

March 18, 2018

From the Desk of Fr. Jim . . .



Lenten Reflection: We are only one week away from Holy Week. Let us continue to pray for those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The Third Scrutiny is celebrated with them today. They reflect on their lives and their call to faith in light of the great Gospel of the Raising of Lazarus from the Dead. “If only you had been here, Lord, then our brother would not have died.” Where would we be today, right now, without the Lord in our lives? How can we live in this world without faith? How does faith assist us on the journey through this world to the next one? Can you see your faith growing or what invitations have you received from the Lord to grow in faith in this Lenten time?

In parishes where the Rite of Scrutiny is not being celebrated, the Cycle B readings are used. The gospel states that “The man, who loves his life, loses it while the man who hates his life in this world preserves it to life eternal.” How is a less selfish life the better life worth living? What needs to die yet within me in order to produce fruit for the kingdom of God? In the Gospel, Jesus talks about the kind of death that he is going to die. How are your prayer, fasting, and acts of charity of Lent announcing that you are dying to yourself? With a life of selflessness, can you begin to see the glory of the resurrection and Easter?

Whether the Cycle A readings or the Cycle B readings are read today, we, who are preparing to renew our baptismal promises at Easter, journey with those who are coming into God’s church and together we examine our lives in the light of the Scriptures for Lent. Whether we will be baptized soon, recently baptized or baptized for a long time, conversion is a continual and lie-long process. As we learn to reject evil, grow in our relationship with the Lord, accept mercy and forgiveness, love God and neighbor with all of our heart, mind and strength, we die with the Lord only to live with the Lord now and forever.

Our Lady of Visitation Parish is having a Parish Reconciliation Service, Tuesday, March 20, 7pm. St. Leo’s is invited to attend. Ben, our seminarian intern will be preaching and I will be one of several confessors.