

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (A)

How many of you are Indiana Jones fans? The last movie that came out is a little weak, but some of the first few from the 80's are classics. The Raiders of the Lost Arc is of course the most popular, and it was followed by "The Last Crusade", in which Indiana Jones is in search of the Holy Grail with his cantankerous father. One of my favorite scenes from that movie, is when Indy comes upon the Ancient Templar Knight in the hidden chamber of the many grails. And almost immediately, he is followed by his Nazi nemesis who also enters the room to steal the prize..... The prize being the gift of eternal life to the one who drinks from the true holy cup used by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper. BUT (there is always a but)... but, you have to **choose** the correct grail, from the vast array of cups and container collected in the room.

Well, Indy's enemy looks at the treasury, and chooses a golden chalice crested in jewels declaring, "This is a cup worthy of the King of Kings.... This must be Christ's chalice,.... the Holy Grail." And he drinks from it..... (wait for it..... wait for it)..... and he chokes and sort of disintegrates and dies.

And the old Templar Knight declares...."He chose badly."

Then, Indiana Jones reasons that Jesus was just a poor carpenter in life, and he therefore chooses from the collection, an un-assuming, scrungy-looking, common wooden cup. And.....

He has chosen wisely.... And does NOT disintegrate, but lives.

As the first reading from Samuel points out, things are **not** always what they appear. Jesse had seven grown sons of magnificent stature, but it is the little ruddy shepherd boy that God chooses. It's David who is anointed to become King!

And then in the gospel... Jesus makes clay... and ANOINTS a blind man's eyes, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him." It's wonderful

imagery that through a blind man, Jesus makes others see that He is the light of the World. The people who do not see this are Truly Blind.

They also choose badly.

But of course WE DO see this. In the psalm today we sang, “you anoint my head with oil.” Now this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> mention of anointment in three separate readings today, and that’s no mere coincidence. This is the season of preparation for Baptism of the Catechumens, and what happens in the Baptismal Rite? Our heads are anointed with oil. So, like David, we are made Kings—We share in the Kingship of Christ. And we also receive a baptismal candle, lit from the Easter Candle and told...”Receive the LIGHT of Christ.” So, we are anointed like the Blind man of Siloam and our eyes are opened by the Light of Christ. We are no longer blind in our sin. Nor shall the Catechumens be when they are baptized.

Therefore, we should place ourselves with the Ephesians whom Paul is writing to, so that we can say, “We were once darkness... but now we are Light in the Lord. And we must then of course live as children of Light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness.

We’re halfway through Lent now. Perhaps we’re doing great in our Lenten journey. Perhaps we’ve slipped. Perhaps we’ve gotten off to a slow start... But it’s not too late. “Even now, Turn to me,” says the Lord. As Paul says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise for the dead, and Christ will give you LIGHT!”

If We wish to share eternal life.... It’s not the jeweled gold chalice for us.... But the wood.... Of the carpenter.... And his CROSS that we must seek.....

So... may we all..... CHOOSE WISELY!