

Lent

Gotta go way back here. As a child Lent meant NO candy (St. Patrick's Day and Latari Sunday excepted). Back then I never understood the concept (like it was good for you not to eat all that sugar). BUT on Easter Sunday I was duly rewarded with lots of Esther Price Easter candy stuff including a solid chocolate foot high Easter Bunny. It lasted for weeks.

Hmmm... I sense a fly in that 'give up then reward you with the very thing you gave up' ointment.

A few Sundays ago, when John the Baptist was in the Good News, Father Michael talked about repentance. I wish I could remember exactly what he said but I know he used a Greek word so I looked it up, hoping it would jog my memory.

In the New Testament, the **word** translated as '**repentance**' is the **Greek word** μετάνοια (metanoia), "after/behind one's mind", which is a compound **word** of the preposition 'meta' (after, with), and the verb 'noeo' (to perceive, to think, the result of perceiving or observing).

Μεταμέλεια – English translated as metanoia meaning repentance, contrition, regrets, compunction, penitence

But the way Father talked about it, he seemed to inject a certain great joy in being able to, wanting to – repent.

Which I took as being really really lucky to be able to repent.

And man can I come up with a lot of things for which I can repent. Might triple my Joy.

Reflection leading to repentance is hard, particularly if your body is working against you with an incurable disease or a physical addiction. The harder path however, usually leads to greater results.

We have the luxury of having lots to repent for - again beginning with our nuclear family then extending that repent filled joy outward like the proverbial pebble in the pond and the ever widening ripples.

And Glory be to the God Triune, this year we ALL get to repent for the divisiveness that has broken our country so we can again be the shining light on top of the greatest mountain.

Now, let's roll up our sleeves and get to work.

And don't forget how much you are loved by Him despite the stuff we do. It is endless and omnipotent. It surrounds us. It is everywhere. Bathe yourself in It and It's Grace.

Clement