

March 4, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .



The Scrutinies: This Sunday and the next two Sundays of Lent – Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Church celebrates the Rite of Scrutiny with those who were elected to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. We are blessed to have about ten people from St. Leo's who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation this year at the Easter Vigil. We are unable to celebrate the actual ritual of the Scrutinies with them here at St. Leo's but I offer the following explanation for reflection as they prepare to be received into the church and as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at the Easter liturgy.

The Scrutinies are based on the Gospels of the Woman at the Well, the Man Born Blind and the Raising of Lazarus from the Dead. This week, we examine or scrutinize our lives under the Gospel and Good News of the story of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at Jacob's well. As a crucial part of her conversion, Jesus helped the woman see the truth about herself and her need for living water as well as her need for the physical water that she was drawing from the well for herself and her family. She realized her internal thirst and her need to believe in Jesus and she leaves him and goes forth to tell others about him.

What light does this Gospel shed upon our own lives? Can we see the truth about our sinful selves? Do we need to ask Jesus to lovingly show us this side to ourselves? Can we ask for his help in accepting the truth about ourselves and then drink from the fountain of his unconditional love, grace, and abundant mercy? What changes can we make to show that we are drinking more of Living Water? Who can we tell and encourage to be drinking from the cup of Living Water? How can we share and live our faith more at home, in our parish, in the greater Church and in the world?

Let us continue to pray for each other as we journey together with the Lord through the desert, up the mountain of transfiguration, down the mountain, to the cross, into the tomb and lifted up to eternal glory.