

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 (L)

Death with *resurrection hope* is the central theme of the Scripture readings for the fifth Sunday of Lent.

In his vision, Ezekiel, in the first reading, bears witness to the reanimation of the dead Israel in preparation for her return to the Promised Land. He assures his people that nothing, not even death will stop God from carrying out His promise. St. Paul, in the second reading, assures the early Roman Christians who were facing death by persecution, and us who are surrounded by a culture of death, that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and who dwells within us will give life to our mortal bodies. He considers the resurrection of Jesus the basis for our hope of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. For John, in today's gospel, the raising of Lazarus is the final and greatest sign of Jesus, the Deliverer, a symbolic narrative of his victory over death at the cost of his own life and a sign anticipating his resurrection. Describing this great miracle, the Church assures us that we, too, will be raised into eternal life after our battle with sin and death in this world. Thus *resurrection hope* is the central theme of the Scripture readings for the fifth Sunday of Lent. The readings assure us that our faith in Jesus, who is "the resurrection and the life," promises our participation in resurrection and new life.

Application to life on the readings of the Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Roll away the stone, unbind him and let him go." We often bind ourselves with chains of addiction to alcohol, drugs, sexual deviations, slander, gossip, envy, prejudices, hatred and uncontrollable anger and bury ourselves in the tombs of despair. Sometimes we are in the tomb of selfishness, filled with negative feelings such as worry, fear, resentment, hatred, and guilt. If we want Jesus to visit our dark dungeons of sin, despair and unhappiness, let us ask Jesus during this Holy Mass to bring the light and the power of His Holy Spirit into our private life and liberate us from our tombs. Are there times when we re-

fuse to let God enter into our wallets, fearing that faithful tithing will endanger our savings? When we receive the sacrament of reconciliation, Jesus will call our name and command, "Come out"! This is good news for all of us, "Lazarus, come out!" This can be the beginning of a new life.

2) We need to be ready to welcome death any time. We live in a world that is filled with death. We kill each other in acts of murder, abortion, euthanasia, execution, war and terrorist activities. We kill ourselves through suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, overwork, stress, bad eating habits, and physical neglect. The most important question is: am I ready to face my death? All of us know that we will surely die, but each of us foolishly thinks that he or she will not die any time in the near future. Let us be wise, well-prepared and ever ready to meet our Lord with a clear conscience when the time comes.

A few Anecdotes from Father Tony Kadavil for Lent 5

A sign of resurrection: As Vice President, George Bush represented the U.S. at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed in Communist Russia: she made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest. There in the citadel of secular, atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all made a gesture suggesting that her husband had been wrong. She hoped that there was another way of life – a life best represented by Jesus who died on the cross, and that this same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband and raise him up on the Day of the Judgment. In today's gospel, Martha expresses her faith in Jesus' assurance of the resurrection of her brother Lazarus.

#2) Carrying a dead soul in a living

body? In Virgil, there is an account of an ancient king, who was so unnaturally cruel in his punishments that he used to chain a dead man to a living criminal. It was impossible for the poor wretch to separate himself from his disgusting burden. The carcass was bound fast to his body -- its hands to his hands; its face to his face; the entire dead body to his living body. Then he was put into a dungeon to die suffocated by the foul emissions of the stinking dead body. Many suppose that it was in reference to this that Paul cried out: "O wretched man that I am!" Today's readings invite us to turn away from sin, approach the sacrament of reconciliation and revive the dead soul we are carrying within our body, thus becoming eligible for the glorious resurrection Jesus promised to believers at the tomb of Lazarus.

#3) Good news – bad news joke: John and Jim were professional players with the Atlanta Braves who lived and breathed baseball. These guys breathed, discussed, ate, and slept baseball. One of their big concerns was whether there would be baseball in heaven. They loved baseball so much that they were not sure at all they wanted to spend eternity in heaven unless they could play baseball. They had an agreement that the first one who died would somehow get a message back to earth, letting the other know whether baseball was in heaven or not. Well, it happened. John died, and Jim grieved. He grieved for days - deeply saddened over his friend John's death. About two weeks went by, and then it happened. Jim was awakened in the middle of the night by the calling of his name, "Jim, Jim, Jim, wake up! This is John." "John, where are you?" "I'm in heaven - and I have some good news and bad news. It's exciting, Jim. We do have baseball in heaven. It's great. We play every day and there are marvelous teams, and tough, exciting competition." "That's great," said Jim. "But what's the bad news?" "Well," said John, "You are scheduled to pitch next Tuesday."

Welcome to

St. Joseph Catholic Church- Zwolle

St. Ann Chapel- Noble

March 28 & 29, 2020

**Father Joseph C. Ampatt,
Pastoral Administrator**

Parish Staff

Sandy Lovelady
645-6845/ 315-5092 for after hours & weekends ONLY
Secretary

Luci Jo Parrie
Religious Education Coordinator

Diamond R. Adair
Bulletin Editor

Thelma Small
Matrimonial Tribunal Lay Advocate

Gary Sepulvado
Maintenance

Parish Volunteers

Anna Garcie
Lee McCann
Parish Trustees– Finance Council

Cindy Ezernack
Pastoral Council Chairperson

Gatha Martinez
Ione Durr
St. Vincent de Paul Society

Colleen Britt
Council of Catholic Women

Andie Sepulvado
Candace Wilson
Altar Server Directors

Kelli Boydston
Liturgy Coordinator

MASSES are suspended until further notice.

Anticipated Mass: Saturday 4:00 PM (St. Joseph)
Sunday: 8:30 AM (St. Joseph)
11:00 AM (St. Joseph)
5:00 PM (St. Ann)
Tuesday-Friday: 7:30 AM (St. Joseph)
3rd Thursday: 10:00 AM at Toledo Nursing Center

Baptism: Children should be baptized within the first few months after birth. Baptism should take place in one's proper parish. Registered parishioners should contact the Office for information about scheduling a baptism class, regarding the selection of Godparents, any required preparations, and the date and time of Baptism.

Reconciliation: Confessions are normally heard on Saturdays before the mass from 3:15–3:40 PM. Other opportunities are possible by appointment by calling Father Ampatt.

Eucharistic Adoration: Spend a refreshing hour before the Lord in prayer in our daily chapel, from the conclusion of morning Mass until 3:00 PM on Thursdays.

Marriages: Either the bride or the groom must be a registered parishioner of St. Joseph/ St. Ann Parish. At least six months of preparation time is required in our Diocese. Weddings are never booked by phone or by third-parties; **a personal interview is required.** Call the office for an appointment.

Funerals: Contact the office to make necessary arrangements for the funeral liturgy.

New Parishioners: Welcome! To register, fill out one of the blue forms located at the church office or in the church foyer and return it to the church office or drop it in the weekly collection basket. Change of address or phone number? Please provide your updated information to the church office as soon as possible.

Parish Office Information

Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM,
Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM

**P.O. Box 8/ 307 Hammond St. (Physical)
Zwolle, Louisiana 71486**

Phone: 318-645-6155

Fax: 318-645-9852

Rectory: 318-645-9198

st_joseph_zwolle@bellsouth.net

Website: www.StJosephZwolle.org

Diocesan Web Site: www.dioshpt.org

March 28 & 29, 2020

****During the mandatory suspension of masses, Fr. Ampatt is continuing to say the mass intentions.**

Mass Intentions:

March 28, Saturday

St. Joseph
 Catherine Santos †
 Nancy Nimmo †
 Jeff and Gloria Faircloth †
 Mary Remedies †

March 29, Sunday

St. Joseph
 Ted DeSoto †
 St. Joseph
 Maria Nhan †
 St. Ann
 For the Parishioners

March 30, Monday

March 31, Tuesday

Kelvin Holden †

April 1, Wednesday

Joseph Richard †
 Melva G. Ebarb †
 Jake Leone †
 Lillie and Willie Meshell †

April 2, Thursday

Dorothy Ezernack †

April 3, Friday

William Laroux †

April 4, Saturday

St. Joseph
 Matha Trong †
 Nancy Nimmo †
 Cleve and Theresa Sepulvado †
 Rogers and Ruth Loupe †

April 5, Palm Sunday

St. Joseph
 Thomas J. Sepulvado, Jr. †
 St. Joseph
 For the Parishioners
 St. Ann
 Anthony W. Sepulvado †

Readings for this week:

- † **Monday:** Lenten Weekday
 Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 1930, 33-62/ Jn 8:1-11
- † **Tuesday:** Lenten Weekday
 Nm 21:49/ Jn 8:21-30
- † **Wednesday:** Lenten Weekday
 Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/ Jn 8:31-42
- † **Thursday:** Lenten Weekday St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
 Gn 17:3-9/ Jn 8:51-59
- † **Friday:** Lenten Weekday
 Jer 20:10-13/ Jn 10:31-42
- † **Saturday:** Lenten Weekday St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor
 Ez 37:21-28/ Jn 11:45-56
- † **Sunday:** Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 Mt 21:1-11/ Is 50:4-7/ Phil 2:6-11/ Mt 26:14-27:66



Please take a moment each day to read and reflect on these passages from Sacred Scripture. It is a wonderful way to join our personal prayer to the public prayer of the church.

We pray for:



Jackie Craig; K.C. Sepulvado; Lula Mae Sepulvado; Thomas "Tin Man" Foster; Maurice Martinez; Annie Rivers; Amanda David; Raymond L. Ebarb; Juanita Manshack; Delma Rivers; Linda Sepulvado; Paul L. Rivers; Martin Crooks; Greg Crooks; Kathy Ebarb; Boyd Miles; Priscilla Walraven; JoAnna Presseau; Carolyn Cuthright; Helen Laroux; Staci Anderson; Catherine Hammon; Marilyn Laroux; Mary Martinez; Benny Remedies; Frances Sepulvado; Gary Bozzell; John D. Ebarb; Elaine Henderson; Pedro Ebarb; Abra Lachaussee; Van Martinez; Elaine Henderson; Wanda J. Rivers; David Louis Moore; Joe Garcia; Doyle Hagieh; Linda Meshell; Draven T. Ebarb; Sue Ellen Remedies; Gerald L. Sepulvado, Jr.; Monica E. McManus; Pedro Ebarb; Derrick Jordan; Allen Ray Garcia; Fr. Williams; Jeanette Garcia; Dagel Ebarb; Mattie B. Sepulvado; Kenneth McCormick; Billy Wayne Procell; Sammy Procell; Elsie Ezernack; Robbie Meshell; Tina L. Sepulvado; Phillip & Laura Jones; Vernon & Doris Ebarb; Cheryl Ebarb; Chandler Ebarb; Ann Rivers; Rose Meshell; Yvonne Maskai; Anne Bryant; Laurie & Reinardo Montero; Jimmy Brown; Ace Bowling; Richard Doggett; Ashlie & Eli Nolan; David Nichols; Kevin Leone; Norman & Jeannie Arbuckle; Celena Rivers; Rosella Sepulvado; Michael Dewayne Ebarb; Felicia Whitlow; Jackie Rivers; John Douglas Malmay; Felicia Whitlow; Maggie Manshack; Ronnie Brummerloh; Debbie Rutherford; Judy Ebarb; Tommy Leone; David Meshell; Robert Hersberger; Ricky Cryer; Jacob Wooley; Lucy Burns; Judy Ebarb; Joseph C. Sepulvado; Mark Austin; Benny Ray Sepulvado; Edward Pastureau; Howard Rivers; John LeRoy Meshell; Hosea Meshell; Eddie Remedies;

(The names on the prayer list go through a cycle. Once they make it to the top they are removed as new names are added, to keep the prayer list current. Contact the office to add, re-add, or remove names from the list. Thank you.)

5th Sunday of Lent

- In the near future there will be ad space on the back of the bulletin. If you are interested in advertising your business please leave a name and contact number with the office. Ray from the company has been making calls to some of the local businesses and leaving messages to those he was not able to speak to.
- No lunches will be sold by the CCW on Palm Sunday.
- All activities are suspended at the church, we will update as soon as we know via Facebook and website. This includes the Lenten Mission scheduled for April 1-3
- Both SWAG and Jr. Swag are suspended until further notice
- As more cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) are being identified in the Greater New Orleans area, administrators at Saint Joseph Abbey have made the decision to cancel the Spring 2020 Come and See Weekend, originally scheduled for April 3 through April 5. We are sad to hear this but of course we want everyone to be safe and healthy. Thank you for all your efforts to send young men to this event and I will certainly keep you posted for the next one which will take place in November.

Week of: March 29

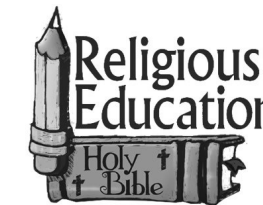
Sanctuary Candle
 In Memory of
 Fr. Cal Cuccia

St. Joseph Candle
 Health of
 Jacob Wooley

Blessed Mother Candle
 In Memory of
 Mary Remedies

St. Ann's Candle
 In Memory of
 Sylvia Procell

All classes are suspended until further notice.



Baptism class for parents and Godparents will be **rescheduled for a later date.** Please call 508-0203 to have your name added to the list and you will be informed at a later time of the date and time. Baptism class must be completed before you can schedule your child's baptism date. Any questions please call or text 508-0203.

- We will post information as we receive it on our Facebook page and website.
- Although we can not have an actual mass we are leaving the church open from 7 AM until 5 PM at St. Joseph for those to have private Adoration and prayer.
- Thank you to those who have continued to respond with contribution envelopes.
- Anyone in need of spiritual help during this time, Fr. Ampatt can be reached at 318-426-0142.**

Collections:

Since Weekend of March 7 & 8 at St. Joseph

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| St. Joseph Church Support | \$ 5856.00 |
| Second Collection: | \$ 462.00 |
| Catholic Relief: | \$ 208.00 |
| Black and Indian Missions: | \$ 220.00 |

Baptized in Christ in February at St. Joseph:

Jacob Michael Boydston

Son of Joe and Kelli Boydston

| Diocesan Stewardship Appeal 2020 (3/27/2020) | Fam. | Donors | % Fam. Pledged | Goal | Pledged | % Goal Pledged | Pledge Paid | % Pledge Paid |
|--|------|--------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| St. Joseph, Zwolle | 750 | 102 | 14% | \$62,500 | \$32,590 | 52.14% | \$20,475 | 62.83% |
| St. Ann, Ebarb | 125 | 26 | 21% | \$17,000 | \$9,160 | 53.88% | \$2,895 | 31.6% |