

Guideposts for Great Lent

Matthew 22:37-Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (KJV)

Our relationship with the Lord God merits our complete attention throughout life. Great Lent is the annual opportunity to examine our relationship with the Lord. The Church provides Great Lent for self-examination and encourages repentance. Church services encourage repentance and focusing on our life in Jesus Christ. Believers are afforded the opportunity to confess sins and reunite with Christ. The Church provides nourishment, instruction and the experience of communion.

John 14:6-Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ is direct in saying He is the way, the truth and the life. Attentive believers take Jesus' words to heart and apply them throughout life. Adhering to the way and teachings of Jesus Christ is a constant daily challenge. Great Lent offers the supportive and focused atmosphere for following Christ. The Church is a protective environment for believers to address personal sin. Priests offer supportive listening and direction for believers to actively repent.

Ephesians 4:13-Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (KJV)

Great Lent is the time for believers to actively strive to become more like Christ. Our personal relationships with others and with Christ reflect if we are serious. Jesus Christ is knowledgeable of the depths of our heart, mind and soul. Expelling sin from the depths of our being is expected during Great Lent. The effort made in Great Lent determines the outcome of the Lenten journey. The outcome of life improves when believers take the Lenten journey seriously.

Hebrews 12:2-Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)

Being mindful of Christ on the Cross strengthens believers in the Lenten journey. Jesus Christ provides the supreme example for dealing with the greatest hardships. Love exemplified on the Cross offers healing for tarnished souls and broken hearts. The fore knowledge of Jesus Christ's Resurrection provides believers with hope. Struggles and hardships endured during Great Lent become manageable in Christ. Joy is the ultimate outcome for believers making the Lenten journey in great faith.

Sts. Eutropius, Cleonicus and Basilicus, Martyrs. March 3/16, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic