

# *In Between the Weekends - Staying Connected*

May 15, 2020

A reminder that God is with us ALWAYS

## **A Father's Love brings Hope and Endurance**

The Barcelona Olympics of 1992 provided one of track and field's most incredible moments.

Britain's Derek Redmond had dreamed all his life of winning a gold medal in the 400-meter race, and his dream was in sight as the gun sounded in the semifinals at Barcelona. He was running the race of his life and could see the finish line as he rounded the turn into the backstretch. Suddenly he felt a sharp pain go up the back of his leg. He fell face first onto the track with a torn right hamstring.

Sports Illustrated recorded the dramatic events:

As the medical attendants were approaching, Redmond fought to his feet. "It was animal instinct," he would say later. He set out hopping, in a crazed attempt to finish the race. When he reached the stretch, a large man in a T-shirt came out of the stands, hurled aside a security guard and ran to Redmond, embracing him. It was Jim Redmond, Derek's father. "You don't have to do this," he told his weeping son. "Yes, I do," said Derek. "Well, then," said Jim, "we're going to finish this together." And they did.

Fighting off security men, the son's head sometimes buried in his father's shoulder, they stayed in Derek's lane all the way to the end, as the crowd gaped, then rose and howled and wept. Derek didn't walk away with the gold medal, but he walked away with an incredible memory of a father who, when he saw his son in pain, left his seat in the stands to help him finish the race.

That's what God does for us. When we are experiencing pain and we're struggling to finish the race, we can be confident that we have a loving Father who won't let us do it alone. He left His place in heaven to come alongside us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. "I am with you always," says Jesus, "to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

This e mail is just one more way that we will stay connected during the pandemic. So a few bits of information to share:

- Earliest possible reopening date per the Bishop's office is June 7
- Reopening means doing some things a new way:
  - ~Wearing a face mask to church

~Families or individuals sitting 6 feet apart – pews will be marked off. You may not get to sit where you ALWAYS sit.  
~No handshakes, hugs or high fives (this will be the hardest to do)  
~no Children' time, no choir

- Because those who are vulnerable or who are sick that Sunday are encouraged to stay home, we will continue to live stream our Sunday service into the foreseeable future.

How long will restrictions and postponements last? My guess: At least until July for Sunday School classes to resume and possibly August before Wednesday night activities resume. It all depends on the number of new cases in the area. Please know that your classes and groups can meet by ZOOM. It is not the same as being there in person, but you will at least get to see one another's faces and hear each other's voice. The youth, the children and some adults are meeting that way weekly. If you are interested in trying this, call me at 315-882-4624, we can talk about how it works. Then Kerry will set up a time and a connection.

The Gospel lesson for this Sunday is Matthew 25:34-37. The bulletin is available on our website and will include the words to our hymns. And if you have Alexa, put it near where you are listening and when I Ask Alexa to play a song, yours will join right in. Wild, huh! See you on Sunday at 11:00 on Facebook.