



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor

April 2, 2020



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Dear Parishioners,

Casting stones. We have all done that. Sometimes in a playful manner skipping them upon a body of water. Other times through an underhanded piece of gossipy judgement or a direct frontal attack lacking any semblance of self-integrity. Jesus found himself the probable victim of stone throwing quite often or coming to the aid of one who was about to be stoned. What lessons can we take from this moment in today's gospel, including Jesus moving through the midst of the angry crowd without being touched? This is an important lesson for us.

Jesus always had his critics and relatively a small number of disciples at least until after his resurrection. He had plenty of "listeners" who stood by on the sidelines; but very few that jumped into the mix. And, then he had those who would rather see him dead than show up at the synagogue for the next service. So, why did they want him dead? Jesus was a threat to their complacency, their power structures, religious leadership and stubbornness of heart, mind and soul. He wanted them to see the light, know the Truth and love their God with all their heart. His words – the Word – threatened them and their little sandbox. Jesus would just walk through that personal mess untouched because it wasn't about Him, it was about them.

Well, what does one do in this situation? They plot to kill. You can kill physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, etc. We know people who do this today. Because they are uncomfortable in their own skin and what needs to be worked on in their own lives, it becomes easier for them to try and change the reality of the story...their story.

Our Lenten journey has been a difficult one. This is a long Good Friday experience. It will be a long month or more before we come together in a communal way to worship our God. But until then we have our God who journeys with us and the Spirit of God strengthening us. The news can weigh us down and yet there are so many acts of generosity across our globe. Enemies are speaking to one another. Broken families are communicating. Heroes are responding with selfless dedication and love. Faith families are learning new ways of praying. Kids are "distance learning" and opening pathways to future probabilities. God is working through the darkness of this pandemic to rebuild, remake and recreate. And, while concerned a bit each day with worrisome pastor stuff, I am confident that something very good is being offered to each one of us in this, our journey, to the cross of Christ to his resurrection.

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>.

Prayers and blessings from cyberspace,

Fr. Mark

E-mail from Gabriel Software: Parishioners whose e-mails we have on file will be receiving an e-mail invitation from our new St. Luke the Evangelist Parish-Member Portal (Gabriel Software) in the next few days. This will allow parishioners to update their own contact information, such as e-mail, phone, address, etc., in our database. *We are look forward to transitioning to this new software and the additional functionality it will provide.*