



Holy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
March 29, 2018

Selected reading: John 13:1-15

When was the last time someone washed your feet? Foot washing is a deeply intimate gesture. Usually, it is only the very young, the very old, or the infirmed who allow another person to wash their feet.

John's Gospel reveals Peter's initial reluctance to allow Jesus to wash his feet. Let's not pretend it to be any other way—in his moment of hesitation, Peter is no different than you or me. I only want to allow others in on the parts of me beautiful and charming, not the parts grimy and besmirched. Jesus' insistence about washing Peter's feet reminds me that, before God, there is nothing I can hide. God knows me through and through.

Through Jesus' example, I feel challenged to submit my entire self before God. Perhaps you will witness—or even, take part in—a foot washing ceremony during a Holy Thursday liturgy. As you encounter this most intimate human interaction, be reminded that God's love for you does not stop at your presentable margins. God's love sanctifies the parts of you and me that are bruised and battered, the very things before most people we try to hide.

Perhaps in a quiet moment today, I invite you to sit with Bernadette Farrell's song "O God, You Search Me" and make it an opportunity for prayer.

-Mr. Brian Gilmore, Campus Ministry & Theology Department