

LENT ALMSGIVING



Word of the week

Mark 12: 41-44

As Jesus sat near the Temple treasure, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had- she gave all she had to live on."



"It is not how much we give but how much we put into giving."



Prayer for the Week

God of All Goodness,
Give me a heart for generosity.
Show me how to hold my possessions lightly,
Ever mindful of their temporary value.
Inspire me to share what I have in full measure,
So that others are able to live without need or want.
Let me know the grace of a bountiful life,
One overflowing with gratitude for all that I have to give.
In the name of your generous Son, Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

Almsgiving

Jesus presented almsgiving as a necessary part of Christian life. "When you give.." He doesn't say if you give, but when.

Charitable giving is a very ancient practise; almsgiving was a normal part of life even before Jesus' time. The Lenten call to give means making the needs of other people our own.

Lenten Giving

Almsgiving is an incredibly important part of our Lenten journey because it actually encompasses all of the 3 pillars of Lent. Almsgiving is prayer and it involved fasting. Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is "giving to God"- and it is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving- not just giving something, but giving up something. It involved us going without something in order to give.



How could you give this Lent?

Lent giving doesn't just have to be about giving money. Take a moment to think about what you could give to help others. Think about how you could give your time? Think about what you have that you could give/donate to a good cause?



2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



Tobit 12:8-9

"Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold;... Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life"

to give
is better
than to
receive



Can you think of a time when you felt good after giving to someone or something?
Has there been a time in your life when you have felt better in your giving than receiving?
Why do you think you feel good after giving?
Is that always the case?

Something to Watch



YouTube

- Almsgiving: A pillar of Lent
[CLICK HERE](#)
- What is Almsgiving?
[CLICK HERE](#)
- Almsgiving As a Lenten Practice
[CLICK HERE](#)