Our Struggle Against Sin

The struggle against the passions and our victory in Christ

As we struggle with anger, gluttony, with judging others, sexual impurity and a myriad of others passions, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless. We find ourselves feeling defeated and tempted to give up the battle. Sometimes we even tell ourselves that we have no choice, for we were born this way, or our temperament is the result of an abusive household.

There is certainly a kernel of truth in all this, for we were born into a fallen world and are therefore influenced by the results of our firstborn parents’ rejection of God’s love. Death is all around us because of Ancestral Sin, and our commitment to struggle with the passions is meant to return us to the Father. Yet this struggle is not about our power or strength, but simply surrendering to the Lord of Mercy, Who would save us.

This same Merciful God knows how difficult a struggle we have and offers us the grace we need to progress on the path to purity and holiness. He furthermore rewards us each according to our abilities and our reward is based on our willingness to commit to the struggle, a struggle that is empowered by the grace that abounds when we call upon His Holy Name.

What do we do when we seem to succumb to the same old sins over and over? Do we simply surrender in defeat because we’ve failed to curb our anger, blaming the family members or coworkers who know how to push our buttons? Do we give in to sexual passions because we’ve always done so and curbing our appetite for pleasure would be too difficult? Do we gossip about others or judge them because everyone does so?

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Rector’s Welcome

Christ is in our midst!

Welcome to St. Mary’s Orthodox Church. We are a small, multi-ethnic parish in Calhan, Colorado. While the parish was founded by Slovak pioneers, we welcome everyone, no matter what your ancestry.

If this is your first time here, thank you for worshipping with us.

After services, we would like to invite everyone to the Parish hall across the street for coffee and fellowship.

Fr. Simeon B. Johnson—Rector

Upcoming Activities:

Sunday, March 5—Sunday of Orthodoxy
  9:00 AM—Restoration of Icons
  9:30 AM—Divine Liturgy & Fellowship, followed by choir practice.
  6 PM—Mission Vespers @ Theophany

Tuesday, March 7
  7:00 PM—Adult Education

Wednesday, March 8
  6:30 PM—Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 10
  6:30 PM—Presanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potlukc

Saturday, March 11
  5:30 PM—Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, March 12—Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
  9:30 AM—Divine Liturgy & potluck Fellowship, choir practice
  1:00 PM—Parish Council
  6:00 PM—Mission Vespers @ St. Michael, Pueblo

Birthdays/Anniversaries

March 5 – Nicole Fischer
March 6 – Larry Don Meier
March 8 – Jedediah Leithead
March 9 – Harold and Dee Eurich
March 11 – Polly Mikita

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Or, do we ask God to help us with our anger and confess before a priest when we have fallen, and ask the person who “pushed our buttons” to forgive us for getting angry? Do we ask for God’s forgiveness when we’ve given in to lust and promise to better guard our heart and our eyes, lest we fall again? Do we choose to remain silent when others around us are gossiping and perhaps even avoid those social settings where we know this will be happening?

The good news is that in our struggle with the passions, we do not have to struggle alone. Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised to help us in our quest for purity and holiness. Like the Holy Apostle Paul we can say it is not me, but Christ in me, that enables me to do good. Transformation of the heart is the direct result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, from Whom we are given the power to change. All we have to do is approach God with a humble and contrite heart and victory will be ours.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Thursday March 2, 2017