

**For The Bulletin Of
March 3, 2019**



**THE EIGHT AND LAST
SUNDAY IN WINTER'S
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

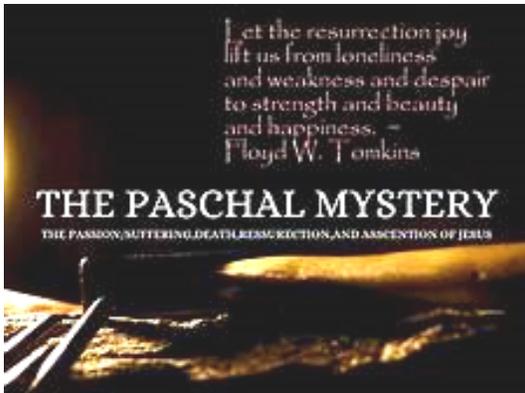
We all have words to live by. Maybe they were told to us by parents or grandparents, or perhaps a teacher or a relative. But we can all recall maxims by which we live. Today's gospel gives us life lessons or words to live by. In fact, if read in isolation, this reading is broader than Christianity. I could readily be accepted by non-Christians as well. And such is often the case with life lessons. They are not limited to one religious or denominational outlook.

The life lessons Jesus teaches in the gospel are akin to homespun wisdom rooted in daily life and experience. When we say a prophet at work is being performed like "the blind leading the blind," we are echoing Jesus' teaching. Though we mean no disrespect to the blind, the metaphor is easily grasped and understood.

And how often have we experienced the nitpicking nag who quickly points out the fault in others while conveniently

overlooking his or her own. Jesus' warning about noticing the splinter in another's eye while neglecting the wooden beam in our own captures that sentiment well. Even so, Jesus is more adamant about us removing the beam from our own eye than simply not noticing the splinter in another.

The concluding bit of wisdom is based on lived experience as well. Just as a good tree does not produce bad fruit, so it is with people. "By their fruits you shall know them" is another way to sum this up; "actions speak louder than words" is another. If a person is performing good works, it's likely they are a good person. On the other hand, if a person performs only selfish acts, that, too, is a window into their soul, for as Jesus puts it, "From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." Here the basis on one's fundamental goodness is not whether they believe in Jesus, or even God. It's not whether they go to church or synagogue. And given the time this was written, it's certainly not about praying the rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or attending First Fridays or Exposition/Adoration. Instead, a person's heart is ultimately known by their words and actions. And actions speak louder than words. These are words to live by.



Living The Paschal Mystery

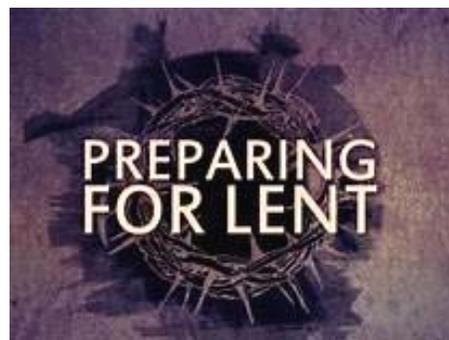
Churchy people can often and easily be caught up in church things. What colors are displaying for the season? What song is most appropriate at this time? What is the second reading and how does it connect to the first? But today we are reminded by Jesus that there are many things broader and perhaps more important than church or even religious identity. We are told not to be hypocritical, finding fault in others while overlooking our own. We are reminded to consider how one acts as an indication of that one's character.

Jesus' teaching and preaching was fundamental to His ministry. He was considered a sage and a prophet. His understanding of human beings moved the crowds to whom He spoke and taught. His insight into how we behave versus how we ought to behave, encapsulated in pithy and memorable sayings was profound. And certainly after His death and resurrection His teaching carried new meaning. In light of His undergoing the paschal mystery, He is the Son of God raised to new life. His words are more than homespun wisdom. They are Light and Life.

* The first reading from the Old Testament, the Book of Sirach warns, "The test of a person is in conversation."

What do your own patterns and habits of speech reveal about you and about "the bent" of your heart?

- St. Paul urges us to "be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord." Where is God calling you to be steadfast at this time?
- In the gospel we hear "Every tree is known by its own fruit." In what areas of your life are good fruits being born? Where is your life less fruitful?
- Sometimes we are most distressed by the faults of others that we also notice subconsciously in ourselves. Where have you become preoccupied with a "splinter in your brother's/sister's eye"? What might this preoccupation tell you about "the wooden beam in your own eye"?

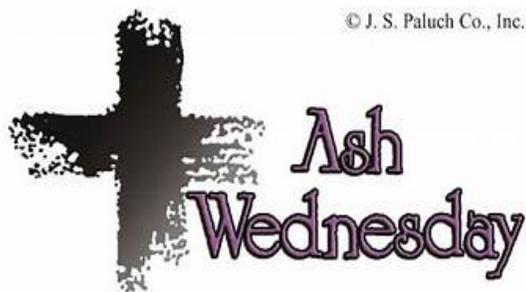


You are invited to join the members of the Art & Environment Committee in preparing the environment for the Lenten Season. We will gather this coming Tuesday, March 5th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., following the morning Liturgy. Please bring ironing boards, irons, energy, enthusiasm, and big smiles! We take a "union break" around 10:30 a.m. for coffee and pastries,

and if our work is not finished by noontime, we also have lunch together. This is a wonderful way to deepen your liturgical spirituality and begin your own personal preparation for Lent.



Thank you to all those who remembered to return your dried palm fronds in preparation for Ash Wednesday. The dried palms will be burned in the fire sculpture this coming Tuesday morning, Shrove Tuesday, following the Morning Liturgy and then ground to become the ashes with which we will be marked at each of our liturgies on Ash Wednesday. If you did not remember to bring your dried palms today, please bring them before Tuesday morning and place them in the box provided in the narthex.



Ash Wednesday and The Beginning of Lent

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6th. Our schedule of liturgies is as follows:

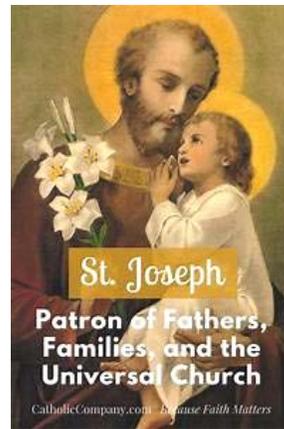
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

12:00 Noon Liturgy of the Word and Imposition of Ashes

5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word and Imposition of Ashes

7:30 p.m. Sung Evening Prayer and Imposition of Ashes

The Ash Wednesday Collection has once again been designated for the support of our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr, Pittsburg. Ash Wednesday is also a **Day of Fast and Abstinence**, meaning that anyone between the ages of 13 and 59 is obligated to take only one full meal, to abstain from meat and meat by-products, and to take only two lesser meals not equivalent to a full meal. Those over the age of 59 are not obliged to fast but are obliged to abstain from meat.



We are once again combining our celebration of St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day with a festive dinner on Saturday evening, March 16, 2019,

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza (Lead), Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Kathy Augusta, Vince Augusta and Sherry Webb.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keeps watch over our vehicles during the weekend Liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Tony Gumina.**



Beginning Friday, March 8th, and continuing each Friday until April 12th, our Knights of Columbus will once again sponsor their Annual Lenten Friday Fish Fry. There is no where else where you can have such a delicious fish dinner on a Lenten Friday evening! And, you can't beat the price! Not to mention being able to play **BINGO** with none other than one of the most entertaining Bingo-callers around!

The proceeds benefit the parish and this is one of the Knights major fundraisers on behalf of the parish. Come out and support the Knights, have a great dinner with family and friends, and support the parish.

