

St. Louis Catholic Church

Thursday After Ash Wednesday

I hope that everyone began the season of Lent in a prayerful and repentant mood. I hope and pray that we all can grow, change and be renewed in these 40 Days of Grace called Lent. In Thursday Morning's Mass from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses tells the people that they have choices. "Today, I set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. Obey the commands of God and He will give you life. God will bless you. If however, we turn away from God and do not listen but serve other gods, then we will perish." Moses as God's spokesman sets before us life and death, the blessing and the curse.

Choices are made everyday by each of us. Lent is a great time to stop and think about the choices that we make. Are they for life or for death. Do they promote the life of grace within or do they destroy His presence? We can be an obstacle, by our choices, to God doing what He wants. Prayer, fasting, examining our conscience, good confession, adoration, daily Communion can help us to focus on the fundamental choice made at baptism by parents or ourselves, Christ vs. World, Life vs. Death.

The right way is often tough. Christ in the Gospel today Luke 9:22-25 predicted His cross but also said if we wish to come after Him, we too must deny self, take up our cross daily and follow Him. Choice: Cross=Life, Self=Death.

What to do? One way to fulfill our 24 Hours as the Hands of Christ is to pray for those who are faced with the choice of life and death. I speak of those who are troubled in spirit due to an unwanted pregnancy. What to choose? Life or death?

40 Days for Life is a way to go public, witness and pray for these young women and babies. I invite you to join me as I will be in front of Planned Parenthood praying on Saturday, March 12th at 1:00 p.m. The location is on Poplar Avenue between Hollywood and East Parkway. Let's stand and together. Every week I will post a time that we can go together.

40 Days for Life will be in action from 6:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. during these 40 Days.

Tonight, let's all examine our consciences. What choices did we make? Were they of God, grace filled, cross bearing and difficult. If so, you chose Life.

God Bless,
Msgr. John McArthur

If you seek to pick a time for 40 Days for Life or want information:
www.40daysforlife.com/Memphis or call Libby Parks at 355-8546.