

PARISH CALENDAR

Fifth Sunday
of Lent

March 18, 2018

Give me justice, O God!

| | | |
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| Saturday, March 17 | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |
| Sunday, March 18 | 7:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 10:45 a. m. | Religious Education Classes (Gr. 1-8) |
| | | Confirmation & Youth Ministry |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |
| Monday, March 19 | 7:45 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| | 8:00 a. m. | Communion Service |
| | 9:00-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open |
| Tuesday, March 20 | 7:45 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| | 8:00 a. m. | Communion Service |
| | 7:00 p. m. | Liturgy Meeting - Kamiano Trailer |
| Wednesday, March 21 | 8:00 a. m. | Mass |
| | 9:00-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open |
| Thursday, March 22 | 8:00 a. m. | Mass |
| | 5:30 p. m. | Feeding Menu - Spam & Cabbage/Corn Beef & Cabbage |
| Friday, March 23 | 7:45 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 9:00-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open |
| | 7:00 p. m. | Stations of the Cross - Pastoral Council |
| Saturday, March 24 | 9:00 a. m. | Funeral James Kapuniaai (+) |
| | 4:00-4:45 p.m. | Confessions |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:50: 4-7: The Lord's servant describes his suffering

Phil:2:6-11: Jesus is both humiliated and exalted

Mk:14:1-15-47: In his suffering and death, Jesus is the suffering Messiah

***Living Catholic in the 808:
Scrutinies and Exorcisms***

Hopefully you've had the chance this Lent to be present at Sunday Mass when some of our elect, our unbaptized faithful, have participated in the scrutinies and the rites of exorcism. What we see happening during these rites is not a Hollywood or the Oxford Dictionary would suggest.

Through the scrutinies, God's Word uncovers and then heals all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect and brings out and strengthens all that is upright, strong and good. And, in the rite of exorcism, the elect are freed from the effects of sin and from the influence of the devil. (Adapted from RCIA 141 and 144)

In short, the scrutinies and exorcisms give our elect, our unbaptized faith-filled members, new strength in the midst of their spiritual journey

As baptized Catholics Christians, the scrutinies and exorcisms (and even the season of Lent!) reminds us that you and I have ALREADY been freed from the power of sin. Baptism makes us new creatures, giving us the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

THIS is the (evangelization) message we share with others – we need longer be controlled by evil, by addictions, by suffering, by weakness. Others need to know what our elect know – that sin and death can be conquered through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

***By: Kristina DeNeve
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION RICE BOWL: ENCOUNTER Alefa: We encounter Alefa in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit www.csricebowl.org for more information.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for helping **Jesus in disguise**. Your contributions will make a difference for the poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collections it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief, and click on the "How to Give" link on the left.

WORD OF LIFE: "When God created each of us, He did so with precision and purpose. . . let us treat each person as the masterpiece that he or she is." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, Respect Life Flyer: "Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation" www.bit.ly/GodsMasterpieces

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 18 Sun: 5th Sunday of Lent

Ez:37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom:8:8-11; Jn:11:1-45

Mar 19 Mon: St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sam:7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps:89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Mt:1:16, 18-21, 24a

Mar 20 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Nm: 21: 4-9; Ps 102: 2-3, 16-18, 19-21; Jn:8:21-30

Mar 21 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Dan: 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dan 3: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Jn:8:31-42

Mar 22 Thu: Lenten Weekday

Gn:17:3-9; Ps:105: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn:8:51-59

Mar 23 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Jer:20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; Jn:10:31-42

Mar 24 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Ez:37:21-28; Jer 31: 10, 11-12abcd, 13; Jn 11:45-56

REFLECTION:

Jesus, who has been set before us this Lent as the source of living water and light of the world, is today declared the resurrection and the life. The great signs narrated in John's Gospel lead up to this last great sign. There are other stories in other Gospels of people being raised from the sleep of death—the soldier's daughter, the widow's only son. John does not offer us these miracle stories. He gives us the protracted story of the raising of Lazarus. We may be understandably intrigued by Lazarus, but John keeps our attention focused on Jesus.

The Resurrection suffuses the Gospel narratives. The Gospels are the work of believing communities of the Resurrection. Each Gospel was first proclaimed and passed on through the community's oral tradition. Only later were they written down. The Gospels contain numerous accounts of persons who came whole and alive in Jesus' presence.

In this narrative, Jesus declares himself the resurrection and the life. He makes himself abundantly clear. He says that those who believe in him will come to possess life, even though they will physically die. Physical death is not final. The believer who possesses life in Christ lives with him now and will live with him forever. The person who is one with Christ in life will possess life through and beyond death. Then Jesus pointedly asks Martha, "Do you believe this?" Martha's response echoes that of the believing community at large. She speaks for us, confessing him as Lord, Messiah, and Son of God. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus raising his friend Lazarus, from the dead. One of the many lessons learned from this Gospel story is that of Martha's confession of faith in her friend: "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." Raising Lazarus from the dead was a miracle and clear display of God's power. It was also an unmistakable sign that Jesus was the Christ. Good stewards of faith see signs of Christ's presence all around them and are eager to respond in faith. The stewardship question for us is: Who or what will be the Lord of our Lives? Will it be Christ Jesus? And if so, how will we respond to him? Are we willing to walk in his footsteps and follow his example? (**International Catholic Stewardship Council~e-bulletin**)

Reflection

The other readings today provide the setting for this Gospel, which is surely the jewel in the crown of this Sunday's readings. The first reading from Ezekiel speaks of the resurrection of the body—the clothing of flesh on bone, the opening of graves. There is nothing God cannot or will not do for the exiled people languishing in Babylon. The knowledge that they brought exile upon themselves is coupled with the humiliation of the exile itself. Over against the people's despair stands the action of God. When the people think it cannot get any worse than this, Ezekiel goes to great lengths to say what God will do. Ezekiel is the great prophet of hope for the exiled community. The actions of Israel will be trumped by the saving action of God. "I have promised and I will do it," says the Lord. And this is how Israel in exile will know that God is the Lord. Throughout his book of prophecy, after each amazing act of God, Ezekiel adds the affirmation akin to this one, "You shall know that I am the LORD."

The new life so evident in the promise of Ezekiel and realized in Jesus is addressed by Paul. The "flesh" he identifies here refers to a life outside of Jesus' saving resurrection. Jews did not conceive of humans as divided between body and spirit. The division for Paul was between the unredeemed (flesh) and redeemed (spirit). We are expected to live the new, redeemed life that is ours in baptism. More than the physical resuscitation of Lazarus, our new life is a transformation, an entirely new way of being. This is where Christ will lead us, if we let him. Then we can say with Martha, "Yes, Lord, I do believe." Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved

Bigger Than Life

We might exclaim as we witness surprising, opulent life styles, "What a life!" or "Now, that's living." Well, we haven't heard the half of it. Today's stories are just bigger than life. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

