



This is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, which means that Palm Sunday (the Sunday prior to Easter) is only two (2) Sundays away. So, we are passing the mid-lent mark on our private, spiritual journey (inward) to Our Lord at Easter. Because Lent is half over and because we are half way to Easter, this is called 'Laetare Sunday.' Laetare, pronounced, "lay-tar-ray," means 'rejoice' in Latin. Because of this joyful pause, the priest wears a rose-colored vestment today (NOT pink!), rather than the somber, penitential color of purple.

This is a good time to take spiritual inventory of how we are doing at this mid-point of our spiritual journey. In the quiet of one's heart, ask:

<p>Have I been abstaining from meat on Fridays? Have I been working at my PSP Pledge? Have I gone to an a.m. Mass or Fri. Stations? Have I been doing any spiritual reading? Have I invited someone back to church? Have I offered anyone a ride? Have I checked on an elderly relative/friend? Have I written an over-due letter? Have I been cool, distant, or uncompassionate?</p>
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*There's a wonderful saying in Russian that translates: "**Beneath the snow is bread.**" It tells us that, although things may seem grim or hopeless, beneath the deep, cold snows of life is planted 'winter wheat'...the invisible seed of new life & sustenance if we just have eyes of faith (trust) & hope in the Lord. What I'm trying to say is that, if our Lenten journey (reflecting the journey of life itself) has not been quite as successful as we had planned in the beginning, we dare not lose hope. Remember, Our Lord lived and died so we could have hope. It's never too late to start anew. Besides, we are just half way through Lent and we know with the eyes of faith...*

"beneath the snow is bread."

Look at any crucifix and know our God is a God of 'Second Chances.' So, with Him...

"it's never too late!"

He was offered on Friday...for a reason (us). Enjoy!

Sincerely, the vicar, fr. tusky