

## WHERE DOES LOVE BEGIN?

Almighty God makes room within His being for creation to share in the love that is God's makeup. We have all heard that God is love. Love is the very nature of God.

Anyone who does not love, does not know God, because God is love ...

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:8-16)

In our Gospel Jesus tells us that the highest form of love that we share, is the love that we have for the Christ. Even more important than the love we have for father, mother, son and daughter. Jesus goes on to say that in order to truly love Him, we must take up His cross. Taking up a cross in the time of the Lord meant one would be **MARGINALIZED, AN OUTCAST TO SOCIETY, BE EXCLUDED AND ALONE.**

We can suffer in the same way today if we put God before society.

It is a difficult task to be crucified for the sake of Jesus our Savior. But Jesus reassures us that if we lose our life for His sake, we will find ETERNAL LIFE.

Eternal life is just what it says: life that lasts forever. It continues on beyond our time on the earth which is really very short. When we have eternal life, we no longer fear death. It is a life that no one can take from you.

When we receive a prophet, we receive a prophet's reward. A great example of this is found in our first reading when Shunem made a room for Elisha in her home. Shunem received the only reward she wanted. And even though she had waited many years and her husband was older, God blessed her with a healthy baby boy.

Shunem loved the words of God's prophet which was her motivation for being hospitable. What is our motivation for loving God?