



Lent - Scrutinies (2)

A continuation of last week's column which spoke about Lent being a time to get closer to Jesus and the Scrutinies..

Most of us can readily understand the disappointment of Martha and Mary when Jesus, who was their close friend, failed to show up at the sick bed & burial of their brother, Lazarus. Martha was annoyed at his absence and her reproach was straight from the heart when she said, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of Mary in tears, Jesus was troubled and wept. Jesus consoled the sisters then proceeded to their brother's grave, and gave orders for the stone covering the entrance to be rolled back. To their utter astonishment, he commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb and they embraced him. Jesus' power over life and death was absolute.

This miracle is not just about Jesus performing the impossible by bringing a man back to physical life. The real focus is on belief. It is a "sign" of God's promise to raise up all who have died in Christ to everlasting life.

This morning, the Lord is standing at the door of our hearts seeking an entrance and waiting for us to roll back those boulders which have kept us locked up in a shadowy existence. The good news is that he sets free those who are bound by sin and can bring back people to life no matter how long they have been dead to the gifts of the spirit. He is calling us to face the shadows, to come into the sunshine and walk refreshed in the fullness of life.

The scripture readings for the three scrutiny rites have been well chosen by the church and are designed to help the Elect discern God's presence in their lives. Acknowledging and being aware of God's presence in one's life helps to reveal certain attitudes and lifestyles that are contrary to a relationship with God. The readings are from Cycle "A" and are from the Gospel of John. The first is the theme of "living water" — the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5-42). The second is the theme of "light and seeing as God sees" — the man born blind (John 9:1-41) and the third theme of "resurrection and new life" — the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45). Reflecting on the stories of the three scripture passages and their themes bring to light the baptismal themes of water, light and new life of the sacrament of Baptism in a special way.

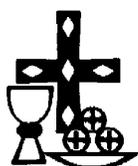
In the story of the Samaritan woman, Jesus is faced with racial, cultural and social barriers, which He overcomes and offers the woman a new way of life. Jesus engages her and leads her from the physical realm to the spiritual. She responds with, openness and trust and becomes a disciple. She asks and receives the gift of "living water", grace, which helps her to transform her life. The gift of salvation is for everyone; it is universal and transcends racial, cultural and social barriers.

The man born blind is an outcast of society and shunned by the people around him. The disciples and the people see the blindness as a plight caused by sin. Jesus however has compassion and heals him of his blindness. We see the blind man growing spiritually as his sight is restored. First, he views Jesus as a "man," then as a "prophet," and finally comes to worship Jesus as the "Son of Man" - the savior of the world. The others however, never recognize the truth about Jesus and were therefore spiritually blind.

From the raising of Lazarus we learn to see death from God's perspective. Death is not the end. Christ has power over life and death. Jesus states, "I am the resurrection and the life." To know and believe in Jesus is to have eternal life. Lazarus is raised from the dead as a sign of God's presence. We also have Martha's remarkable demonstration of faith, a great example for all who believe. In Christ's resurrection, the possibility of new and transformed life is available to all of us.

Praying the Scrutinies is a special time for all of us. They give us an opportunity to grow in faith and love of God and to join in prayer with the Elect as we journey together towards Easter Sunday, the Resurrection.

Antoinette



Mass Intentions

Monday	Soul of Julia Jacob
Tuesday	Soul of Steven Huta Soul of Cris Quiquero Soul of Mimi Karampatos Soul of Dr. Avita D'Sa Intention of Susan Hannan
Wednesday	Souls of Set Byul Park & Simon Song
Thursday	Intention of Martino Lee
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
April 14th – April 21st

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 13th **5:00 pm**
Sunday, April 14th^h **8:45, 10:30, 12:15**

Mass of Our Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 18th **7:30 pm** *Washing of the Feet,
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:30 pm*

Good Friday

Friday, April 19th **10:30 am** *Children's Way of the
Cross*
3:00 pm *Liturgy of the Passion of
Our Lord*

Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 20th **8:00 pm** *Easter Vigil Mass
(Baptism, 1st Communion & Confirmation of adult
candidates)*

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 21st **8:45, 10:30, &12:15**

York Catholic District School Board

On Tuesday, May 7, 2019, the York Catholic District School Board will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a special Mass and gala banquet. Mass will take place at 4 p.m. at St. David's Church in Maple and will be celebrated by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins. The gala will then begin at 6 p.m. at the Terrace Banquet Centre in Concord. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.ycdsb.ca/50.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us Friday, April 12th at 7:30 pm, as our Youth Ministry lead us in praying the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome.

SL ShareLife

*Helping the whole community
through Catholic agencies*

2019 PARISH GOAL - \$147,000.00

Collection to date - \$30,086.00

**Thank you for continuing to support
ShareLife**

THORNHILL MINISTERIAL

LENTEN SERIES 2019



Answering God's Call to: SACRIFICE

Sunday April 7th at 4:00 pm

St. Luke's Parish

39 Green Lane

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Heather Vais

(Offering to: Out of the Cold)



MARTYRS' SHRINE LENTEN

RETREAT

Journey with the Canadian Martyrs'

St. Luke's Parish

April 9, 10 and 11th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Fr. Ahil Raj

Let the lives of the Martyrs' deepen your relationship with Christ as we journey with them during this Lenten season.

Fr. Ahil will hear confessions each evening from

6:00 – 6:45pm

Light refreshments follow in the parish hall each evening.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!