

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer so far. I used to live here in downtown Renton as a kid and my little brother and I would walk down to Liberty Park, swim at the pool, and play baseball with our neighbors all summer long. Reminiscing on my childhood summers, they seemed so fun and relaxing, a time of friends, swimming, and baseball. It was simple and carefree. Nowadays, it feels like even my summers are jam packed with schedules and activities, between my children's schedules and my own, it's go, go, go all year long! I know this is true for most families, as we live in a hectic world.

This weekend, the Gospel of Luke talks to us about two sisters, Mary and Martha. Mary, being the carefree sister sitting down leisurely at the feet of Jesus listening to the Master. Martha, being the busybody sister taking care of serving everyone. Every time I hear this Gospel, I feel that I have to pick a side, that I need to be either a Mary or a Martha, and then feel unsatisfied with my choice. I like Mary because she can leave all of the worries of the day aside to sit with Jesus, and I identify with Martha because she gets things done and serves others. I finally came to realize that I can like and identify with them both, that I don't have to pick sides, and be more like one or the other. We can be both a Mary and a Martha in this hectic world, but in order to be both, we first need to prioritize. What's most important? How do we invest our time in the important relationships in our lives? Whether it's with God, our families, or friends; to do together, to listen and spend time together. They each take time and effort, they each take a little bit of Mary and a little bit of Martha.

This Monday, we celebrate St. Mary Magdalene, she's pretty incredible! I was talking to one of my daughters about writing about St. Mary Magdalene and not sure of what to say and she said it best in simple terms: St. Mary Magdalene repented and changed her ways and didn't look back, she followed Jesus, and if she can do it, we can do it, too. Now that sounds pretty simple, but personally, I think the key there is she didn't look back, she didn't drag her past with her. Once she was forgiven and changed her ways, she let go, and there's the key. How many times does God forgive us and we keep holding on to the past, to the grudges, to the sins. He's already forgiven us and paid the price for it and we like to keep dragging and carrying them along when we no longer have to.

As the summer continues, we are taking care of recharging and trying to upkeep of our St. Anthony grounds after using the rooms and buildings year-round. We just had the carpet cleaned last week and the hall will be undergoing some yearly deep cleaning. Shout out to our maintenance crew for working so hard with limited staff!

If you're looking for something to do this summer, we have some wonderful opportunities to be both a Mary and Martha. To serve as Martha served: We have ARISE coming next month, we also have our Called to Serve as Christ campaign as a way to thank all of our retired priests and religious sisters, we have our own "Mary and Martha" church cleaning groups that could always use some extra hands on deck, along with joining in any of our Liturgical ministries. To sit and listen as Mary did: we have weekly Adoration on Thursdays from 8:45am-6:30pm followed by Evening prayer and Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, our Novena to St. Anne will begin on July 18th at 7:00pm in the Church, Nocturnal Adoration every First Friday after 7:30pm Mass, and our Holy Hour every first Sunday of the month at 7:30pm.

I invite you to join us as you're able, and if you're physically not able to, please pray for us here at St. Anthony from wherever you are.

May you continue to have a blessed summer.

In God's love,



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