

Assumption/St. Paul

&

St. Peter the Apostle Parish

Daily Reflection By Brother Ron

Tuesday of the First Week of Lent
February 23, 2010

[Isaiah 55:10-11](#)

[Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19](#)

[Matthew 6:7-15](#)

Sitting here I am reminded of the coldness of winter, as the snow continues to fall. The ground is covered and we are once again reminded that winter is still with us. However, reflecting on past winters we are confident that the mounds of white will disappear and green growth will soon surround us. Isaiah proclaims confidence in God's word: just as snow and rain penetrate the ground and cause it to be fruitful, so God's word will have its effect!

Jesus' teaching on prayer instills great confidence. "Don't bother trying to attract God's attention by a lot of words," he says. "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him!" Prayer's purpose is not to inform and absent God of a present need, but rather, as Saint Augustine suggests, to enlarge our hearts to be able to receive all the good God wishes to give us. Yes God truly knows before we ask and we can count on Him without fail.

This call to confidence invites the question: How do I approach prayer? What attitude or image do I bring to prayer's beginning? Do I imagine its purpose as "awakening" God to my dilemmas? Or do I imagine that the Father already knows my need and wants me to pray so as to grow in my capacity to receive all that He desires to give?

As we let go of many useless and false things during lent, may we promise to remove all that keeps us from confident prayer.