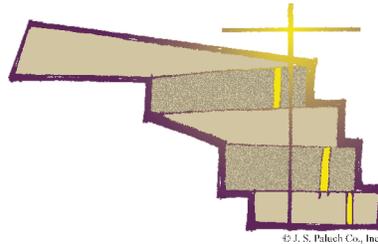




St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor

March 31, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM.” The Gospel of John today uses the term “I AM” to identify Jesus taking us back to the reference of the story of God’s revelation to Moses in the Book of Exodus. So, the great “I AM” is the same presence of God present to Moses now present in the humanity of Jesus Christ. However, there is another “I am” who is with us. This other “I am” is the self or our EGO. It was interesting to note that John the Baptist would perhaps make this observation in stating, “HE must increase, and I must decrease.” So, my friends, how is this aspect of our journey going?

I tend to be a reserved person private and out of the limelight. Yes, there are times as priests we have to be out front because of our position. But it is not something I look forward to nor enjoy. I prefer to work behind the scenes. If I were to make a comparison: I would prefer the job of a stagehand rather than that of an actor. Just my personality although I think many people misread that, too. LOL! I know Fr. Tommy is the same way as we share about the angst of getting up in front of a crowd, delivering a homily or giving a talk. But it is something we must do.

I have often said, “It is not about me/us, it is about Him,” especially if I feel the focus has changed in certain situations. This was the sentiment of John the Baptist. He was instructing his disciples to cease following him and to follow the Truth, Jesus. He was saying, “Alright, I have done my job; but now I AM is here.” Our job as disciples is to know just who to follow. I find too many people, even faith-filled people have more allegiance to earthly personalities than to God. Their loyalties are placed in personalities that titillate their ego or entertain their spirituality. I suppose that is human but if that personality never leads to God then it was ALL ABOUT THEM. This is a difficult point to accept in our human journey when our attractions are misplaced in our spiritual journey noted in the failed promises and deception offered by the EGO.

In closing, we are quickly coming to the end of our Lenten journey and one that none of us will soon forget. May it continue to be a lesson of loss and suffering, the Cross and self-sacrifice, Agape and reconciliation; and, in humility, an encounter with the great “I AM” who has been, is now and will be forever at our side.

Know of your priests’ daily prayers for you as we journey together, but apart.

Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications: <http://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19-notice>.

Blessings my friends,

Fr. Mark