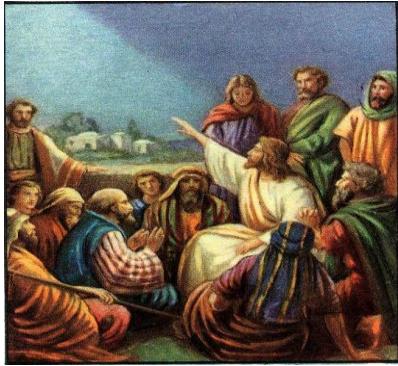


THE RECOVERY ROSARY

**Dedicated to Those Who Suffer From Addictions
of All Sorts and Their Families**

**Keaton Douglas – iTHIRST Initiative
A Mission of the Missionary Servants of the Most
Holy Trinity**

2018



Mysteries of the Recovery Rosary

Jesus Tells the Parable of the Sower and the Seeds (Matt.13: 1-9, Mk. 4: 1-20) the seed is the Word of God. Jesus says there will be those who hear it but it will fall on 'hard ground' and be nothing but bird food. Others will hear it but not really change their hearts, so like a plant in a rocky soil, they will never develop spiritual 'roots.' There are those who, like the seeds, will fall back amongst the 'thorns,' in life, and succumb to the temptation of worldly things and cravings, never to know the Word, and there will be those who will be 'fertile soil' for the Word and allow it to grow in their hearts. **In our journey of recovery, we often go through all these phases, just like the seeds. Let us pray that we can be like the fourth seed, and allow the Word of God to live in our hearts, so that we may bear spiritual fruit for others.**

Jesus Heals 10 Men with Leprosy (Luke 17: 11-19) Jesus is traveling from Samaria to Galilee when he encounters 10 men who are lepers, who have been isolated and must announce themselves as 'unclean' before approaching others. Jesus approaches them and keeping their distance, they cry out to him to save them. Jesus replies, and in showing utter respect for the Law, advises them to go see the priests for healing. Only then will they be able to live amongst others. All of the men are cured of their leprosy, but only one of the ten, a Samaritan man, comes back to Jesus to thank Him for the miracle of being made well. **In our own isolation of addiction, when we have been deemed 'unclean' by society, let us petition our Lord to rid us of our disease, and let us always return to Him in humility and gratitude.**

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead (John 11: 38 -44) Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary, and dear friend of Jesus, has died. When Jesus gets to the tomb, he is met by Martha who rebukes him by saying that had he gotten there sooner, Lazarus might be alive, for after all he had now been dead for four days. Jesus reminds Martha that he is the Resurrection and the life, and that all who believe in him will have eternal life. Jesus asks Martha if she believes and she does. After four days, it would take a miracle to bring someone back from the dead, but Jesus, looking up and thanking his heavenly Father, then commands Lazarus to 'come out!' Lazarus, awakened from death, emerges from the tomb. **Let us remember that even those who are 'dead in sin' can awaken from death through Christ. Jesus gives us hope that even those we whom we regard as 'dead' because of their addictions, can 'emerge' just as Lazarus did, through the saving power of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus Meets the Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4: 1-40) While traveling to Galilee from Jerusalem, Jesus takes time to refresh himself at Jacob's Well, while his disciples go to retrieve food. There he meets a Samaritan woman who came to retrieve water at the hottest part of the day. She didn't arrive at the well when it might be cooler, because she would then be in the company of other women who frowned on her as being an 'immoral' person, for she had had five husbands and was currently living with a man who was not her husband. Jesus knew all of her life situation without ever having spoken to her. He offered her the true, 'living water,' that is, eternal life which could be had only through him. The woman believed him, and left in excitement to tell her countrymen about her encounter with the Messiah. **Let us be reminded that Jesus came for the sinners and was never ashamed to be among them or to reach out to them. Jesus knew the woman's past and current lifestyle, yet never shunned her. He loved her and accepted her. Let us remember that Jesus is there for us, offering love and acceptance, even in our addictions, and even when the rest of society has turned away.**

Jesus Appears to His Disciples on the Road to Emmaus (Luke: 24: 13-35) on the day of the Resurrection, two dejected disciples were walking on the Road to Emmaus, unaware that the Resurrection had occurred, when they were met by a stranger. It was Jesus, but their eyes were blinded to his presence. The disciples were talking about the death of Jesus, and of the empty tomb. Jesus, disguised from them, reminded them of the foretellings of the Old Testament prophets who prophesied that the Messiah would suffer at the hands of others before arriving in glory. Jesus stayed with them and ate. When he broke bread with the disciples, their eyes were open to the glorious fact that this was the Resurrected Messiah among them. Upon recognizing him, Jesus vanishes from their sight. **Let us be reminded that God comes to us in forms we sometimes don't recognize, and that he 'walks' with us always. Let us remember that in our journey out of addiction, Jesus appears to us when we are gathered together in the grace that forms community.**