

Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Robert Ingersoll, the famous agnostic, died in 1809. More than one hundred years ago, he travelled back and forth across America, attacking all religions, especially Christianity, maintaining we could know nothing about God or a future life. In one of his lectures, he tried to show that the story in the Gospel this weekend was a fake miracle, planned to build up the popularity of Jesus. Lazarus "made believe" he took sick, "made believe" he died. His sisters "buried" him in a cave and called Jesus. Lazarus was to stay in the tomb until Jesus called out: "Lazarus come forth."

To strengthen his story, Ingersoll asked, "Can anyone here tell me why Jesus said: "Lazarus, come



forth"? Why didn't He simply say, "Come forth"? A little man stood up and gave the answer. "Yes, sir, I can tell you. If my Lord have not said 'Lazarus; all the people buried in that cemetery would have come forth to meet their Savior."

Ingersoll later admitted that the old man's statement really stumped him because it came from a deep faith, which you and I and all Christians share, that Christ died for all humanity and that all of humankind will rise at the call of Christ. The raising of Lazarus from the dead is a sign, a proof, a promise, not merely that Christ can raise individuals to life, but that He will give heavenly life to all who die in His love.

Too many react to the raising of Lazarus as did some of the Jews who complained: "If this Jesus cured a blind man, why could he not keep His friend from dying?" We might complain: "Why doesn't Jesus raise my mother – my dad -my child - my wife -my husband from the dead?" The point of the Lazarus story is not that Christ can raise this or that individual back to life, but that Christ can and will raise every dead person back to unending life. The story emphasizes that the heavenly Father gave to His Son Jesus the power to give life, the fullness of life, as St. John mentions:..."as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to anyone who chooses."

What the prophet of God tells the people of God in this weekend's first reading, Ezekiel is telling us today: "O my people, I will open your graves and

have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel." St. Paul brings this out even more clearly in the second reading: "If the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will bring your mortal bodies to life also through His Spirit dwelling in you.

It is meaningful that we recall the raising of Lazarus at this point in Lent. For several weeks we have tried, like Lazarus, to be special friends of Christ, to have His spirit. We look forward two weeks to Easter, when Christ will rise from the dead, a pledge and promise that you and I will rise.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses..

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	March 31	N/A
Racquiel Garcia		Your wife
(birthday)		
Wed.	April 1	N/A
Rodolfo Cristobal		Lily Militar
(birthday)		
Thur.	April 2	N/A
Bernardina Dela Pena†		Imelda
Fri.	April 3	N/A
Ava Banducci†		Bill & Diane
		Thomas
Sat.	April 4	N/A
Joseph Noe †		Family
Sun.	April 5	N/A
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		N/A
Walter Ligon †		Mary & Moira
+ +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++		

Sunday Collection - March 22

St. Rose, Crockett \$465

St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$255

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND A WAY TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR PARISH!

Welcome Committee, Lectors and Ministers

April 4: N/A

Lector: N/A Welcome: N/A

April 5: N/A

Lector: N/A Welcome: N/A

If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please find your own replacement



Coronavírus (COVID-19) Precautíons

With the constant change that is occurring around us, the Diocese is still adhering to the following protocols:

- All social gatherings that can be rescheduled, postponed or cancelled, should be.
- All public Masses are suspended.
- Our church will be open as a place of prayer and solace for people as long as social distancing and proper hygiene are being used.
 WE WILL OPEN ST. ROSE ON SATURDAYS FROM 4:30-5:30 pm AND SUNDAYS FROM 9-10 am.

We all have many questions in regard to what is going on around us, and we will keep you as up to date as possible. The best suggestion is to wash hands frequently and do your part by staying home if you are not feeling well. This is a very fluid situation, and no one has all the answers. Please just remember to take a breath, and don't make decisions in panic or haste!

DURING THE CHURCH'S OPEN TIMES NEXT WEEKEND, BLESSED PALMS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO STOP BY TO PICK SOME UP FOR THEMSELVES AND THOSE WHO ARE STAYING HOME.

35th Annual St. Rose Fish Fry

In light of everything that is going on, we are sure that you have concluded on your own that the Fish Fry scheduled for April 3rd has been cancelled. We just want to make sure that we make the clear announcement that the Fish Fry is cancelled. Despite this, we will continue on with the Raffle, which will hopefully be held around Easter. If you have raffle tickets, please still considering entering the drawing, and spread the word to others. If you don't have tickets, or would like to purchase some more, you may send a check to the office with whatever information you would like entered on the tickets. Our Secretary will be happy to fill out the stubs for you; the address is 555 Third Ave. Crockett, CA 94525. Please remember that with cancelling the Fish Fry, that is \$10,000 loss from our income this year. Even just the purchase of a few extra tickets (\$1 a piece or \$5 for a book of six) will make a difference.

Also, stay tuned!! When everything has settled we will need to come up with a fundraiser in hopes of recouping some of this, and would love your suggestions!

We know that is seems as though the parish is constantly asking for money, and this is very frustrating. Our parish family has risen to challenge every time, and we are forever in debt to that. Unfortunately, this Coronavirus epidemic is hitting us in an already bad time. If your family is able to continue to send their Sunday tithe to the parish office it may help us keep our heads above water for the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for whatever you are able to offer.