

March 21, 2021

From Fr. Jim . . .

The Third and Final Scrutiny: The Third Rite of Scrutiny is celebrated with those who are the Elect for the Easter Sacraments. They will reflect on the Gospel story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. As they examine their lives in the light of this Gospel to prepare to receive the Easter Sacraments, we can do the same as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. Again, this is another powerful gospel story that helps The Elect and all of us see how we are in step with the movement of grace and conversion and how we can become free from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

What moves you the most about this wonderful story? There is so much that invites each of us to ongoing conversion. Some of my favorites are: "Lazarus, come out!" Can you hear the Lord calling you to come out from a tomb or a dark place in your life that has the power to either take life away from you or deny life from you altogether? Where might you be dead and how does the Lord want to turn this around by calling you to freedom and life? Addictions, bad behavior, selfishness?

"Untie him and let him go." From what is the call to live more with grace and God's unconditional love untying you and setting you free? As the season of Lent comes to a close, how have you turned away from sin and become more faithful to the Lord? Do forgiveness or offering and receiving mercy help? Does living more faithfully with any of the virtues or gifts of the Spirit help? Does giving thanks for second chances help? Does praising God for God's presence and love help?

"I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?" Are you getting ready to renew your baptismal promises at Easter? Can you say, with Martha, that you really believe that Christ is the Son of God? Are you willing to live more as an Easter people with Alleluia as your song? Does participating in the Eucharist fully and completely, believing in the real presence of Christ and living in the image of Christ, as the Body of Christ in the world, help? How is your faith increasing and growing? How can you give better witness and respond more with your life – all of your soul, mind, and strength?

The Gospel for the Cycle B readings is also from John: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." Are our Lenten disciplines of self-denial leading us to the fruits of new life and resurrection? Are we ready to die with the Lord and so rise with him?

May this last week of Lent be a blessed week for all of us and move us to the celebration of Holy Week.

Sunday Mass: 10:30am, limited seating available, or join Fr. Jim as he livestreams Sunday Mass at 10:30am at: RCC St. Leo Church Cincinnati
https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&pa=SEARCH_BOX

You can read the Sunday bulletin at:
www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can read Fr. Jim's letter at:
www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim



Please consider donating Plastic Easter Eggs, and Easter Candy to fill the eggs. Toddler size (1 year, 2T, and 3T) bibs for the Sacrament of Baptism. We also are in need of gift cards to help with our everyday needs, please consider Staples, Amazon, Kroger, or Home Depot when donating. You can see our latest needs on our Amazon Wish List Link https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_share. Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.

Community in Madagascar: Poor nutrition can lead to devastating long term consequences for individuals, communities and entire countries. That's why we must work together to ensure that all children have access to better food and nutrition. New planting and cooking techniques are helping many communities in Madagascar improve the health and wellbeing of their children. How does your community work together for the good of others? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Don't forget about the ultimate guide to lent provided by The Catholic Telegraph as we approach Easter Sunday. The guide will meet you wherever you are in your faith journey, and how to embrace the power of silence in your prayer life. Visit thecatholictelegraph.com/lenten-guide.