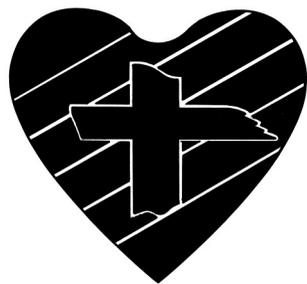


Fifth Sunday of Lent



Pope Francis Prayer of Protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, Joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection. O Holy Mother of God Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas—we who are put to the test—and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

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FR. BARRY WILL SAY A PRIVATE MASS FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS :

Sunday, March 29, Fifth Sunday of Lent
Scott Schlosser Jr. from Amy Schlosser

Monday, March 30
Barry Savage from Barbara Juengling

Tuesday, March 31
Kristen Gugi from Annie Meier

Wednesday, April 1
Frances Cucci from Christine Ryan

Thursday, April 2, St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
Robert Tassone from the Varatta Family

Friday, April 3
Bill Coleman from Tom & Oti Perino

Saturday, April 4, St. Isidor, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Agnes Baer from Carol & Larry

Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Barbara Reilly from Connie & Bill Cussen

From the Pastor's Desk

ARCHDIOCESE DIRECTIVE NO PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL AFTER EASTER

For your convenience here are some alternate ways for Mass:

EWTN has Masses daily at 8am, 12pm and 7pm
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

MARYTV.TV
<https://marytv.tv/english-mass-in-medjugorje-13/>
On-line only

Immaculate Heart of Mary 8am daily
<https://www.church.ihom.org/>

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 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.

A little laugh for this Sunday from Fr. Barry:

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of impact?
WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?
WITNESS: July 18th
ATTORNEY: What year?
WITNESS: Every year

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect you memory at all?
WITNESS: Yes
ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?
WITNESS: I forget
ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?
WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?
WITNESS: Are you kidding me?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?
WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight

FAR BE IT FROM ME TO GLORY IN ANYTHING BUT THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. ~Gal 6:14

REFLECTION: Devout souls cling wholeheartedly to the cross with Christ. They thus acquire the most abundant fruits of the redemption for themselves and for others. ~Pope Pius XI

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, You endured crucifixion for the salvation of the world. Grant that I may love and share Your Cross on earth so that I may join You in glory in heaven.



Opening Prayer

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

Today's gospel story is filled with misunderstanding, and one nearly has the sense that Jesus is getting frustrated with the disciples. But the misunderstanding is a narrative device that the evangelist uses to illustrate how Jesus' thoughts and ways of knowing are so much more than the disciples'. For example, even though Jesus was talking about Lazarus's death, the disciples took him literally in thinking that Lazarus was only asleep. Jesus tells them plainly that "Lazarus has died." He expresses gratitude that he was not there so that the disciples can believe (when he raises Lazarus from the dead). But even this is misunderstood by Thomas, who believes they are going to die with Jesus.

The misunderstanding continues with Martha's gentle scolding of Jesus when she claims that had Jesus been present, Lazarus would not have died. We recall that Jesus waited for two days after hearing the news of Lazarus being sick before he even went to see him! Jesus does not take the bait. He instead proclaims himself the resurrection and life. Martha, in another case of misunderstanding, says she knows that Lazarus will rise on the last day. (She does not understand that Jesus will raise him shortly.)

Even the crowd does not understand the identity of Jesus, for they wonder why the one who made the blind to see could not have prevented the death of Lazarus. It seems everyone is wholly unprepared for what Jesus has in mind, a resurrection from the dead, even though he proclaimed himself to be the resurrection and the life. Jesus' prayer to the Father is fundamentally one of thanksgiving and gratitude for the opportunity for those gathered to believe that Jesus is sent by God the Father.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. You give meaning to our existence and you give hope to an eternal future. Your ways are far above our own, so we ask for the grace to live as your disciples in the midst of the world, confident of our destiny to be with you and those we love for all eternity. Amen.

For Reflection:

• Jesus reveals to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life." How do you interpret these words?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayers."

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Gospel John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 (shorter form) or John 11:1-45 (longer form)

(Citation adapted for length. For full text, see your Bible.)

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. . . .

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. . . . Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. . . .



So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." . . . So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Readings for the week:

5th Sunday of Lent	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Palm Sunday
Ezek 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Rom 8:8-11 John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45	Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-32 or Dan 13:41c-62 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 John 8:1-11	Num 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 John 8:21-30	Dan 3:14-30, 91-92, 95 Dan 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 John 8:51-42	Gen 17:3-9 Ps 103:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 John 8:51-59	Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7 John 10:51-42	Ezek 37:21-28 Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 John 11:45-56	Matt 21:1-11 Isa 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Palm 26:11 Matt 23:14-27:56 or 27:11-54