

For The Bulletin Of  
March 15, 2015

## **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – “*Laetare*”**

### ***From Father Robert***

Being a defendant at a trial is no fun. Whether the crime is heinous like rape/murder or not so serious, like pickpocketing, the verdict is always anticipated with a greater or lesser amount of dread. The defendant's life and future are in the hands of those who make a judgment about the evidence. The defendant is no longer in control. The defendant is at the mercy of others.

There are two parts to the gospel we hear today, separated by the line “And this is the verdict.” The first part concerns the evidence: God “gave His only Son” in Whom we choose to believe or not. The second part gives the judgment: those are saved who believe in Jesus, live the truth, and come to the light. Those are condemned who do not believe in Jesus, prefer the darkness, and do “wicked things.” Our whole life is working out our own verdict. Thank God we are at the mercy of a gracious and forgiving God!

Jesus says clearly that believing “in the name of the only Son of God” is necessary if we are not to “be condemned” but be saved. What is this believing? Jesus makes this clear, as well: believing is coming “to the light” by living the truth. The light is the Jesus Who was “lifted up.” The words “believe” and “light” occur five times each in this gospel and the two words are not unrelated. The Light (Christ) enables us to see; in John's gospel,

seeing is believing. Our coming to the light to see and believe is expressed in “works...done in God.” God's work is this: to die to self so that we can be raised to new life. God demonstrates great love for us by giving the Son to be lifted up on the cross and then raised to eternal Life and glory. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing the work of God – dying and rising, conforming ourselves so completely to Christ that we cooperate in His every work of salvation. We need not fear the verdict of God's judgment at the end of our lives if we daily work at increasing the depth of our believing and conforming ourselves to Christ by living in His light.

### ***Living The Paschal Mystery***

The faith/belief mentioned in both the second reading and the gospel allude to our self-surrender at baptism which begins a life lived as followers of Christ. Even more: at baptism, we are plunged into Christ' death so that we might rise to new life with Him. This dying and rising mystery is the paschal mystery. Through it we are joined to Christ in His work of salvation.

The paradox of the paschal mystery is that what we abhor – the cross – becomes the instrument of redemption. God saves the Israelites from death but in the paschal mystery we must embrace Death, for the only way to eternal Life is by dying to ourselves, by allowing ourselves to be lifted up like Christ. Our good works (reaching out to others, doing our daily tasks with love and care, acting justly and charitably), then, are our way of being “lifted up.” This is how we are crucified, so that we might live.

This gospel, coming in the middle of Lent (this is traditionally called “*Laetare*” Sunday), is a reminder of what Lent is truly about and what our whole Christian living is about. There are only three weeks of Lent remaining. Now is the time to renew our resolve to embrace dying to self so that we might truly rise with Christ in joy and Life on Easter.

As we come to the midpoint of Lent, how has this Lent been different from Lent in the past? Has this Lent made any difference in your life? In your faith? In your relationship with Christ? With others?

- I am prone to “prefer darkness” when...Who and what lead me back to the Light are...
- I come to deeper belief in Jesus through...I help others come to believe in Jesus by...
- Right now, the verdict on my life is...

***About Liturgy: The Best Way to Prepare for the Liturgy***

Because Scripture and the Lectionary are open to many interpretations, it is especially important that we reflect on the Scriptures before we come to Sunday so we can be ready to hear God’s word with all its depth and richness. The best preparation for the Liturgy of the Word is to read the Sunday Scriptures – especially the gospel – early during the week before and then to see how God’s word begins to play itself out in our daily living. Let that word challenge us to live differently. Let that word invite us to new understanding. Let that word encourage us to die to ourselves every day so that we might more perfectly live the truth that only comes from God’s light.

There is no substitution for preparing well for liturgy and the best preparation is by the way we live. A wonderful celebration of liturgy will be greatly aided by preparing well to hear the word on Sunday and by the kind of Christian living which evidences that we are consciously trying to live God’s word in our everyday lives. This is when liturgy comes alive and is, indeed, a true celebration.

***“Laetare” Sunday***

Traditionally, this Fourth Sunday of Lent marks a joyful relief amidst the seriousness and somberness of the many weeks of preparation for Easter. Today is called “*Laetare*” Sunday, a name that comes from the Entrance Antiphon for today’s liturgy. Antique Rose colored vestments are worn and the Altar and Ambo are ornamented with flowers in the colors of the season and day. With today’s liturgy, we have reached the midpoint of our Lenten journey.

***About Liturgical Music: Typology and Psalm 137***

In biblical times it was common practice to hang Aeolian type harps on trees so that the wind could play them. Moreover, because prophetic trances were sometimes induced by playing on “lyres, tambourines, flutes, and harps,” to “hang up the harp” was also a metaphor for the cessation of prophecy. Harps and prophecy were both associated with David, whom Scripture celebrates as a harpist and later Jewish tradition considers a prophet. In Christian typology, Jesus is not only the Star of David and from the House of David, He is also referred to as the “harp of David.” Thus, to hang the harp (Jesus) on the tree (cross) becomes a typology for the crucifixion. In its three

year cycle, the Lectionary uses Psalm 137 as the responsorial psalm only on this Sunday. Knowing the ancient typology associated with the harp adds to our appreciation of its meaning on this day.

***Deanery Communal Penance Liturgies Begin This Week***

There are two opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance this week.

**The first** is on Wednesday evening at St. Anne Parish, Byron, at 7:00 p.m.

**The second** is on Thursday evening here at St. Ignatius of Antioch, at 7:30 p.m. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance in the context of Sung Evening Prayer.

At each liturgy, the priests of the Deanery will be present to assist with the reception of the Sacrament.

***Chrism Mass***

You are invited to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. This is the liturgy at which the Oils for the coming year are blessed and consecrated. Representatives from each parish in the Diocese bring the Oil vessels to the cathedral from their respective parishes and then return them when the liturgy is over. This is also the liturgy at which the clergy of the Diocese renew their Priestly Commitment.

***Palm Sunday Preparation***

You are invited to take part in one of the wonderful traditions of Holy Week here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. On Saturday morning, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, we will cut, wash, dry, and bundle the palm branches that will be blessed

and distributed at each of our liturgies. This is a great way to meet new parishioners as well as to help in the preparation of our Palm Sunday liturgies. Please bring gloves and scissors.

***Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord***

March 29<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Please note that our schedule for this Sunday as well as Easter is being changed. The times of our liturgies are as follows: Saturday Vigil, 5:00 p.m., March 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!** Parking lot security will be provided by our Knights of Columbus to meet the needs of the greater crowds on both of these days.

***Holy Week***

There is no week that is more holy to us as Christians than Holy Week. I hope you will make every effort to be with us for most, if not all, of the liturgies that are celebrated. These are our “high holy days.” Our schedule is as follows:

Monday of Holy Week, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion, 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.

***The Great Paschal Triduum***

**Holy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:30 p.m. (*Procession,*

*Presentation of the Holy Oils,  
Liturgy of the Word, Washing of  
Feet, Holy Eucharist, Candlelight  
Procession to the Altar of Repose,  
Adoration until 10:00 p.m.*

**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Service, “The Seven  
Last Words,” 12:00 Noon

The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s  
Passion and Death, 3:00 p.m.  
*(Liturgy of the Word, Veneration  
of the Cross, Holy Communion)*

Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m. *(A service of  
scripture passages, music, and  
Veneration of the Cross)*

**Holy Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

**The Great Paschal Vigil,  
7:30 p.m.** *(Lighting of the New  
Fire, Candlelight Procession,  
Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of  
Initiation, Renewal of Baptismal  
Promises, Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy  
of the Eucharist; Reception for the  
Newly-initiated in the parish hall  
following the liturgy)* This service  
is not recommended for infants  
and small children as it lasts  
approximately three hours.

**Easter Day, The Feast of the  
Resurrection of the Lord,  
April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Festive Choral Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.  
*(Procession, Liturgy of the Word,  
Renewal of Baptismal Promises,  
Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy of the  
Eucharist)*

Festive Choral Eucharist,  
**10:30 a.m.** *(Procession, Liturgy of  
the Word, Renewal of Baptismal  
Promises, Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy  
of the Eucharist; Parish Choir,  
Cantors, Organ; **Please note the  
change in the time of the liturgy)***

Because there are so many parishioners  
and guests who have both allergies and  
asthma, incense will not be used at any  
of our liturgies.

Parking lot security will be provided by  
our Knights of Columbus. Please  
observe their directions and let them  
know how grateful you are for their  
presence.

***The Easter Environment***  
Each year the members of our parish are  
invited to help create the environment  
for the Easter Season. Your  
contributions provide all that is  
necessary for the environment to say  
“Easter” for the entire 7 week season.  
Gifts may be made either in honor of or  
in loving memory of a family member or  
friend. Please mark your contribution  
envelope accordingly as all contributions  
will be acknowledged in the bulletins of  
the Easter Season. Thank you.

### ***Thank You***

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who arrive very early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church, the parish hall, and bathrooms for the weekend and the coming week: **Reno and Thelma Benasfre, “Jun” Bajet, Mency Osborne, Emilia Freking, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...and to our bathroom cleaners: **Gino Ramos, Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, and Harlan Young.**

### ***New Lector Coordinators***

For the past six years, we have been blessed to have **Corinne** as our Lector Coordinator who has ably recruited, trained, scheduled, and supported all of our Lectors. As a young wife and mother, her life is such that she needs to spend more time at home as well as attending to her Law practice. She has asked for some time for someone else to take a turn in overseeing this wonderful ministry of proclamation.

I am very happy to announce to you that **Steve and Frances Rojek** have graciously come forward to be the next Lector Coordinators. I hope you will take the time to warmly welcome them to their new ministry and responsibility and at the same time to thank Corinne for all she has done to bring this ministry to its current standard of excellence.

### ***Deanery News***

This past Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, all of the Pastoral Staffs met together at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Brentwood. Twice a year, the clergy and staffs come together to get to know one another better and to discuss how our parishes can collaborate. After a brief report on the newly-established

Deanery Pastoral Planning Process, all those in attendance broke into various interest groups: Administration, Clergy, Finance, Facilities Maintenance, and Faith Formation. Following the break-out groups, lunch was served by the staff of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

### ***Pastoral Council***

The Pastoral Council meets regularly on the Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. At this past Tuesday's meeting, the meeting opened with prayer, followed by the reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting in February. There being no corrections, the Minutes were approved. The Agenda consisted of a presentation by Theresa Nelms, Chair of the Finance Council, to acquaint the Pastoral Council with their work of overseeing the collections, accounting, banking, budgetary concerns, and making sure that our expenses are kept in line with our Income. The Finance Council meets regularly on the Third Tuesday of each month in the Parish Office at 7:30 p.m. Following her presentation, I updated the Councilors on the State of the Parish and its activities, especially the work that has been done to prepare for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter. A review was done of the New Members Reception and Brunch which was held this past Sunday. This was followed by a discussion of the need for volunteers to help with the Mountain View Shelter meals, the status of the Leadership Photo Board that is going to be installed in the portico, and finally Open Discussion of topics of the Councilors choice. The meeting was adjourned after the Closing Prayer at 9:00 p.m. with time for refreshments. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

