

### ***Make the men sit down***

(adapted from St Alphonsus Liguori's sermon for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
(Numbering & all pronouns, even divine pronouns, correspond to the original.)

**Today**, Jesus, seeing the crowd, asks how they might be fed; it happens he feeds five thousand men with five barley loaves & two fishes such that all are satisfied & fragments fill 12 baskets. This miracle reveals the Lord's compassion for the bodily needs of poor people; but his compassion is greater for the needs of poor souls who need divine grace. This tender compassion of Jesus Christ for sinners is today's discourse.

6. How beautiful has he described the tenderness of his heart towards sinners in the following words: "What man of you that has an hundred sheep: and, if he lose one of them, does he not leave ninety-nine in the desert, and go after that which is lost until he find it: and when he has found it, lay it upon his shoulder rejoicing; and coming home, call together his friends and neighbors, saying to them: Rejoice with me, because I have found my sheep that was lost?" (Lk 15:4-6) But, Lord, it is not thou that ought to rejoice, but the sheep that has found her pastor & her God. **"The sheep indeed," answers Jesus, "rejoices at finding me, her shepherd; but far greater is the joy which I feel at having found one of my lost sheep."** He ends the parable: "I say to you, that even so there shall be joy in heaven, for one sinner that does penance, more than upon ninety-nine just, who need not penance." (Lk 15:7) There is more joy in heaven at the conversion of one sinner, than upon ninety-nine just men who preserve their innocence. What sinner, then, can be so hardened as not to run & cast himself at the feet of his Savior, when he knows the tender love with which Jesus is prepared to embrace & carry him on his shoulders, as soon as he repents of his sins?

7. The Lord has also declared his tenderness towards penitent sinners in the parable of the Prodigal Child. (Lk 15:12-23) A young man quits his fathers house to live according to his sinful desires. He soon squanders his inheritance and finds himself in misery that he longs to eat the husks he feeds to the swine. All this is a figure of a sinner, who, after departing from God, and losing the divine grace and all the merits he had acquired, leads a life of misery under the slavery of the devil. The parable ends saying the young man, seeing his wretched condition, resolved to return to his father: and the father, who is a figure of Jesus Christ, seeing his son return to him, was instantly moved to pity: "His father saw him, and was moved with compassion" (5:20); and, instead of driving him away, as the ungrateful son had deserved, "running to him, he fell upon his neck and kissed him." He ran with open arms to meet him, and, through tenderness, fell upon his neck, and consoled him by his embraces. He then said to his servants: "Bring forth quickly the first robe, and put it on him." According to St. Jerome & St. Augustine, the first robe signifies the divine grace, which, in addition to new celestial gifts, God, by granting pardon, gives to the penitent sinner. "And put a ring on his finger." Give him the ring of a spouse. By recovering the grace of God, the soul becomes again the spouse of Jesus Christ. "And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat and make merry." Bring hither the fatted calf which signifies holy communion, or Jesus in the holy sacrament mystically killed and offered in sacrifice on the altar; let us eat & rejoice. But why, divine Father, so much joy at the return of so ungrateful a child? Because, answered the Father, this my son was dead, and he is come to life again; he was lost, and I have found him.

10. Jesus Christ has come, not to condemn, but to deliver sinners from hell, as soon as they resolve to amend their lives. And, when he sees them bent on their own perdition, he addresses them with tears: "Why will you die, O house of Israel?" ( Ez 18:31) My children, why will you die? Why do you voluntarily rush into hell, when I have come from heaven to deliver you from it by my death? He adds: you are already dead to the grace of God, but I will not your death: return to me, and I will restore to you the life which you have lost. "For I desire not the death of the sinner, but that he convert and live." But some sinners, who are immersed in the abyss of sin, may say: "Perhaps, if we return to Jesus Christ, he will drive us away." No; for the Redeemer has said, "And him that comes to me I will not cast out." (Jn 6:37) No one that comes to me with sorrow for his past sins, however manifold and enormous they may have been, shall be rejected.

11. Again, the Redeemer encourages us to throw ourselves at his feet with a secure hope of pardon: "Come to me, all you that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you." (Mt 11:28) Come to me, all ye poor sinners, who groan under the weight of your crimes; come, and I will deliver you from all your troubles. Again, he says, "Come and accuse me, says the Lord; if your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made white as snow; if they be red as crimson, they shall be made white as wool." (Is 1:18) Come with sorrow for the your sins, and if I do not pardon you upbraid & rebuke me as a liar; for I promise that, though your sins be scarlet that is, of the most horrid kind, by my blood, in which I shall wash it, will become white & beautiful as snow.

12. Let us then, sinners, return to Jesus; and go to him before death overtakes us in sin & sends us to hell, where the mercies and graces of the Lord shall, if we do not amend, be so many swords which shall lacerate the heart for all eternity.



## **CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church**

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter  
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls  
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

### **Fourth (Laetare) Sunday of Lent**

**March 22, 2020**

Pastor: Fr. Stephane Dupre, FSSP

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**Church Office Hours:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday

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#### **NO PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Private Masses may be viewed online at [www.livemass.net](http://www.livemass.net):

Monday at 12 noon

Tuesday through Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Recorded Masses available for viewing at any time.

Individual confessions by appointment only. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

#### **Mass attendance & collection for last Sunday**

Sarasota: 8:30 am ~ 114 souls & 10:30 am ~ 113 souls; offertory \$ 4004.25

Ocala attendance ~160 souls.

## Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

## On Friendship with Jesus (Part VI of VII)

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DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 03-22	Fourth Sunday of Lent	2/Rose	
Mon 03-23	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Tues 03-24	Feria of Lent	3/V	St Gabriel
Wed 03-25	Annunciation of BVM	1/V	Feria
Thu 03-26	Feria of Lent	1/W	
Fri 03-27	Feria of Lent	3/V	St. John Damascene
Sat 03-28	Feria of Lent (Sitientes)	3/V	St. John Capistrano
Sun 03-29	Passion Sunday	2/V	



### Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 03-22	(8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) Cynthia A Medvitz	rb R & D Gabriel
Mon 03-23	(12 noon) Francois de Saizieu+	rb L de Saizieu
Tues 03-24	(7 am) Ted Cover+ (9 am) Gabrielle Olmstead	rb L de Saizieu rb S & C Olmstead
Wed 03-25	(7 am) Claire Verdini (9 am) Ralph & Margaret Johnson, 65 wedding anniversary	rb K & N Zilli rb M Johnson
Thu 03-26	(7 am) Fr Fausto (9 am) William & Ann Shehwen++	rb D Wallace rb Shehwen family
Fri 03-27	(9 am) Rita Wallace+ (6:30 pm) Lynn & Steve Kovacs	rb M/M Fengler family rb C & J Driesslein
Sat 03-28	(9 am) FssP Confraternity intentions	rb M&M L Labrecque
Sun 03-29	(8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) Victoire, Christophe, Ludovic de Saizieu	rb L de Saizieu

**All public Masses & activities in the Diocese of Venice are suspended from March 20<sup>th</sup> until sometime after Easter when the status of the outbreak will be re-evaluated.**

**In your charity,** please pray for Maureen & Bob McNamara (3/8), Barbara & Bill Wis (3/8), Sarah Sturm (2/23) & Claire Verdini (2/21), (Prayer requests posted for a month; renewable.)

**As the Adult Catechism class will not be meeting this Tuesday, Fr.**

Hathaway will email the class notes he was to cover that day to his interested students. You may request them at Fr.Hathaway@Christthekingsarasota.org

**Counting teams** will not be needed this week.

**Last Sunday**, Jesus whopped a demon with His finger. Noting His power in but one finger, we took occasion to speak on confidence in Jesus, of Whom, as that day's Mass prayer reads, we ask that His right hand be our defense. If a finger of His hand can beat the devil, what can His whole hand do!

Again, as Jesus is almighty, all-knowing & all-good, so He deserves our full confidence. Along these lines, we introduced the servant of God, Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo, a contemporary of Padre Pio who labeled him a saint, who, in his trials, used to say: "**Jesus, You take care of this**" before going his merry way, lighthearted & confident that Jesus would do what's best.

Of course, such a practice does not excuse us from doing what we can, but there are many things beyond our control, these we must leave in the mighty hands of Jesus. And, when we say, "**Jesus, You take care of this**" we must mean it. Again, once we give our problem to Jesus, we leave it with Him and, in no way, try to reclaim it, that is, neither to take it back by complaint or murmur, fret or worry. If tempted to take back the problem, we must give this to Jesus as well: "Jesus, You take care of this (my desire to take back the problem.)"

**Today, we have come to a midpoint in our Lent fast;** weary & hungry, the Gospel feeds us the account of the multiplication of the 5 loaves & 2 fishes. From this mountain top picnic, we will descend, in rapid succession, to Passion Sunday then Palm Sunday & Holy Week; very soon, the earth will quake & our dear Christ will rise from the dead. Now, at this midpoint, we reflect on our Lent project of making Jesus a better friend & more, a best friend.

Recall, at the start of this series, we cited *In Sinu Jesu*, wherein Jesus tells the monk, "**The way to holiness is the path of My friendship... it is this that leaves Me free to act upon you, within you & through you. Let Me love you as friend. That is enough.**" (p.41)

Indeed, to be a friend of Jesus; isn't that everything in a peanut-shell!

Earlier, we suggested friendship with Jesus is like the good soil in the parable of the Sower. Again, to receive the Word of God in the soil of a good heart, free of a beaten path of self-will, free of the rocks of whimsical inconstancy, free of the thorny cares, riches & pleasures of this world, is the beginning of a great harvest; and, once we have received Jesus in our hearts, we must spend time with Him so that He can produce His fruits in us, in patience.

Again, *really*, the only thing keeping us from advancing in friendship with Jesus is time. Are we spending time with this Great Friend? Time in regular morning & evening prayer; time in spiritual reading (esp., the Gospel words of Jesus when he walked this earth); time in reciting the Holy Rosary; time in attending Holy Mass & time at Adoration (if only in desire); time with Him in a quiet walk in the woods. There are thousands of ways to spend time with Jesus. In whatever way we make time for Jesus, He will surely return the favor.

**Today, the fourth Sunday in Lent, Jesus feeds 5000 men** not including women & children. We read the that multitude followed Him up the mountain. Why? "Because they saw the miracles He did on the diseased." And, after feeding them, we read the throng liked him so much the more that they desired to "take Him by force & make him king."

Like any of us, Jesus wants us to love Him for Himself, more for His free health care & food. Again, Jesus wants us to accept Him more than the things we may ask of Him. This is true friendship. Again, *Jesus is already a King & He wants for us a kingdom* and our kingdom begins by letting Him reign in our hearts. Did we tell Him this when we woke up this morning?

**To end**, at this Lent midpoint, if your growth in friendship with God seems uncertain, say everyday to him in what days remain: "Jesus, possess me. Come into my heart, into every faculty of my body & soul. Take control & reign; suppress any spirit of rebellion; grant me the grace to know what I should do & the grace to do it." Mean this and you'll end Lent well.