



# Fifth Sunday of Lent

## March 29, 2020



### ATTENTION

**All scheduled masses and events are cancelled due to the ban.  
As a Parish Family we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.  
The Church/Rectory is closed until further notice.**

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**“Lazarus, come out!” (John 11: 43)**

As we begin this last week of the Lenten journey, the liturgy presents the climax of the story of Jesus' love for others. If in the last two weeks Jesus gave water to the thirsty Samaritan woman and sight to the man who was born blind; today the Gospel of John presents us with Jesus who gives life to his friend Lazarus. He who is capable of giving us water and light is the same one who is capable of giving life and thus making each believer promoters of life in a world that promotes death.

The prophet Ezekiel has a radical vision of what the future of Israel will be: God will open the graves, revive the dead and return them to the land from which they were taken. Jesus, the Prophet among the prophets, updates this vision since with only his word he opens the tomb, resurrects Lazarus and returns him for the comfort of his sisters. Paul, for his part, assures us that we possess the same Spirit of Christ and that our mortal bodies will rise for life.

We could say that the entire Gospel of John presents God who manifests himself even in the most difficult and tragic situations. We already know from the Word of God that neither our physical limitations nor death are obstacles to feel the saving touch of God. In Jesus' time blindness, like most illnesses, was a direct consequence of sin. The Pharisees wondered if the sin was of the parents or of the blind man himself. Jesus emphatically says NO but it is so that the power of God by which he is healed is manifested. After the sudden death of his friend Lazarus, some of his neighbors accuse Jesus of having done nothing to prevent it. But to those Jesus responds that both the illness of Lazarus and his death is so that "the glory of God to be manifested" (John 11: 4). Just as blindness was not the end of the life of the man born blind, the death of Lazarus is not his end but the two facts serve to manifestation of God's glory. Today the challenge is to let God manifest his glory in the situations we face every day. If we share Jesus' Spirit, the challenge is to bring hope, light, life and comfort to those who struggle in life or live in the shadows of death. On the other hand, it is good to know that there are people who, faithful to their baptism, are able to share what they have with those who are marginalized by the law or even the rejection of today's society.

We cannot deny that in this world there is nothing more powerful than death. It is the very condition of material existence. One of the German thinkers will say that "we are born to die." Be it a plant or an animal; young or old, death comes to everyone and it's final. There is no way back. However, this materialistic view of life is refuted by today's readings that assure us that God has ultimate power over death.

Our consolation as believers is that God will open our graves and raise us forever. Therefore, let us not despair before death, since if we possess the same Spirit, even death will be defeated. Let's think about those people who have had resurrection experiences, not those that the movies with blond angels and round clouds present to us but in those experiences of some of our brothers and sisters who have been able to leave behind alcoholism, addiction and/or despair. Perhaps one of us who has come back to life can give us the formula to leave death. Let us ask Jesus to give us the strength of his Spirit so that in this week we are preparing ourselves to remember his Passion so that we are able to lead life, open the graves and give hope to those who still walk in the shadow of death.

**Fr. Hernán, S.J.**

### Weekly Memorials

**Bread & Wine  
Tabernacle Candle  
Memorial Candle  
Memorial Candle**



**~ For the People of  
our Parish Community**  
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## SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page ([www.olmcsi.org](http://www.olmcsi.org)). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

### **March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Ezekiel 37:12-14  
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8  
Romans 8:8-11

### **April 5: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11



### **MASSES CANCELED IN ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK**

In light of the continued concern surrounding the coronavirus, and the advice of medical experts, all Masses in the Archdiocese of New York have been canceled.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, urged the faithful to remember in their prayers all those whose lives have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. "Let us pray for all who are sick, as well as doctors, nurses, caregivers, and all those working hard to combat the disease. We should also remember those whose lives have been otherwise disrupted, especially anyone who has lost income from a loss of work during this difficult time."

"We need to rediscover the concreteness of small things, the small acts of kindness shown to those who are close to us, family, friends. We need to realize that our treasure lies in small things. There are tiny gestures that sometimes get lost in the routine of everyday life, gestures of tenderness, affection, compassion, that are nevertheless decisive, important", he says. The Pope gives the examples of sharing "a hot plate of food, a caress, a hug, a phone call... These are familiar, attentive gestures regarding everyday details that make life meaningful, and create communion and communication amongst us". (Pope Francis offers advice about how to face the daily challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic)

### **CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK**

**Father Hernán and Father Luis Mario are offering virtual Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament through our Facebook page.**

**Connect and follow us to see these transmissions in your homes. FaceBook Page: Olmc Si Masses on Sundays; 10:00 am (English); 11:30 am (Spanish)  
Masses from Monday to Friday; 12:00 pm (Spanish)  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; daily at 7:00 pm (Spanish)**

**YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT** – How can you continue supporting your parish? **1)** You may mail us your weekly contribution envelopes. **2)** You may drop off your weekly contribution envelopes. **3)** Register for online giving. The financial stress of no collections will put the physical and staffing needs of the parish in **SERIOUS JEOPARDY**. We are all together in this crisis, and our family of faith that we call the Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St. Benedicta – St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, has always been and will continue to be with you through this. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you in these trying times.

**REGISTER for ONLINE GIVING** - ParishPay.com/WeShare allows parishes to receive online gifts and give their parishioners a safe and easy way to do so. You are able to set up recurring donations and manage your online giving accounts. If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Customer service number 1-800-950-9952.

1. Visit <http://www.paritypay.com> and register for a new account.
2. Click on the collection you wish to donate to.
3. Click Recurring Donation, then enter your donation amount and frequency.

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

**CANCELED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE** – OLMC School, Religious Education classes, Stations of the Cross, Weekly Lenten Series, Bible Study, RCIA classes, Youth Choir Rehearsals, Parish Retreats and any Parish meetings.

**If you had a mass scheduled or offered the Bread and Wine or Sanctuary Candle for a loved one, for this week or the upcoming weeks, please call the rectory to reschedule to a later date. We apologize for the inconvenience.**

**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** - It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

### **PRAYER FOR SPRITUAL COMMUNION**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
Come at least spiritually into my heart.**