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)*

Substitute your name in place of "love." Can you describe your relationships with others, beginning with those you live with? *"Do not forget that true love sets no conditions; it does not calculate or complain, but simply loves."* (Saint John Paul II)

Saturday: Take time to review your week. Do you feel that you've grown in an awareness of your Abba's love for *you*?

FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

The Father loves all that He created. This week, allow God the Father to love others through you by performing an act of charity for the benefit of others, a reminder that we are ALL God's children. See the Lenten Mission webpage for suggestions:

<http://standrewapostle.org/parish-lenten-mission-2018/>

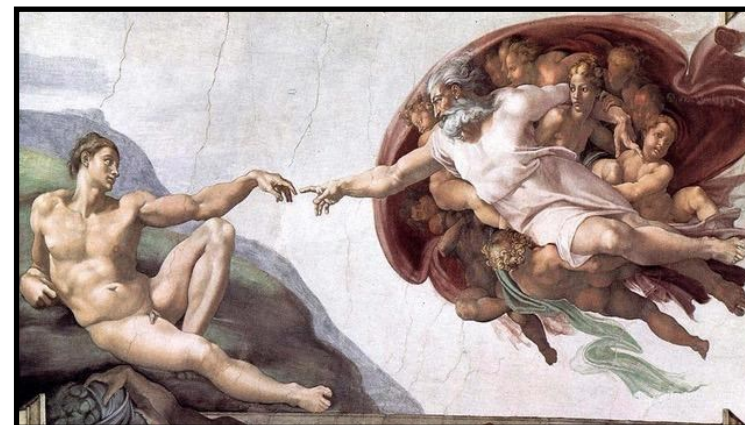
LED BY THE SPIRIT: A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH JESUS CHRIST

SAINT ANDREW APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mission Leader: Father Daniel P. Leary

February 11 - March 25, 2018

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

**WEEK 1:
THE FATHER'S LOVING PLAN**

11600 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Phone: 301-649-3700
www.standrewapostle.org

MORE TO LEARN

- ◆ Man is made to live in communion with God in whom he finds life and happiness. (CCC 45)
- ◆ Although man can forget God or reject Him, He never ceases to call us to seek Him. (CCC 30)
- ◆ Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary and conceived by the Holy Spirit, fully human and fully divine, came to bring us back to the Father. (CCC 456-460)
- ◆ Jesus is in heaven with the Father, but sent the Holy Spirit to convince you that you are loved by the Father, your Abba.

“As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts crying out ‘Abba, Father!’”

(Galatians 4:6)

- ◆ During this mission, come hungry, come expectant, come prepared. Beware of distractions, doubt and fear.
- ◆ God wants to transform your life, you just need to ask, seek, and knock.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

(Matthew 7:7)

MY NOTES:

MORE TO SHARE

- ◆ Do you see yourself as a beloved child of God? (*Mark 1:11*) What impact does this make in your life?
- ◆ Has your image of God or your relationship with Him changed over the years? If so, how?
- ◆ What are some episodes in Jesus’ life that show you how to relate to God as Father? How can you apply these in concrete ways to your own life?
- ◆ What are your expectations for this Lenten Mission? Why did you register for this program?

MORE TO PRAY

Daily Prayer for the Week

O Lord, my God, teach my heart this day where and how to see you, where and how to find you. You have made me and re-made me, and you have bestowed on me all the good things I possess, and still I do not know you. I have not yet done that for which I was made. Teach me to seek you, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, or find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in my desire; let me desire you in my seeking. Let me find you by loving you; let me love you when I find you. Amen. (Saint Anselm of Canterbury)

Daily Reflections

Monday: *“See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” (1 John 3:1)*

We are all children of God, created in His image and likeness. We need to pray constantly for a “head-to-heart” revelation of God’s love. If not, our lives will look like *“Lent without Easter.”* (Pope Francis) Pray the *Memorare* and ask for our Blessed Mother’s intercession during this program to help you to recognize the Father’s love for you, to really feel it and live it, though the power of the Holy Spirit:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen