

The Paper Pulpit

(Reflections from the Pastor)

2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: A little boy was riding in his wagon on a sidewalk. Suddenly, one of the wheels fell off. The little boy jumped out of the wagon and said, "I'll be damned!" A priest happened to be walking by and he said, "Son, you ought not to use words like that! When something happens, just say, 'Praise the Lord.'" So the little boy grumbled as he put the wheel back on the wagon and started on down the sidewalk. About 10 yards farther, the wheel fell off again. The little boy said, "Praise the Lord!" Suddenly, the wheel jumped up off the ground and put itself right back on the wagon. The priest saw it all and said, "I'll be damned."

We are a lot like that priest. We believe in God's miraculous, glorious power; we just don't expect it to happen to us. We know in our hearts that we need God. We need his power. We need his awesome presence. Each of us can look down the road of our lives and see some crisis awaiting us; perhaps it's a family crisis, or maybe it's a crisis with your job, or with your health, or with a loved one. We can all see the crisis and even though we know God loves us we also know that in order to stand up to the moment and face what's coming, we need to connect again with the power and presence of God.

Many years ago, our Lord Jesus had exactly that kind of moment. He went up on a mountain. Jesus took Peter, James and John and was "transfigured" before them. In other words, he showed them who he really was and is: God. Jesus is God. We don't know what God actually looks like, but we get a glimpse this weekend. He became a "dazzling white, whiter than any bleacher could make it." He knew that he was in the last weeks of his life. He could look out from the mountain toward Jerusalem and see the crisis that awaited him. He knew that in Jerusalem he would experience betrayal and denial. He would be arrested and put on trial. A crown of thorns would be thrust on his head to pierce his brow, and nails would be driven into his hands. He knew all of that, and he knew God loved him. But now in these moments on the mountain, he needed to connect again with the Father in heaven. During this Lent, we too need to connect with our Father in heaven.

Procession: During Lent there is no opening song. The servers, cross-bearer, deacon and priest will process in silence during tolling of bells. The congregation is asked to kneel (for those who are able).

Lent is a good time to get in contact with our faith. Part of that is through the Sacred Liturgy. We will chant the traditional Kyrie (Greek – Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy, Lord Have Mercy), Agnus Dei (Latin – Lamb of God) and Sanctus (Latin – Holy Holy) during the season of Lent. There is a more somber tone, dim lights, bare plants, no Gloria or Alleluia to help us enter more deeply into the sacred mysteries of our Lord.

Parish Retreat: Our parish retreat will be Saturday, March 29th through Wednesday, April 2nd. Our Lenten retreat director is Fr. Patrick Foley. Fr. Foley will preach at all Masses the weekend of March 29th and 30th. Please make every effort to attend each evening with your family. If you can only join us for an evening or two, that is great. Come whenever you can. Other than on Sunday evening, supper will be provided each evening. So you won't even have to cook that week. There is no cost for the meals or the retreat. Here are the times for the retreat.

Sunday, March 30 – 7:00 PM Presentation

Monday, March 31 – 6:00 PM Mass, 6:30 PM supper, 7:00 PM Presentation

Tuesday, April 1 – 6:00 PM Mass, 6:30 PM supper, 7:00 PM Presentation with confessions

This will be our Lenten Confession Service

All CCD students are asked to attend the Tuesday evening session.

If CCD students are not available on Tuesday, please come on Wednesday.

Wednesday, April 2 – 6:00 PM Mass, 6:30 PM supper, 7:00 PM session

Diocesan Annual Appeal: Thank you to those who already made their pledge. There is no pledge too big or too small. In order to help us make our goal, three donors will pay up to a total of \$4,500 if they are matched by new dollars received from now until the end of March. So \$50 becomes \$100, \$100 becomes \$200, \$500 becomes \$1,000 and so on up to a combined total of \$9,000 which will put us over our goal. This includes new donations as well as those who already made their pledge and wish to make an additional pledge. The match will be only for those dollars received in March. Please bring the completed form and check made out to St. Maximilian Kolbe by the end of March to the parish.

God's Blessings, Fr. Jim Trempe