

Bulletin letter 3-21-21 Fifth Sunday of Lent cycle B

***From the Pastor:***

We are approaching the conclusion of our Lenten journey this week, and next week we will celebrate Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and all that followed. Today we remain in the desert though, reminded of who we are and what is expected of us as God's people.

In the second reading, St. Paul says: **"Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."** Obedience and suffering are components of our life of faith, what does that mean? If we start by understanding that obedience is born out of deep listening, and that means listening to Jesus. That attention to Jesus brings us into the suffering we encounter, all of which ultimately transforms us through Christ – all of which is part of our dying and rising. Today's psalm intones this using other words, **"Create a clean heart in me, O God."** This Lent, may pray these same words and open our hearts to the changes asked of us by God.

Starting on Monday, March 22 at 9 am you can go to the Immaculate Conception website and **sign up for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday stations, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Vigil, and Easter Sunday masses** at Immaculate Conception. We will celebrate Triduum for all three parishes here at Immaculate Conception. There will be sign-ups done as usual for Our Lady of Grace for Palm Sunday and Easter. St Joseph's will also have a sign-up option for Easter, also starting on March 22 on their parish website.

The **tabernacle at Our Lady of Grace** has been relocated from the rear of the church to the reconciliation room in the sanctuary space. While I explained that to the faithful at mass last weekend, I wanted to reiterate and further share something about tabernacle placement in this letter. By placing it in a sacred spot and one that is a perfect place for private prayer, we are giving the Blessed Sacrament a better location. In any case, the ***General Instruction for the Roman Missal*** offers us these words that might help clarify things. The tabernacle should be placed:

**a) either in the sanctuary, apart from the altar of celebration, in an appropriate form and place, not excluding its being positioned on an old altar no longer used for celebration (cf. No. 303)"b) or even in some chapel suitable for the private adoration and prayer of the faithful and organically connected to the church and readily noticeable by the Christian faithful" (Nos. 314-315).**

If you have any questions, please let me know.

As a priest who needed to minister to hospital and nursing home patients as they near the end of their lives, **I was privileged to get early vaccine access** through Ellis Hospital. For a time it was so difficult to secure an appointment, but thanks to IC parishioner Doris Vogt who has helped many get appointments, and now many more appointments and vaccines, it is easier. There has been some confusion about the moral challenges on getting vaccinated at all, or around particular vaccines. Ultimately the Vatican has confirmed that there is a moral imperative to become vaccinated unless there is some medical reason why you should not be. Like wearing a mask, we do not do this for ourselves, but for others, as Jesus would do.

This week we sent out **our annual Easter letter** to parishioners from all of our parishes. Thank you so much for your ongoing faith practice and for shining the Light of Christ to God's people here in our area. We know it has been a tough year for everyone in different ways, but we are grateful for all the generosity shown to us over the past 12 months, and thank you in advance for your Easter gift.

Today marks the Fifth Sunday of Lent. You may have noticed that we have had a Scrutiny rite for our catechumen Kimberly Cirigliano, who will be baptized at our Easter Vigil. Shawn McMore and Colleen Lodge will come into full communion with the church at the same time. **Please pray for Kimberly, Shawn, and Colleen** as they take these ultimate steps forward towards the Table of the Lord. Please also pray for Carol and Paul Heckman and their daughter Lauren Patterson who have led our RCIA effort this year, doing so under very challenging circumstances! The Church thrives and grows through their efforts.

Until next week, be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers.

*Fr. Jerry*

**OUR PRAYER:** Loving God, be present to us and grant us wisdom, so that we, who may feel anxious about change, might trust in Your love and rest in the