

Lenten Encounter: Week 3

Daniel 3:25, (34-43:Catholic Bible), Psalm 25, Matthew 18:21-35

They are in the fiery furnace, “but the fire did not touch them or cause them any pain.” Azariah (his name means God helps) prays fervently. He asks God to keep his part of the covenant relationship, with all the proper humility, confession of sin, and pleading for mercy. He essentially asks God(Yahweh) to operate out of **His better**, even best instincts, and assures Yahweh that they will do the same and “follow you with our whole heart” from now on.

We are invited to pray to God with the same conviction and sense of amazement that despite my sinfulness and lack of gratitude for all of God’s gifts, love continues to sustain me in life. When we deeply experience God’s mercy in response to our prayer, it becomes easier to allow His grace and mercy to act in me - the joy and gratitude often spills over into the way we relate to others. We want to share God’s gift of mercy with others.

The action of the unforgiving servant in the Gospel Matthew seems incomprehensible and yet so often we tend **not** to be very good at forgiving others the debt they owe us. We want to hold onto the control or hold we think we may have over those who have hurt us.

Some reflection:

Spend some time becoming aware of God’s gift of mercy in your own experience.

Ask for an increase of gratitude for God’s mercy.

Is there someone I feel called to forgive, but I am finding it difficult to do? Ask for God’s grace.

Q to reflect on: When did I experience the forgiveness of someone else and how did it feel?

We meet every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the Church and Wednesday evenings during Lent, sharing a meal from 18:30-20:00 at the Ministry House.