

March 23-24, 2019

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

First Corinthians 10:1-12

Luke 13:1-9

The families now embarrassingly caught in the College Entrance scandal had a choice...be immoral and pay bribes while seeking to circumvent the elite university admissions system, or encourage their kids to consider a variety of colleges and do exceedingly well in their studies. The (national, state, local) individuals in governmental service, on all sides of the political spectrum, who KNOW the truth, but choose to not speak it when under oath in court or at a legislative hearing, they dishonor those who have sacrificed for the ideals and dreams upon which the United States has been forged. Those engaged amid the heights of business and industry who have molested, abused, defamed and sold their corporate souls to Satan might heed the local cemeteries they pass...for everyone dies...and to whom will their dark deeds lead them? Journeying deeper into the penitential Lenten season of purgation, our Scriptures take on a decidedly harsh tone...HARSHNESS intended to SAVE US from our failings, HARSHNESS intended to help us return to THE RIGHT PATHS, HARSHNESS intended to remind us that our actions HAVE CONSEQUENCES. Granted, there are those who seemingly have no moral compass or those who have completely abandoned any vestige of faith; the words of Jesus come to mind for them: 'those who live by the sword will die by the sword.' BUT FOR US...the everyday folk, WHO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG...how have we been tempted throughout this past year to step over the line? In 1976, presidential candidate Jimmy Carter admitted to committing 'adultery in his heart' but many in our culture have become deadened to our own sexual infidelities and those of people around us...as if these erroneous choices are not indicators of our deepest character. Yes, Jesus made water into wine, but with his mother in attendance at the wedding feast, Jesus would not have tolerated his disciples getting drunk. Lent is purposely an opportunity to take HARD LOOKS at the paths we have chosen to follow; forget about using the throw-away line, 'the devil made me do it.' We CHOOSE what we choose...and we have the opportunity, through the mercy of God, to continually acknowledge our mistakes, our sins, our errors, our cruelties, our meanness and to START OVER....to return to the GOOD, to strive to LIGHTEN the world through our presence within it, rather than darken it by our own embrace of evil. On this journey of Lent, what have been the things you have discovered about yourself that you don't like? What are the choices that you would not want to share with your mother? What are the decisions that you would not bring up at the dinner table? How about bringing them to the Reconciliation Room on Saturday afternoon at 3:30pm? How about going for a stroll with a priest of your choosing and acknowledging your sins and asking for forgiveness from God? How about, this Lent, finding the courage to renounce Satan, and all his works and all his empty promises?

The Patron Saint of Ireland was well celebrated, St. Joseph was equally celebrated by the Italians who have adopted him as their own, Spring has sprung and now, here we are continuing our Lenten progression deeper into Lent. Thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community as we prayerfully embrace this penitential season of preparation. Please take a Bulletin with you regarding information about the VALUE of Holy Week, inviting your help in transforming our Church from Lent into Easter and also a final invitation for those who have yet to make a reservation for our Good Friday Prayer Breakfast. Within the next two weeks we expect to close our Good Friday reservation opportunities...so if this was something you wanted to participate within, do not delay. Please take a Bulletin for other news and please remember, as penitential as Lent is, you are loved. FKB