

Lenten Reflection - Ash Wednesday

Archbishop Naumann

February 17, 2021



GOSPEL READING - MATTHEW 6:1-6,16-18

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.

When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give alms,

do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.

They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden.

And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

Lord Our God, we bless you.
As we ponder the Scriptures,
we ask you in your kindness
to fill us with the knowledge
of your will so that,
pleasing you in all things,
we may grow
in every good work.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection Questions

- What attachments or distractions in my life keep me from growing closer in my relationship with God?
- Where do I find myself doing good things for the wrong reasons?
- What is keeping me from knowing the peace that Christ offers?
- How can I prioritize Confession during this Lenten season?
- What small step can I take this week to strengthen my confidence in God's love in my life?

