3rd March 2019 - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

This weekend the first reading comes from the book previously known for generations as Ecclesiasticus, meaning ‘Church Book’. It is a treasury of wise and well-crafted teachings. Sirach teaches us and his readers to be discerning in judgement. That appearances can be deceptive. Sirach describes three things that initially seem impressive: The first is a sieve filled with fine grain; the second, a beautiful clay artifact ready for the kiln; and the third, a fruit-bearing tree.

What was initially impressive disappoints under further scrutiny. When the heap of grain in the sieve is shaken, indelible husk appears; When the artifact shaped out of clay emerges from the kiln, it is broken or cracked; When the fruit of the tree is tasted, it turns out unappealing. Sirach tells us that we need to discern well rather than go about with appearances.

The Gospel passage continues giving us a commentary from Luke’s Sermon on the Plain. Unlike the first part’s prophetic tone, this section employs a wisdom teacher’s style with instructions on how to live in the kingdom of God.

It is a covenantal relationship with God imitating and manifesting the qualities we see in our God. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to be compassionate, just as God is compassionate. That a blind person cannot lead the blind: Being able to ‘see’ is a requirement for leading one who cannot see. Jesus calls us out today to first engage in a self-examination.

The Hypocrisy of judging others: It is wrong on all counts: How can we judge others when we ourselves manifest the same faults and failings? We are not going to help anyone else if we are blind to our own fault or excuse ourselves for the same faults we condemn in others. The splinter detected in another’s eyes reflects a wooden beam in the eye of the one who judges.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

ASH WEDNESDAY - MASS SCHEDULE:
March 6: masses are at 9:00am (English), 5:30pm (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish).
Ashes are distributed during all the masses, following the Gospel.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
This devotional prayerful exercise will be held in the church on all Fridays starting this Friday during the season of Lent.
March 08: 9:30am (after the 9:00am mass) in English
6:30pm in Spanish.

Complete Lenten Fasting and Abstinence Information for Lent 2019

- Abstinence: Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- Fast: Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- It is highly recommended that Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed penitential practices.

2019 SCHEDULE OF LENTEN DEVOTIONS & CELEBRATIONS

March
8th  Friday, after Ash Wednesday: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis
15th Friday, 1st Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis
22nd Friday, 2nd Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis
29th Friday, 3rd Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis

April
5th First Friday, 4th Week of Lent: 9:30 am: after Mass, Stations of the Cross (English) with the
  • Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction.
  • 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis; 7:00 pm Reflexión (as Español)
12th Friday, 5th Week of Lent: 9:00 am mass in English;
  • 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross in English and Spanish & "Soup Supper".
19th Good Friday: Program will be announced soon.