

On February 26th we will celebrate Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. During this season we will focus on Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Lent is a spiritual journey, and as any kind of journey, if you do not know exactly where you are going you might be lost.

Many of you are familiar with the greatest driving tool we use on daily basis called GPS, which stands for “Global Positioning System.” We can’t even imagine driving into another city or town without turning on our GPS.

In the same way we need GPS for directions and guidance when we are driving, we need GPS during Lent to work on our closer relationship with God. The only difference is that spiritual GPS stands for Generosity, Prayer, and Service.

Generosity –by giving of our time, talents, and treasure.

Prayer – by staying in touch with God.

Service – by being there for those in need.

During Lent we are encouraged to look for roadways, avenues, and vehicles to invite, involve, and engage in our journey toward a closer relationship with our God.

Don’t be afraid if you are at a crossroads of your spiritual journey and don’t know which way to go. Don’t be afraid to take your journey to the next level. If you need help, please come to the chapel.

God is committed to meet us where we are. He is the one always providing opportunities to grow and learn more about Him along the way.

That road can be quite bumpy, scary, or confusing if you don’t have the right guidance system in place. During the time of Lent, we are provided with a GPS in order to eliminate confusion on our personal journey toward God.

If you use your GPS, you are also familiar with that annoying voice which says: “Recalculating” when you make a wrong turn or go off course.

How we hate hearing those words! Even to the point of yelling at the GPS unit. But in our lives, those same words delivered by Jesus have a totally different meaning and feeling.

The truth is, He died to give us a chance to recalculate, to correct that wrong turn we took somewhere along the way. If you need to recalculate, you can always come to the chapel to reconcile with God.

Jesus’ death and resurrection gave us almost unlimited chances to turn around and get back on the path toward salvation.

That could be clearly seen in Peter’s encounter with Risen Christ along the Sea of Galilee in the Gospel of John. After three times denial before the crucifixion, Jesus is asking Peter “Do you love me.” (John 21:15-17) The Gospel even tells us that Peter “grieved” because the question kept coming three times.

To get back on the right path, we need to be able to answer Jesus’ question: “Do you love me?” If our answer is “yes,” then we should never lose the sight of our spiritual GPS, even if that might sometimes require abandoning any sense of autonomy or self-satisfaction, focusing on feeding the sheep of Jesus’ flock.

After all, we all want to hear those final words on Easter morning “You have arrived at your destination.” That is the phrase which brings comfort and peace to us, knowing that we have made a difference in someone’s life through our act of kindness or service.

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