

Fear the Enemy.

The missing word: Is — Fear is the Enemy.

Or, as Mahatma Gandhi put it: “The enemy is fear. We think it is hate; but it is really fear.”

Many great teachers and writers have spoken of Fear as the Enemy.

*Henri Nouwen, the great priest, Catholic teacher, and author says:
“If fear is the great enemy of intimacy, love is its true friend.”*

There just always seems to be that fear constantly lurking in the darkness of my being, which keeps telling me I am not good enough, I am not valuable enough, I am not smart enough, I am not lovable enough. If these thoughts continue to filter through my mind, it makes it really difficult for me to love my neighbor **as** myself. Because with such a diminished sense of self, or such a sense of self-loathing, how can I really love my neighbor? I just don't have it in me to give to another.

Henri Nouwen says in *The Life of the Beloved*:

“Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the Spiritual Life because it contradicts the Sacred Voice that calls us the ‘Beloved.’ Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence.”

It has been said that fear is the opposite of love. Whether that is so, I am not sure. But, I am pretty sure that fear keeps more people out of love than anything else. Fear just has so many disguises that it rarely shows itself as plain fear. It more commonly shows itself disguised as anger, resentment, grudges, arguing, intemperance, judgements, fault-finding, arrogance, unforgiveness, thinking the worst of the other. It just makes “loving my neighbor as myself” really difficult work.

Writer Frank Herbert provides such a helpful perspective:

“I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it has gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain.”

What happens if fear continues to reign in my life is what our great friend and teacher, C.S. Lewis, calls “The Real Test” in *Mere Christianity*:

“Suppose one reads a story of filthy atrocities in the paper. Then suppose that something turns up suggesting that the story might not be quite true, or not quite so bad as it was made out. Is one's first feeling, ‘Thank God, even they aren't quite so bad as that,’ or is it a feeling of disappointment, and even a determination to cling to the first story for the sheer pleasure of thinking your enemies as bad as possible? If it is the second then it is, I am afraid, the first step in a process which, if followed to the end, will make us into devils. You see, one is beginning to wish that black was a little blacker. If we give that wish its head, later on we shall wish to see grey as black, and then to see white itself as black. Finally, we shall insist on seeing everything — God and our friends and ourselves included — as bad, and not be able to stop doing it: we shall be fixed for ever in a universe of pure hatred.”

—Fr. Gerry



November 12, 2017

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions — November 13th~19th

Monday @ 7:30 am — Ross Wiggers (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Eugene & John Gooch (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)
Thursday @ 6:00 pm — Mass of Remembrance
Friday @ 7:30 am — Claude Tanner Sr. (RIP)
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Sisters in Faith (Sp Int)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Ed Shaw (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Josie Hege (RIP)

Prayer Requests (full prayer list on our website)

Special Intentions:

Nancy Stewart
Ben Ticknor
Michael & Rita O'Boyle
Steve Richards, friend of David & Melinda Cannon
John Melican, brother-in-law of Gail Cado
Frances Burford, mother of Gail Cado
Matthew Haslob, grandson of Mary Haslob

Altar Flowers this week

In Memory of: Sue and Al Tillman, parents of
Alison Lewis and Kay Moody
Donated by: Alison Lewis

Blessed Mother Flowers this week

In Memory of: Jack and Donna Lewis, parents of
John Lewis
Donated by: Alison & John Lewis

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Monday — Friday, 8 am to 12 noon, in the Chapel

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday, 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the room next to the Chapel, or by appointment

Religious Ed Sundays, 9:15-10:15 am & Wednesdays, 6-8:30 pm, in the Family Life Center

RCIA Tuesdays, 6:30-9 pm in the Family Life Center

website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

office phone: 601-992-9547

Upcoming Events — Please note these dates

NOVEMBER

Nov 11th/12th — Happy Veterans Day: pray for all who have served in our U.S. Armed Forces
— Blood Drive Sign up begins

Nov 14th — First Reconciliation for Students: 6:00pm in the Church

Nov 16th — Mass of Remembrance: 6:00pm all are welcome to remember deceased loved ones (no Morning Mass)

Nov 22nd - 26th — No Religious Ed & No Youth Group: Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 23rd — Thanksgiving Day Mass: 9:00am

DECEMBER

Dec 1st — First Friday Healing Mass: 10:00am; followed by Brunch; all are welcome

Dec 2nd — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary: 4:45pm in the Chapel; all are welcome

Dec 3rd — First Sunday of Advent

— **Blood Drive:** 7:30am - 1:00pm; free breakfast for all blood donors

— **Baptism Preparation Class:** 2:00pm; required to have child baptized within the next 3 months

Dec 9th — Big Deal Outdoor Movie Night: 5:00pm in back parking lot; 7th-12th grades

Dec 9th/10th — Second Collection: Retired Religious

Dec 18th — Advent Reconciliation Service: 6:00pm; we will have several priests present to hear confessions

Dec 20th - Jan 7 — No Religious Ed Classes & No Youth Group: Christmas & New Years Holiday

Dec 24th — No 8:00 Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve so we will only have 10:30 Mass that morning

Christmas Mass Schedule: 5:30pm Vigil; Midnight Mass (11:30pm choral prelude); 10:30am Christmas Day Mass