

Treasures of Our Faith

By Deacon Ryan Adams

Good Friday

I know we are all familiar with the passage from the Bible that say's:

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

We know that Jesus died on the Cross for us, so that our sins would be forgiven and so we can share in eternal life. I also believe it would be a fair statement to say, that we cannot even begin to image how much Jesus actually suffered for each and every one of us.

Not only did he willingly give his life up for us upon the cross, but also everything else that Jesus went through leading up to his crucifixion.

How Jesus was betrayed by someone He knew and loved.

All the lies that were testified against Him.

How He was whipped and beaten.

How they placed a crown of thorns on His head and mocked Him.

How Jesus was made to carry that heavy wooden cross while He was already in so much pain, just so they could then hammer nails into His hands and feet.

Jesus went through all of this so that he could willingly die for each and every one of us.

When we reflect on Christ's passion, we see how Good Friday is about the Transforming power of true unselfish and unconditional Love. That unconditional love of Jesus on the cross is the foundation for the sacraments of the Church and of our salvation.

There are many passages in the Scriptures that remind us how the death of Jesus challenges us to leave sin behind. God's message through the cross is that we must also imitate Jesus and be of service to one another, Jesus spoke very clearly when he told us –

If anyone wants to be his disciple, they must take up their cross and follow him. It's not easy to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others, but, Jesus showed us what true sacrifice was all about. In following Jesus and his examples, we must learn to love, forgive and to truly accept one another, we must also be willing to actually serve one another, to be able to wash each other's feet each day, just like our Priests do at the Mass on Holy Thursday, and just like Jesus, our Lord did on the night of the Last Supper.

On Good Friday, let us meditate on how much God loves us and let us pray that we may have a stronger and deeper faith in that love that God has for us, and how we can respond to that love by outwardly loving one another...through loving relationships, through the forgiveness of past transgressions and also through humble service to the Lord as well as to all our brothers and sisters.

