

Daily Mass Homily  
30 March 2020  
Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent

**“Have mercy on me, O God, for people assail me; they fight me all day long and oppress me.”**

Reading 1: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62

Psalm 23: **Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I pray that you all had a safe and blessed weekend. I know that there are many that are anxious and worried, there are many that are lonely. There are many that are simply bored. I must say that while I have been getting things accomplished, one thing that I again missed this weekend was seeing each of the faithful who comes to mass every weekend at Sacred Heart and St. Louis Church. I remembered each of our parish families this weekend and continue to hold you all in prayer as we go into this second week of being at home. I would also ask that we say a special prayer for our families that have children that would be back in school after Spring Vacation. Many students will still be on vacation, others such as our kiddos here at Sacred Heart School, will be starting a modified learning at distance model / online learning experience. We pray that it goes well. Again, please call (503) 792-4231 or email the office [secretary@shstl.org](mailto:secretary@shstl.org) or myself [frjamesherrera@gmail.com](mailto:frjamesherrera@gmail.com) if there is anything that you need.

Have a blessed Monday!

Fr. James

### Homily for Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent

In our readings today, we encounter two powerful readings for our reflection and prayer as we are now in this Fifth Week of Lent. In a few days we will once again come to Sunday where we will encounter the Passion of our Lord

Jesus Christ. We will journey with Jesus from his arrest in the garden to ultimately his death on that lonely hilltop, Golgotha.

The first reading is from the prophet Daniel and we here the story of Susana. I would encourage us all to take some extra time today (and we know that a good number of us have lots of that right now) and read through this reading a few times. We find that a woman has been accused falsely of adultery - a crime that at this time would have ended with her death. She was innocent. He accusation came from two men who did not get what they wanted. Have you ever been accused of something unjustly? Have you ever been an accuser? Telling a lie about someone because they did not do what you wanted?

In the gospel we encounter another woman that was accused of adultery, a woman accused of being a prostitute. This time the accusations were true, unlike the accusations made against Susana, yet they still came with the same consequence, death. Another similarity is that these accusations were brought about by older men. I can imagine that these two women have prayed more than they have ever prayed in their lives. I can't even begin to imagine the fear that they must have experienced.

Both of these ladies' prayers were answered by God in a very clear way. Both ladies were rescued by just and upstanding men that give us example of how to live our lives. In the first reading, the prophet Daniel rescues Susana by leading the questioning of these men and their accusations. They had accused her of infidelity with a young man by a tree. When asked which tree, both

gave different answers, not even close. Jesus too rescues the woman caught in adultery, by again questioning those that brought the allegations against her. This time however the men did not have a word in response to give to Jesus.

Jesus is writing in the dirt. What is he writing? Their sins? The accusations or words they were going to say before they could say them? What is Jesus saying to you today in these words? Is Jesus challenging you to walk away from a particular sin that you struggle with? Are they words of consolation? Let us listen for these words and let us heed these words for they indeed lead us on the path that will set us free.

Daniel and Jesus help to set two people free today. They can also help us to be set free. Be set free!