



On WEDNESDAY night, October 3 at 7:00 we will gather in the church for prayer and - lamentation. Lamentation? As you may know, there's a Book of Lamentations in the bible. As a literary work, the Book of Lamentations combines elements of communal and individual laments in which the speakers attempt to persuade God to intervene in the face of an acute crisis. We'll be praying for just this on Wednesday night, asking God to intervene in the crisis facing our Church. I'm sure that all of us are lamenting the abuse of innocent children, the abuse of power and authority and the betrayal of the trust and confidence of the people of God. There is, indeed, much to lament. Our time of prayer on October 3 will include scripture, music and the opportunity for individuals to come to a microphone and lament:

O God, I grieve over...

O God, I'm angered by...

O God, I weep over...

O God, I lament the loss of...

O God, I cry for justice for...

O God, I plead with you...

O God, I lift up the pain of...

O God, my heart is broken by...

O God...

Not everyone will choose to speak their lament publicly so there will also be paper and pencils for you to write your lament anonymously and come forward to place it in a basket on the altar. After the prayer service, you're invited to remain for conversation with the Parish Council and me.

On SUNDAY night, October 7 at 7:00 we'll gather on *the Feast of the Holy Rosary* for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, including praying the Rosary together in reparation for the harm done to innocent victims and to all in the Church.

These two opportunities to pray together will not resolve the crisis in which we find ourselves. But these moments will bring us together, the local Catholic Church, to lament, to pray, to intercede and to ask God's Spirit to anoint us and the whole Church for the work of reforming and rebuilding the life and structures of the faith community we call our own, the Body of Christ whose members we are: the Catholic Church.