

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 5, 2020



" HOMILY FOR WEDNESDAY OF THE 5th WEEK OF LENT "

Dear Friends:

I'm using for my words today, the readings from Wednesday, the 5th week of Lent. I'm doing this because I will be video taping a Mass at St. Anthony's on Wednesday. The Mass hopefully will get out on social media, and it will be my way of saying "hello" to all of you.

The first reading is from the book of the prophet Daniel (3:14-20, 91-92, 95). It is the story of the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who went into the furnace. They were sent into the furnace because they refused to worship the false idols of the King Nebuchadnezzar.

The King, after their refusal, placed them in the furnace, and turned the furnace up seven times more than usual. But the three men survived. The King, in shock, realized their God had saved them.

The message of the story is, for me, that faithfulness to God will save us, as it saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They refused to worship false Gods. Our faith can save us. As we face this horrible scourge of coronavirus, it is time to hold on to our faith, rather than to doubt it. Our faith can save us.

In the Gospel (John 8:31-42) Jesus tells us that if we remain in the life of Jesus, we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free. The freedom of life in Jesus Christ is precious and real. We cherish our freedom in America, but we cherish more our freedom in Christ. For our freedom in Christ sets us free from the bondage of sin and the bondage of death. Since the beginning, humans have struggled with sin. Since the beginning humans have faced the finality of death. Christ has freed us from both, through His Passion and Death. This year, with all our struggles and suffering, we need to be reminded that we are free. Really and truly free.

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. Holy Week and Easter Liturgies will be cancelled.

With respect to the Sunday weekly offering envelopes, I understand that troubling times make financial commitments difficult. However, I ask that if you are able to make your weekly donation, please feel free to drop it off at the Rectory (4 Lavelle Road) in the mail slot which is located on the lower right side of the door or at the parish office or place it in the mail. As always, I am grateful for your support and thanfull for your steadfast commitment to the Church.

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 coronavirus

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : Gerhard Herron, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Ralph Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Arietta Carroll, Cecilia Cummings, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marjorie Arni, Teal Burns, Jane Bly, Jennifer Boice, Nora Miller, Allen McPeck, Diana LaCurto, Genevieve Minischetti, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Christine Darby, Peter Hill, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret and Roger Gregoire, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Kristin Paraszti, Patty Cassidy, Stephen Bida, John McKee, Kathleen Herron and Roseann Roux

SUNDAY MASS - Please see your Television Guide for the Sunday Masses being offered on EWTN, Catholic Faith Network, etc. Also see <https://icsaamenia.org/news/missing-mass>.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - When you are unable to receive Communion:

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and
unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.**

3 INGREDIENTS FOR POWERFUL PRAYER - A close, loving relationship with God depends on a rich prayer life. It is through prayer that God guides, consoles, strengthens, challenges, and transforms us. Ingredients of a strong prayer life can include a Scripture reading, quiet meditation, and expectation.

Meditate on Scripture each day: The Bible contains everything God wants us to know. Start each morning with a verse, a chapter, or a phrase that speaks to you and carry it with you throughout the day.

Listen in silence: Listening is as important as talking. Spending 15 minutes in silence each day to listen to what God wants your heart to know.

Wait in positive expectation. When we have faith that God personally loves us and wants what is best, we eagerly await the plans he has for us. "...*faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1). The conviction that God hears and answers us makes our prayer truly powerful.

ROSE THRIFT SHOP - Due to the Coronavirus, the Rose Thrift Shop will be closed until further notice.

2020 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of March 27th, our parish has received **\$16,795.00** in pledges/gifts from **47** families. Our parish goal is **\$42,000**. I sincerely ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time donation in an amount you can afford. Not all offerings are equal, but all sacrifices are..

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: . Timothy Walsh, Joshua O'Hara, Connor Washburn, Sam Kent, Jordan Paraszti, Gavin Carroll, Richard C. Belliveau, Jimmy Darnell, Mike Mazza, Nathan Tong, Mark Hall and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers

SUNDAY COLLECTION - We received \$2,514.00 with respect to the March 28-29, 2020 Sunday donation. I sincerely want to thank you for dropping off and/or mailing your collection envelopes during these difficult financial times. I am grateful for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.



