

March 29, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .



About this Sunday's Gospel:

This is a powerful gospel story that helps us examine our lives in order to stay in step with the movement of grace and conversion. It offers us assistance as we try to live more in the image of Christ and allow our Lenten observances to help us "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

What moves you the most about this wonderful story? There is so much that invites each of us to ongoing conversion. Some of my favorites are:

"Lazarus, come out!" Can you hear the Lord calling you to come out from a tomb or a dark place in your life that has the power to either take life away from you or deny life from you altogether? Where might you be dead and how does the Lord want to turn this around by calling you to freedom and life? Addictions, bad behavior, selfishness?

"Untie him and let him go." From what is the call to live more with grace and God's unconditional love untying you and setting you free? As the season of Lent comes to a close, how have you turned away from sin and become more faithful to the Lord? Do forgiveness or offering and receiving mercy help? Does living more faithfully with any of the virtues or gifts of the Spirit help? Does giving thanks for second chances help? Does praising God for God's presence and love help?

"I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?" Are you getting ready to renew your baptismal promises at Easter? Can you say, with Martha, that you really believe that Christ is the Son of God? Are you willing to live more as an Easter people with Alleluia as your song? Does participating in the Eucharist fully and completely, believing in the real presence of Christ and living in the image of Christ, as the Body of Christ in the world, help? How is your faith increasing and growing? How can you give better witness and respond more with your life – all of your soul, mind and strength?

An Official Announcement: Effective July 1, 2020, Archbishop Schnurr with the recommendation of the Priest's Personnel Board has appointed me Pastor of St. Boniface Church in Northside while continuing as Pastor of St. Leo the Great Church. The former pastor of St. Boniface, Fr. Joe Robinson, has retired. Interestingly I served as Fr Joe's Associate Pastor from 1983 to 1986 when Fr. Joe was pastor at St. Columban in Loveland. St. Boniface is a neighbor to us here at St. Leo and I am happy to help them as Pastor while continuing to remain at St. Leo as Pastor.

Some of our children attend St. Boniface School. Also, effective July 1, 2020, Mrs. Angela Heisel will be the new principal. I have met her, and she is very excited to be the principal and I believe she will be a wonderful addition to the St. Boniface parish family.

Please stay safe and healthy. Let us keep praying for each other during these days.