



Lenten Reflection for Thursday, March 24th

JP Masson

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

Luke 11:14 - 23

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

I remember passages from Lents past that seemed obscure and maybe not so easy to relate to. This one didn't take long to hit home: you start losing sight of your north star, you let skepticism sneak in, then cynicism, and soon enough you're on a slippery slope. We see it in our country. What you stop believing in, what you choose to believe in instead can lead to division. And in the last weeks, looking at the situation in Europe, we see how this leads to isolation and a downward spiral of power versus power.

Witnessing those larger phenomena can leave us, as individuals, to feel powerless. We see how wrong those situations are and we may not know how to fix them. This is probably when it's even more important for us to be very clear about our north star and our commitment to it. We can't lose hope and we can't lose faith. No undue skepticism, no cynicism. It might not seem like much on a global scale but trying to be

examples of love, kindness and compassion sends roots in the ground and helps to stop it from sliding further.



JP and Nikki have been living in Windsor Terrace for 6 years, with their son Nico (going to middle school next year!) and their cat Minette. They joined Holy Apostles not long after moving to the neighborhood and have been grateful for the community. Both JP and Nikki can usually be found out early in the morning, running the parks and streets of Brooklyn training for the next race.