

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Building Faith@HOME

1st Reading: Jer 31:31-34
Responsorial Psalm: 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

Let's set the stage for this reading. When reading all of John, we find the miracles revealed to us, such as turning water into wine (2:1-12), curing of the lame (5:1-16), multiplication of the loaves (6:1-15), curing of the blind (9:1-41), and the raising of Lazarus (11:1-44). His miracles were gaining much popularity! Now we come to today's reading, which occurs right after the triumphant welcome into Jerusalem as the crowds shout and proclaim Jesus as King and Messiah (12:12-19). At the same time, there were others who were growing angry and feeling threatened by his teachings. Jesus comes here to celebrate the Passover as were many others from distant places. Philip is asked by some Greeks to see Jesus, "Sir we would like to see Jesus." We don't know why, whether it is of curiosity, friendly tourists or Greek teachers, but we can only imagine that Philip and Andrew, after experiencing the excitement of entering Jerusalem, were excited to tell Jesus of these visitors who wanted to see him. Jesus, however, did not answer with an expected excitement, but rather began his discourse foretelling his death and resurrection, using the analogy of the grain of wheat. It is a reminder to Philip, Andrew and each of us, that "seeing" Jesus through the miracles is amazing, but there is so much more that Jesus offers through his dying and rising to new life. This will lead us into next week's scripture of the Passion which we will hear from the Gospel of Mark.

Missionary Discipleship Have you ever heard the phrase, "Let go and let God?" Letting go doesn't just mean to walk away from. Instead, letting go is what allows us to be more authentically present to ourselves and another. It makes room for new life and new ways of being present to arise. Our letting go gives God something with which to work. It is letting the grain of wheat die, so it can produce. As you journey this week in Lent, let your prayer ask, What in your life do you need to let go of today? What might you need to leave behind? What needs to die so that something new can arise?

Family Table Talk

Children: Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

Youth: The Gospel makes it clear that those who put Jesus first gain eternal life. Is it easy or hard to put Jesus first? Why or why not?

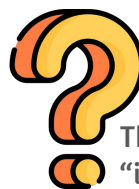
Adults: How are you called to "lose your life" in order to follow Jesus? What sacrifices does this require of you to make?

Pray - Pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith today.

Fast - Fast from plastic bottled water.

Give - Donate bottle and can refunds to charity or your parish.

What does "Amen" mean?



Jesus many times begins his statements with "Amen, amen, I say to you...." What does this mean? The word "Amen" means "so be it" or "it is so." YES, I believe!

How many times do you say, "Amen" during Mass? As you say "Amen", remember what it means.



Friday March 22

"Water for Peace"

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

Access to water is a human right. Yet, 2.2 billion live without safely managed drinking water services, with devastating impacts for their lives and wider society.



MARCH 19 ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

Catholic Kids Media Lent Week 5 Cycle B



bit.ly/Lent-Week5-B



LENT

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) - *Be a Grain of Wheat | One-Minute Homily*

[catholicicing.com](https://www.catholicicing.com) - *Printable Trinity Shamrock Craft (Kids Faith Builder)*

[Syracuse Google Doc.pdf](https://www.syracusegoogle.com) - *St. Joseph's Table*

[Thekennedyadventures.com](https://www.thekennedyadventures.com) - *Easy Ways to Celebrate Saint Joseph in Your Catholic Home*





March 17, 2024

2024 - A Year of Prayer

'Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him,

"Lord, teach us to pray..." - Luke 11:1

Prayer@HOME

Cut & Pray!

Prayer of St. Patrick



Christ with me, Christ before me,
 Christ behind me, Christ in me,
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
 Christ when I lie down,
 Christ when I sit down,
 Christ when I arise,
 Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
 Christ in every eye that sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears me.

Scripture Verse of the Week From Sunday's Mass



The Father will honor
 whoever serves me.
 John 12:26

Did you know that the grain of wheat must give itself up to a kind of death in order to bear fruit. Its dying is the principle and cause of new life. The seed must allow itself to be penetrated by the earth, yielding itself to the invasion of the soil and the power of its nutrients. Only through this dying comes new life.

Jesus is describing himself as he says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit."

Simply put, as the grain of wheat "died" to its old self, a new life was able to burst forth. The old passed away, making new hope and opportunity available. This is the Paschal Mystery - a journey from death to life.



When we serve God, we serve others
 around us.
 List some ways you serve others and God.



Create in Me a Clean Heart



Building Prayer Time @ Home

This will be a series of family activities to try as your families start or strengthen prayer time.

From the grain of wheat to Baking Our Daily Bread



Bread is a staple of life around the world, and is many times the focus for celebrations. This week as we celebrate St. Joseph, bread is central food. The Jewish Passover uses unleavened bread as a memorial of the Exodus. And in many European countries, Paska is made in celebration of Easter. There are many prayerful moments that can be shared in the baking of bread, beginning with the grain that dies to grow the wheat.

The linked pdf provides a full prayerful way of making bread with a recipe for wheat bread.



bit.ly/Wheat-Bread