

## Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is a week from today on Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. We will have children's ministry but not Formation I teachings due to several leaders attending the [NAN](#) conference in Augusta.
- Save the date:
  - March 2nd - Day of Renewal with Fr. Michal from 9am to 2pm in the MSM gym.
  - March 24th - A special Anniversary prayer meeting 3pm in the MSM gym.
- [GodsDelight.org](#) content: [Jubilee](#); Prayer Meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), & [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

## Reflection

The younger me never looked forward to lent. Self-denial never came easy and the value, not immediately obvious. The blessing of maturity can change our perspective. I now look forward to lent, and the opportunity to mature a bit more.

It seems every year that passes only escalates our culture's bias toward immediate gratification. Not only are the domains of the world, the flesh, and the devil all impacted by our attention to self but even our own identity as persons is being redefined by our sole focus on ourselves, our wants, our desires, and our personal views of what is best for us...*me, myself, and I*.

Lent provides us with the opportunity to take our eyes off ourselves and assert control over *me, myself, and I*. Each year, while *celebrating* lent, I grow in appreciation for the value of self-denial and selflessness.

This was Peter's point in his first letter, the [Second Reading](#) today. Jesus remains our eternal example. He was "*Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.*" This is what He asks of you and me today. We are asked to look beyond our culture's focus on immediate self-gratification and die to self. This is how we create the void inside necessary to welcome His Holy Spirit. What a joy this transformation is upon the willing heart, upon the willing spirit. Words cannot describe the inner peace, the inner joy of jumping off the world's rat-race and letting go while letting God be in control of everything.

The [Gospel](#) reminds us that this will not be easy, we will be tempted and the road is narrow but the [First Reading](#) and the [Responsorial Psalm](#) remind us of the secret weapon we have. Our covenant with God and our covenant with one another is the foundation of our strength. God has made a covenant with us, just as He did with Noah, and we can be assured that He will never depart from us. And, as we keep our covenant with Him, we continue to learn that His ways are love and truth!

Our proof is clear in [Romans 8:28](#) where we read that "*We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*" God wants the very best for us, He is only asking that we surrender, refocus our attention on Him, and trust that all things will work for our good. This is the message of lent and what an exciting opportunity it is to embrace it again this year...clearly something to look forward to.

*Let us pray "Heavenly Father, I welcome the opportunity to embrace all that You have in store for me this lent. Jesus, I thank You for the example You set enduring earthly life, temptations, and trials, all the way pointing to the eternal. Send me Your Holy Spirit and impart upon me the gifts of Your Spirit so that I can not only take my eyes off myself, but also, I can be a witness to those in my life of the joy and happiness associated with letting go and putting You in control of everything! I love You Lord! Amen."*

God Bless,  
David