

**March 17-18, 2018**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**Hebrews 5: 7-9**

**John 12: 20-33**

Imagine someone working as a grease-monkey in an auto repair shop being upset over getting oil on his/her clothing and hands? Imagine an Olympian downhill skier getting all prissy about snow getting on their clothing? Imagine a restaurant chef being frustrated over smudges and spots upon his/her apron? These things come with the chosen profession, they are part and parcel of being a grease-monkey, a skier or a chef. Just so with Jesus, he knew well that his actions, words, healings and teachings were setting him in opposition to the religious leaders of his time. Our Christmas carols of December don't strongly hint at the truth of the Incarnation, Jesus was specifically BORN TO DIE! This weekend's Gospel has Jesus very directly speaking about his approaching death. Only in hindsight have we been able to fathom the deepest meanings of his sacrifice, of his willingness to allow us to give it our all in rejecting him. The ancient stories of Joseph (of Coat of Many Colors fame) being rejected by his kinfolk and sold into slavery, of his becoming the source of their survival during famine, the stories of Moses being instructed to slaughter a lamb and daub the blood on the homes of the Israelites so that 'the Angel of Death might PASSOVER their homes' which preceded the Exodus ...these reach their culmination in Jesus' acceptance of the Cross so that we might smear his blood on the lintels of our hearts...and save ALL HUMANITY. The stories of Lent, particularly the approaching stories of Holy Week are NOT just about Jesus...they are intended for us to LEARN and ACCEPT that we too must DIE....to our desires, to our closed-mindedness, to our selfishness, to our displacement of the Cross in favor of social standing, political preferences or personal enjoyments that money can make possible. No sooner do we grow sufficiently mature to 'understand' life than we are asked to start letting it go. How has that been going for you?

More than mid-way through Lent, thank you for sharing this 'St. Patrick's Weekend' with our Santa Clara community. As has become our tradition, you are welcome to 'wet your Irish whistle' with some suitable Irish beverages after Mass. Next weekend is Palm/Passion Weekend which necessarily means a slightly longer Mass because of the lengthy Passion Narrative along with the blessing of Palms. Please take note of our Holy Week opportunities on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)...everything is at 7pm...and our Easter Morning Masses are the regular 8am, 10am and 12noon. (There are NO confessions nor 5pm Saturday Mass on Holy Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.) Thanks to those who have been using the Easter Flower envelopes...your help in supplying the many flowers required to make our Hall BLOOM for Easter is appreciated. As our HIGH HOLY DAYS approach, remember, you are loved. FKB