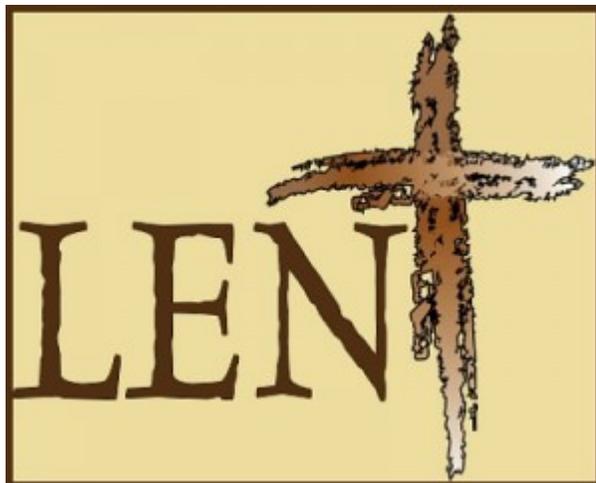


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 22, 2020



“ HOMILY FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT”

Dear Friends:

In the Old Testament reading, the weakness of humans shows up, as it does so often in the Bible. The Israelites, just released from the bondage of Egypt, begin complaining about the lack of water. Moses was so exasperated he cried out to God “What shall I do with these people?” The ungrateful people echoed the age old question presented to God: “Do you care? God do you really care about us at all?”

Of course as we see in the Book of Exodus, God answered very quickly – Moses was instructed to strike a rock and the water flowed. The question was “Does God Care?” and the answer was absolutely yes.

Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, perhaps presents us with what might be the greatest answer to the question “Does God care about us?” He replies “God proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” The ultimate way to understand God cares about us is that He gave us Christ.

And Christ, through the Gospels is living proof of God’s concern for His people. The woman at the well illustrates this in a personal way. Christ shows His love by simply looking at two facts: He approaches the Samaritan woman –that is a surprise – as the woman says “How can you a Jew, ask me a Samaritan woman for a drink?” This was forbidden in the Jewish tradition – but Jesus broke through that. Second, He approaches the woman even though she is probably 5 times divorced. She would not be considered a respectable person. Both facts illustrate how Jesus cares about us.

It is hard sometimes to feel that God cares. It is easy to feel that we are all alone. But the Bible tells us differently. And the Gospel tells us that Jesus really, really cares about us.

Fr. Wilson

UPDATE ON THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK - As we are currently facing a serious health crisis with respect to the Corona Virus, we need to take the necessary precautions as outlined by our public health officials to slow down the spread of this virus.

In light of the serious health risks to vulnerable populations, and mindful of the instructions of medical professionals regarding the Corona Virus, the Archdiocese of New York has instructed us to cancel weekday and Sunday Masses until further notice. Our Religious Education Program, retreats and events will be cancelled until April 20, 2020. Stations of the Cross will also be cancelled until further notice. Immaculate Conception Church will however be open for private prayer. With respect to the Sunday weekly offering envelopes, I understand that troubling times make financial commitments difficult. However if you wish to make a donation, please feel free to drop it off at the parish office or place it in the mail. As always, I thank you for your steadfast support.

The one thing everyone can do in a crisis is pray. Let us keep one another in our prayers and especially pray for the doctors, nurses and caregivers who are working tirelessly to help those suffering from the corona virus.

