

Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
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Syracuse, NY 13209-0318
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5th Sunday of Lent with General Confession for Lent

11:00 am

April 10, 2011

Intention: +Frank Piazza

Requested by Rosemarie Piazza

Healing Intentions:	Michelle Mallory	Lu Luch
	Martha Shuman	Diane Spina
	Lois Bogacki	Bill Moran
	Father John Fetcho	Jean Horan
	Erika Zalewski	Jeanne Klix
	Jon Hall	Josephine Wicks

and all those in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.

R: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

R: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord.

R: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

For with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; and he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

R: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Reading II

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have gained access by faith to the grace in which we now stand, and we boast of our hope for the glory of God. And this hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless men. It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just man, though it is barely possible that for a good man someone may have the courage to die. It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel

John 11: 1-45

A reading of the holy gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

There was a certain man named Lazarus who was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary whose brother Lazarus was sick was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and dried his feet with her hair.) The sisters sent word to Jesus to inform him, "Lord, the one you love is sick." Upon hearing this, Jesus said:

"This sickness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus very much. Yet, after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two days more. Finally he said to his disciples, "*Let us go back to Judea.*" "Rabbi," protested the disciples, "with the Jews only recently trying to stone you, you are going back up there again?" Jesus answered:

"Are there not twelve hours of daylight? If a man goes walking by day he does not stumble, because he sees the world bathed in light. But if he goes walking at night he will stumble, since there is no light in him."

After uttering these words, he added, "*Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him.*" At this the disciples objected, "Lord, if he is asleep his life will be saved." Jesus had been speaking about his death, but they thought he meant sleep in the sense of slumber. Finally Jesus said plainly, "*Lazarus is dead. For your sakes I am glad I was not there, that you may come to believe. In any event, let us go to him.*" Then Thomas (the name means "twin") said to his fellow disciples, "Let us go along, to die with him."

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. The village was not far from Jerusalem – just under two miles – and many Jewish people had come out to console Martha and Mary over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him, while Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would never have died. Even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask of him." "*Your brother will rise again,*" Jesus assured her. "I know he will rise again," Martha replied, "in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her:

"I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life; and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God: he who is to come into the world."

When she said this she went back and called her sister Mary. "The Teacher is here asking for you," she whispered. As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and started in his direction. (Actually Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still at the spot where Martha had met him.) The Jews who were in the house with Mary consoling her saw her get up quickly and go out, so they followed her, thinking she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to the place where Jesus was, seeing him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would never have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jewish folk who had accompanied her also weeping, he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions. "*Where have you laid him?*" he asked. "Lord, come and see," they said. Jesus began to weep, which caused the Jews to remark, "See how much he loved him!" But some said, "He opened the eyes of that blind man. Why could he not have done something to stop this man from dying?" Once again troubled in spirit, Jesus approached the tomb.

It was a cave with a stone laid across it. "*Take away the stone,*" Jesus directed. Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, it has been four days now; surely there will be a stench!" Jesus replied, "*Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?*" Then they took away the stone and Jesus looked upward and said:

"Father, I thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they may believe that you sent me."

Having said this, he called loudly, "*Lazarus, come out!*" The dead man came out, bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. "*Untie him,*" Jesus told them, "*and let him go free.*"

This caused many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, to put their faith in him.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts from the Pulpit Life, Death, Resurrection

The Gospel today tells us the story of Lazarus. Lazarus means "one whom God helps." The story of Lazarus is a story of illness, death, burial, and resurrection. The story includes Jesus' power. It includes Jesus' compassion, described in the shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept." Yet at its heart is the message of God's work in Jesus the Son of Man.

Jesus at the tomb cries out: "Lazarus, come out!" As you read this story, did you notice? Lazarus responds to Jesus' command. Lazarus hobbles out of the tomb! Incredible story! Lazarus comes out of his own grave! With his own strength! His hands and feet are "bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth." Like a slave. Still he is a captive. Still he is all tied up. But very alive! And his eyes are covered. He can scarcely move. He can not see where he is going.

So, Jesus turns to his followers. They too are a part of the story. We are too a part of the story as long as we hear and follow Jesus' words. For, Jesus' words ring out: "Unbind him, and let him go." And they did help him on Jesus' words. And Lazarus joined in to celebrate the life with the rest of community!

This Gospel today tells us so much! The efforts we do, the work we do on Jesus' word are a part of God's plan. History is filled with the stories of those whose efforts have helped, countless generations of the faithful who have followed the words of Jesus, 'unbind him, and let him live in God's freedom and fullness.'

Financial Corner

Week of	Weekly Income	Weekly Income Needed	Balance
April 3	\$672	\$677	-\$5
TOTAL	\$672	\$677	-\$5