



Create in me a clean heart,  
O God

### Prayer:

Two weeks ago I referenced the book *Armchair Mystic* and “Aunt Sally”. The author points out that our relationship with “Aunt Sally” grows through stages where we tell her all about us, eventually realizing that she may have a story or two of her own to share and that her stories are just as great as mine, and finally, as we continue to grow in relationship, we can sit with her in the silence, not speaking at all.

Again, “Aunt Sally” is a metaphor for our relationship with God. Where are you with God—telling Him all about you and what you have done? Starting to ask questions and listening to Him? Or, sitting in silence, listening?

We are nearing the end of Lent, but that should not stop us from continuing to grow with God in the relationship that has begun here.

### Fasting:

The *Bread for the World* website talks about how SNAP benefits (food stamps) often run out around the 21st of the month and so the last week of the month is filled with hunger. The 21st is Wednesday of this week. Can you increase your fast on that day and lift up your prayers on that day to those who go hungry every day?



WE CANNOT KNOW  
WHETHER WE LOVE  
GOD...BUT THERE CAN  
BE NO DOUBT ABOUT  
WHETHER WE LOVE  
OUR NEIGHBOR.

— ST. TERESA OF AVILA

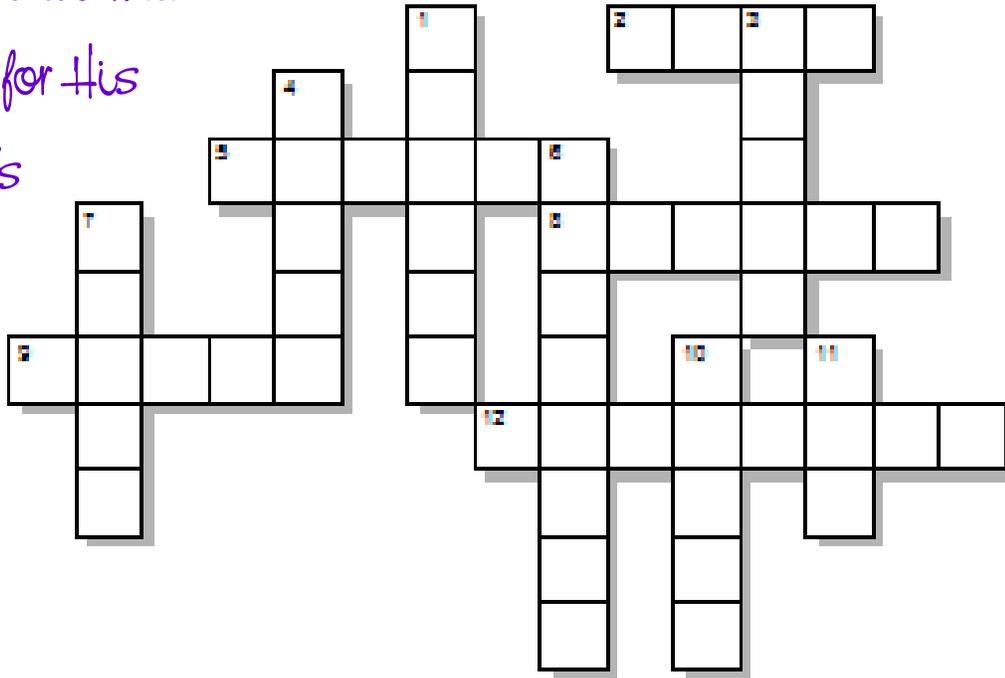
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### Almsgiving:

*Almsgiving* sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint Paul’s exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. *2 Cor* 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and people in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself. When we give alms, we share in God’s providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.[6]

From Pope Francis 2018 Message

What does God want us to hear? Look for His words in today's readings...



**Q** What is the role of the assembly in the experience of the elect? How can the assembly be helpful to them?



**A** Initiation is the responsibility of the entire parish community. The assembly accompanies the elect in this last phase of their journey—through participation in the scrutinies and presentations, by providing witness to the life of Christ, a listening ear, and hearts filled with gratitude for their presence. Members of the assembly can make an effort to reach out to the elect, share conversation, and pray for them.

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#### ACROSS

- 2 Which gospel are we reading from today?
- 5 Which disciple did the Greeks speak to?
- 8 Who did Philip tell that the Greeks wanted to see Jesus?
- 9 "If the grain of wheat dies it produces much \_\_\_\_\_"
- 12 Not a contract, but a \_\_\_\_\_ (used in the first reading 4 times)

#### DOWN

- 1 "Whoever serves me must \_\_\_\_\_ me."
- 3 "Create a \_\_\_\_\_ heart in me, O God." (from Psalm)
- 4 "Unless a grain of \_\_\_\_\_ falls to the ground and dies..."
- 6 What is the name of the feast?
- 7 "Have \_\_\_\_\_ on me on, O God." (from Psalm)
- 10 "Sir, we would like to see \_\_\_\_\_"
- 11 "I will place my \_\_\_\_\_ within them and write it upon their hearts."