

Daily Mass Homily
2 April 2020
Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent

“Christ is mediator of a New Covenant, so that by means of his death, those who are called may receive the promise of an eternal inheritance.”

Reading 1: Genesis 17:3-9

Psalm 105: **The Lord remembers his covenant forever.**

Gospel: John 8:51-59

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Before I begin my homily, I just wanted to touch base with you all. This weekend is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. We remember how Jesus entered the great city of Jerusalem and the people greeted him with palm leaves and sang out, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

This year our greeting to Jesus as he enters Jerusalem will be a little bit different, yet I pray our own Hosanna’s will sing out all the more loudly. It is my hope to record a reading of the passion for our parish community and have it posted to the website by this weekend. I also plan to have blessed palms available at Sacred Heart and St. Louis Parish early Saturday evening and on Sunday, so if you wish, you may stop by a pick up a palm, please try and touch only the palms you plan to take.

Be assured of my prayers as we enter into Holy Week!

Fr. James

Homily for Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent

The Collect that was prayed at Mass this morning stated, “Be near, O Lord, to those who plead before you, and look kindly on those who hope in your mercy...” We do cry out to the Lord during these days in which we have been asked to remain home and keep distances from one another, we cry out that the Lord be near to us and hear our pleads that we bring before you.

This Collect prayer is prayed at every mass, well okay, not this exact same one, but there is always a Collect at each Mass specific to the day. This prayer is prayed by the priest after he calls the people to “Let us pray,” there is a pause while every person gathered there lifts up their own prayers and the priest continues with the Collect, in a sense collecting all of our prayers and lifting them to God our Father with one voice.

During these days in which we are not able to gather together as a family around the altar of God, especially these days when we most long for the comfort that we find in attending Mass, you can find consolation knowing that your prayers are lifted up each day by your shepherd, your pastor and our Lord is hearing and answering all of the prayers that we are pleading before him this day and everyday as we lean upon the Lord our God, our only certainty in this uncertain world in which we are now living.