March 15 2015
Slovak Catholic Parish

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Boh tak miloval svet, že dal svojho jednorodeného Syna; každý, kto v neho verí, má večný život.

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God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

Slovenský kostol Sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish

4. Pôstna Nedeľa.

4th Sunday of Lent.

Pane, chcem stále pamätať na teba.
Let my tongue cling to my mouth if I do not remember you!

Dnešné evanjelium spomína, ako Ježiša navštívil významný farizej. Bol to muž, ktorý používal rozum, odhodil všetky predsudky a pochopil, že Ježiš nie je obyčajným človekom. Preto za ním prišiel, hoci aj v noci. Možno mal strach pred farizejmi, možno sa zle cítil v prítomnosti obyčajných ľudí, možno sa bál posmechu, že on, učený farizej, potrebuje Ježiša. Pán si našiel na neho čas, venoval sa mu a povedal mu veľmi dôležitú skutočnosť: Ako Mojžiš vyzdvihol na púšti hada, tak musí byť vyzdvihnutý aj Syn človeka, aby každý, kto verí, mal v ňom večný život. Veď Boh tak miloval svet, že dal svojho jednorodeného Syna, aby nezahynul nik, kto v neho verí, ale aby mal večný život. Lebo Boh neposlal Syna na svet, aby svet odsúdil, ale aby sa skrze neho svet spasil.

Týmito slovami jasne vyjadril, že Boh dal svetu všetko, v Ježišovi dal seba samého. Všetko dal z absolútnej lásky voči tým, ktorí si ju ničím nezaslúžili. Nie však všetci tento dar prijali. Niektorí v Krista neveria, neprisvoja si ho a nespoja sa s ním. To je však koniec, lebo na svete okrem Otcovho Syna niet nikoho a ničoho, v kom by človek mohol byť spasený. To je práve dôležitá skutočnosť, ktorú hovorí Pán Nikodémovi a cez neho aj nám: Boh tak miloval svet, že dal svojho jednorodeného Syna. Prečo? Lebo svet ho potreboval. On ani neodmieňal, ani nezamieňal, on ho daroval. To je láska! Necúva pred slobodou človeka a nezúfa, že sa mu tak veľa dalo a môže tu byť dojem, že zbytočne.

My iste cítime, že nie je namieste, ak sa v našom živote objavuje nechuť, nedôvera a smútok. Boh nám predsa dal svoj najväčší dar, hoci sme si ho nezaslúžili a ani oň neprosili. Prečo by nám teda nedal aj ostatné dary, ktoré potrebujeme pre svoj časný a večný život, najmä, ak o ne prosíme a prejavíme dobru vôľu dajako si ich zaslúžiť? Človek, ktorý má takého Otca, nemôže byť ani znechutený, ani smutný.

Začíname ale pociťovať, kde sa dopúšťame chyby? My radi pripomíname dobro, ktoré sme vykonali iným, a ani Boh nie je výnimkou. Aj jemu radi vyratúvame, čo všetko sme kvôli nemu obetovali a čoho sa zriekli. Takto Bohu dávame najavo, že ho milujeme pre zisk a čakáme za to odmenu už tu na zemi a uprednostnenie v nebeskom kráľovstve. Lenže to nie je opravdivá a nezištná láska. Tú má iba Boh a Ježiš ju pripomína Nikodémovi, a aj nám, kam až Boh bol ochotný zájsť – dal Syna.Aké poučenie z toho pre nás plynie?

– Prosme vytrvalo o dary potrebné pre časný aj večný život!

– Milujme opravdivou a nezištnou láskou!

– Kresťan má byť veselým človekom, lebo pociťuje nekonečnosť Božej lásky!

Povzbuďme sa na mužovi, ktorý si uvedomil veľkosť Božej lásky – sám Nikodém. Po návrate od Ježiša určite dlho rozmýšľal o rozhovore. Snažil sa čo najviac spoznať jeho náuku. Vďaka tomu sa stával odvážnejší.

Combining justice and mercy presents a huge problem. Throughout the Old and New Testaments we find humanity appealing to both God's justice as well as His mercy. And given our human history in relating to Him, God would have every right to end His relationship with us.

Today's first reading presents us with a case in point. God's Chosen People, the children of Abraham and followers of Moses, had given themselves over into the pursuit of pleasures, the oppression of others, and worship of false values. They had become morally weak, having all but abandoned their relationship with God. The result was a catastrophe which they had brought down upon themselves. God didn't even have to go to the trouble of punishing them; their own sins had effectively brought with them their own punishments. Isn't that often the case? Isn't it true that when we engage in sinful activities we cause our own diseases, and bring down upon ourselves rejection by others? If we live lives of lying, cheating, and defrauding, who would want to be our friend and trust our dealings? The same holds true for lives of sexual excess, if we live in total materialism or if we're always thinking of ourselves first and not caring about others. But is that fair? If God is so good why does He allow us to suffer? Why doesn't God protect us from ourselves? All of this causes us to ask: What is fair? What is just? Does justice bring with it fairness? Many times when justice is rendered it doesn't bring fairness with it. So often when someone gets what is his or hers the result is inequality.

Often we get mixed up when it comes to the idea of mercy. When we are merciful, does that mean we are excusing the harm and hurt others have done to us or are we condoning the bad actions committed by others? No, we are not excusing them any more than God has excused us from what we have done to Him. We are, however, being God-like when we show mercy. When we are merciful we are responding as God has responded to us when we sought out His mercy in spite of the wrongs we have committed against His love. God is not being unjust when He gives us His mercy. God offers, we respond. It is God who justifies us, we don't justify ourselves. It is God who sanctifies us, we don't sanctify ourselves. It is God who forgives us, and we must forgive ourselves as He has forgiven us. It is God's mercy that Jesus Christ has won for us.

Sources: Jan Adamus; Charles Irvin

Bulletin Announcements

***March 15 - 4th Sunday of Lent** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son…" – John 3:16 Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we be generous in making some sacrifices for Him.

***The Man of the Shroud Exhibition** An extensive exhibit on the history, science and significance of the Shroud of Turin. Don't miss a wonderful Easter Opportunity for the whole family to experience this evidence of Jesus' sufferings and death – as well as His Resurrection! Including: 14-ft Photographic Replica of the Shroud of Turin on linen, 30 Museum Panels & Artifacts of Christ's Passion. The exhibit will be complimented with a lecture series given by Shroud scholar Phillip Wiebe, Ph.D.; Father Andrew Dalton, LC, Rome; and Father John Horgan, Pastor of St. Pius X Parish, N. Vancouver. Visit www.rosemaryheights.com/events/man-of-the-shroud/for lecture schedule or contact 604-576-9209 for group bookings. Wednesday, April 8 from 4–10pm; Thursday, April 9 to Sunday, April 12 from 10am–4pm and 6–9pm; Monday, April 13 from 10am–4pm and 6–8pm. Rosemary Hall at Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre, Surrey. Free Admission, donations appreciated.

***Church Cleaning** We are preparing a new schedule for our church cleaning for this year. The cleaning will be scheduled based on the number of participating people, preferably every two weeks; resulting in 2-3 cleanings per person (or group) per year. Please contact the parish office at 604-526-7351 if you are willing to participate.

***Adoration**—There will be **no adoration** this Thursday.

Sunday's Collection from the Last Week

Our Weekly Goal	$1,500
Sunday's Collection	$1,350
Weekly (Excess) Shortfall	**-$150**

Thank You. Vďaka. God Bless Your Generosity.

Modlitba príhovoru v nedeľu v našom kostole od 12:30pm do 1:30pm.

Prayer Ministry every Sunday in our church from 12:30pm to 1:30pm until notified.

Sun 15 9:00am	**4th Sunday of Lent;** 2Chron 36:14-16,19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 15 11:00am	**4. Pôstna Nedeľa;** 2Krn 36:14-16,19-23; Ef 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21	+ Jozef a Zuzana Otrošina	Bertha and family
Mon 16 8:00am	Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54	Za Božiu pomoc pre Mariu Pauchly	
Tue 17 8:00am	St. Patrick; Ez 47-1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16	Ray Albert	Family Javier
Wed 18 8:00am	St. Cyril of Jerusalem; Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30	+ Mary Horvat	Ed Starick
Thu 19 8:00am	**St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary;** 2Sam 7:4-5a,12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24a	Elizabeth Javier	Family
Thu 19 7:30 pm	**Sv. Jozef, ženích Panny Márie;** 2Sam 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24a	Za požehnanie a dobrodincov	Fr. Juraj
Fri 20 8:00am	Wis 2:1a,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30	+ Julio Maughi	Angie
Fri 20 7:30pm	Mud 2:1a,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30 **Krížová cesta + sv.omša**	Za Božie požehnanie pre Lubomíra Demčáka	Dušan a Marta
Sat 21 9:00am	Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53	+ Mary Horvat	Mrs. Helena Sentivani
Sun 22 9:00am	**5th Sunday of Lent;** Jer 31:31-34; Hebr 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 22 11:00am	**5. Pôstna Nedeľa;** Jer 31:31-34; Hebr 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33	Za zomrelých z rodiny Knapik	Dušan a Marta