



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

I CONSIDER EVERYTHING AS A LOSS BECAUSE OF THE SUPREME GOOD OF KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD.

—PHILIPPIANS 3:8

MARCH 17, 2013

FORGIVEN

Today's liturgy continues the message of forgiveness and reconciliation that we heard last week. The Church seems to be doing its utmost to deliver one simple message: "Your sins are forgiven!" What good news this is!

Isaiah declares that God's saving action on our behalf is not something trapped in the past, but here and now. Paul urges us to recognize that true life is not "won" by following laws, however strictly, but is a free gift of God. Thus, our focus must be on the future, not on past misdeeds. Our eyes must be on the prize of life forever with God.

In the Gospel, Jesus is challenged to demonstrate that he is a law-keeper, but he knows that this is a trap. If he counsels mercy, he will be declared an opponent of the law. If he follows the law and condones its punishment, he will be denounced as a inciter to murder. Jesus decides to do neither. Instead, he turns the tables and invites the crowd to forgo "legality" for the sake of forgiveness and reconciliation.

WHY ARE THE CROSSES COVERED?

Veiling Crosses and Images during the last two weeks of Lent

In the Ordo (Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist 2013 ruling the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and Dioceses of Fresno, Monterrey, Orange in California, San Bernardino and San Diego), it says "in the diocese of United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday (Fifty Sunday of Lent) may be observed."

The first Preface of the Passion is used during the fifth week of Lent, marking the beginning of the last phase of Lent, traditionally known as Passiontide. The custom of veiling crosses and images in these last two weeks of Lent has much to commend it in terms of religious psychology, because it helps us to concentrate on the great essential of Christ's work of redemption.

Crosses and images are veiled before the vigil Mass of the fifth Sunday in Lent.

Crosses are unveiled after the Good Friday liturgy. All other images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil begins.

YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY... REFLECTION ON THE SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS (PART VI)

Please take time this week to meditate on the 'word' of Jesus (below). You are encouraged to compare your personal experiences with those of Jesus and to utilize the question as a guide to enter his experience. You may share your thoughts with others next Sunday at 10:00a.m. in the rectory.

"ABBA, LOVING GOD, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Luke 23:44-46

Being able to "let go" and "let God" is the practice of the great mystics.

Do I pray for this gift at times of trouble?

There are certain areas of my life-work, relationships, finances where I struggle. Am I able to keep fear and anger at bay?

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

This past Tuesday we lost a dear member of our parish staff, **Mrs. Linda Dudek**. Linda had worked in our parish office since 2005. She would arrive every Monday, always smiling, ready to take on the day's duties.

In January, Linda was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Her fondest wish was to see her daughter Julie walk down the aisle as a bride come this April. As Linda's health quickly deteriorated, her sweet daughter Julie, along with her son David and her husband of 40+ years, John, planned a lovely, intimate wedding ceremony which took place at their home last Saturday afternoon. The family felt very blessed to have Linda present as Julie and Andrew exchanged marriage vows. Linda watched the newlyweds dance and even enjoyed some wedding cake. We will miss her.

On this St. Patrick's Day, we pray:

*"May you be as free as the wind, as soft as the sheep's wool,
as straight as an arrow,
that you may journey into the heart of God."*