

Stewardship Reflection on Lectionary Readings: April 2, 2017

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EZ 37: 12-14; PS 130: 1-8; ROM 8: 8-11; JN 11: 1-45



One of the struggles we face from the moment we can think critically is what might be called “the mystery of life.” Particularly during this Lenten season this is something on which we need to meditate. Passion Sunday is next weekend and Easter is only two weeks away. We probably have at least a basic understanding that what we are really preparing for is Resurrection. The readings on this Fifth Sunday address Resurrection and call us to hear and consider what it means.

St. Paul certainly provides us thoughts on Resurrection in the Second Reading from his letter to the Romans when he says, “If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.” Is the Spirit dwelling within us? What have we done during this Lent to bring that Spirit to life? Those are questions we must ask always but especially at this time.

Our First Reading comes to us from the prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel the person has fascinated scholars for centuries. He was unique in many ways. In his writings he tended to use symbols and allegory more than the other prophets. His visions were striking and distinctive as well. Today’s reading includes one of those visions and a clearly apparent reference to the concept of resurrection. God says in today’s reading “O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them,” a definite allusion to resurrection. Two verses later God says, “I will put my spirit in you that you may live.”

This is the same Spirit of course St. Paul addresses in the Second Reading. It is the Spirit which is at the heart of our search and our endeavors to prepare for resurrection, both that of Jesus on Easter and our own. This all has to do with life, not death. It is this life which should give us hope. That is what we are truly seeking — new life and hope. Are we addressing the lifeless and hopeless characteristics of our life? Our calling is to give life. Living as good stewards is one of the ways that we can do that.

We have already begun our reflection on St. Paul’s words in the Second Reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans. As Paul says basically if the Spirit is within us, we have life. The Spirit is in everyone, but we need to allow it to be reflected in how we live. If the Spirit is leading us to be more like the Lord, then it is at work in our hearts. We are called to be disciples and to be in Christ. However, Paul assures us that Christ is within us also. We must let Him show forth and shine. With that commitment we renew and reflect that hope which resurrection promises.

We hear the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in the Gospel Reading from St. John. This is a reminder to us that resurrection is

ongoing. The idea of dying and rising is something we all need to do every day. Much of this has to do with relationships, our relationship with God, with those close to us, and with all those with whom we may come in contact. Now during Lent is a time when we need to give these relationships a particular prominence.

We have no idea of what rising again will be. We are given some hints in Holy Scripture, but we are also reminded that it is beyond our very understanding.

There is another facet of Lazarus being raised from the dead which is notable during our Lenten preparations and our striving for resurrection. When Lazarus emerges from the tomb, he is “tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.” Are we bound in some ways? Are what binds us things which we should now be trying to free ourselves from? In these final days of Lent we still have time to judge what it is that keeps us from finding the new life offered by Christ. Only Jesus can give us this new life. The Lord reminds us in today’s Gospel, “...if you believe, you will see the glory of God.” Hope is there for us, but we must seize it.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
April 1st – April 9th, 2017

Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Apr. 1st	Weekday Florence Gadwah – RIP – by Janet Prasad
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Apr. 1st	Sunday Mass of Anticipation Gerald O’Donnell – RIP – by Charles Brocklehurst
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Apr. 2nd	Fifth Sunday of Lent Ina Carvajal – RIP – by Mercedes and family Stella and Myron Karabin – RIP – by the Depa family
Monday	Apr. 3rd	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Apr. 4th	Saint Isidore Conceicao Leite Melo & Jeremias Pacheco – Anniversary Blessings – by Maria
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Apr. 5th	Saint Vincent Ferrer Louis Ottoni – RIP – by Rose Maria and family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Apr. 6th	Weekday Eugene Rodrigues – RIP – by Ron & Carolyn
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Apr. 7th	Saint John Baptist de la Salle Tom Kennedy – RIP – by Eva and family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Apr. 8th	Sunday Mass of Anticipation Elizabeth Csaki – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Apr. 9th	Passion Sunday Claude Dorman – RIP – by William Moran Analiene, John Koccerzuk and Karl Petrich – RIP – by the Depa family

Called Home To The Father

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Rosalina Cancio Gonzalez**. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Collection: March 26, 2017 - \$3,064.25. Poverty supper: \$211.
Thank you for your generosity.

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS IN APRIL

The secretary will be away for four weeks. The office hours for the month of April will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

ECUMENICAL MARCH OF FORGIVENESS



Among the activities and rituals recalling the Passion of Christ, which in turn allow us to better appreciate and celebrate His Resurrection, the Christian churches of Saint Laurent will be holding their annual Ecumenical Good Friday's Walk of Forgiveness on **April 14th**.

The walk will start at the **Notre-Dame-du-Bois Franc Church** at 8:30 a.m. There will be a stop at **our Parish** around 12:05 p.m. for the **12th & 13th Stations** of the Cross. The walk will end at **Saint-Sixte Church** at 1:00 p.m. where refreshments will be served. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



Confirmation will be on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Mass.

First Eucharist is scheduled on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. Mass.

Please pray for our children and their families as they prepare for their sacraments.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: WEEK 5



Solidarity Sunday! Thank you for your generosity! Each donation is used to help our sisters and brothers all over the world — from Paraguay to Syria, to Indonesia and beyond! We conclude this Share Lent with the words of Pope Francis, offered on the occasion of the Jubilee of Mercy: "Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope." Thank you for helping us create a future filled with hope!

FLOWERS FOR EASTER



If you would like to contribute to beautifying our Church with Easter flowers, please place an envelope in the collection basket and mark on it "Easter flowers". If you include your name or envelope number, you will receive an income tax receipt for it at year end.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS



To our dear parishioners who used the envelope system for the weekly donation to the Parish in 2016, your income tax receipts are ready at the **Sacristy**. Please pick up your receipt either on the weekend after Mass or during the week, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Thank you.