

~ Our Pastor's Message ~

Greetings,

Another week of disrupted lives, but another week of looking for God in new experiences and places. Like for all of you, it is a challenge getting used to this "new normal," staying home, minding our social distancing. Still we need to stay in touch with each other through the phone, the internet and, of course, through prayer. Last week I mentioned the weekly Sunday 10am televised Cathedral Mass said by Bishop Wester. Later in the week, I joined Pope Francis in praying the rosary for the world. There are many different ways to stay in touch: if nothing else, open the windows in your house and sing like the Italians!

More seriously, I would like to remind folks this week of some practical side effects of all this for our parish. Over the past week we have had a small number of people mail in their weekly donations and we are certainly grateful for that. We even had one family slip their donation under the church door. We also had our regular and new online donors who helped relieve our stress. With online donations we do not need to have money counters to come in to count the money. This makes things easier for both parties; you can even have a standing donation withdrawn from your account and added to the parish's account weekly or monthly. I mention this to remind people that we continue to need your financial support. The bulk of our expenses, like your own, do not stop because of Covid-19. To make this point even clearer, our reduced weekly expenses could still be as high as \$8,000. Last week we received a little over \$2,000 in regular donations. That means \$6,000 might have to come from our savings. Please be mindful of this reality.

I also remind you to please check in with our website, iccabq.org. There you will find our reduced weekly bulletin with reflections from the Jesuits, other spiritual reading and commentary on the weekly readings. We will do our best to stay in touch with you. We will be posting our Holy Week and Easter service schedule. You can join us spiritually as our Jesuit community celebrates these sacred liturgies for our parish.

Finally, I realize that some of you may have temporarily lost your job. If any of you need something that we might be able to help you with, please call me and let me know. For example, if you are alone and have no one to get you groceries, we could connect you with someone who could help. Perhaps you are financially struggling because of a job loss, we might be able to help with food supplies. Lastly, be assured of our prayers for all of you. Each day the Jesuit community gathers at 12:10pm for Mass. All of you are at the top of our list of those for whom we pray. We pray that your anxiety will be lessened and that your health will endure. We pray for God's blessings on all of you because God is good all the time, all the time God is good.

Christ's peace and blessings be with you all,



Fr. Warren J. Broussard, SJ, Pastor

During Lent ~ PRAY ✕ FAST ✕ GIVE ✕ LEARN

By Fr. Jason LaLonde, Assistant Pastor
Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of Lent. I'd like to share with you some thoughts on almsgiving in light of the current crisis that we are living through. Certainly at a time like this we're called to care for one another. For most of us, that means attending to the needs of our immediate family and closest friends. But I have always been challenged by the parable that Jesus tells in Luke Chapter 14 after he has just observed people jockeying for positions of honor at a dinner. At the end of the parable, Our Lord says, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind."

Saint Ignatius offers related advice in his *Spiritual Exercises* as part of his list of "Rules for Almsgiving." He notes that the usual recipients of our generosity are our relatives, friends, or other individuals to whom we are attracted. Ignatius, however, encourages us to think not only about the people whom we like the most, but also to allow our almsgiving to be inspired by a love that "comes from above, that is, from the love of God."

Perhaps, if we are blessed enough at the present moment that our own needs and the needs of our family are being met, we could begin to ask: Who else might need our help? These days, many of us are ordering take-out food, especially from locally owned restaurants, as a way of supporting these businesses and helping them to survive. Perhaps we could also ask: Are there individuals within our parish community or others whom we should be thinking about? Maybe we could bring them a hot meal. Maybe we could drop off a bag of potatoes, beans, or other groceries at their home. Maybe we could call to check on someone or simply leave a note letting them know that we're available if they need assistance. Certainly, it's not easy to know precisely how to help, and it will take creativity to reach out to others in a way that doesn't put their or our own health at risk. Therefore, let us call on the Holy Spirit to inspire us with wisdom from on high and to help us to give, not only to our family and friends, but also to others who may be in need.

SUNDAY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS

The 5th Sunday of Lent ~ March 29

First Reading: *Ezekiel 37: 12-14*; God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 130: 1-8*

With the Lord is forgiveness and mercy.

Second Reading: *Romans 8: 8-11*

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

Gospel Reading: *John 11: 1-45*

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Background on the Gospel Reading: Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent,

is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.



The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus

tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

~Continued in next column.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God.

In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who, believe in him, may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

5th Sunday of
Lent
We prepare

Online Resources:

[America Magazine | The Jesuit Review](#)

Where you can live-stream Jesuit Masses every day of the week:

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Join us throughout the Lenten season as we offer a special presentation of the Gospel, Passion and Resurrection narratives.

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Coronavirus ethics begins with a recognition of our limitations

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