

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

You Decide

We normally take great pride in making our own decisions. When we did this as children, it was a sign that we were growing up; as adolescents, it was a proclamation of independence. Now as adults, when making decisions we demonstrate that we are self-directed. The problem doesn't seem to lie in decision-making itself but in the options given to us that require a decision. And there is the rub. Often these are options not of our choosing. This can make decision-making very difficult.

Today's Gospel is all about making decisions. Options are placed before us. We either choose Jesus and the extraordinary way of life that he has outlined for us, or we go along with the movements of society. This could include making money at any cost, denying hospitality to those who knock on our door, harboring an attitude of superiority over others. We either choose to live in the light with the insights that our faith provides, or we simply accept the values that bombard us each day through the media, namely: Me first. What's mine is mine. What's in it for me? Not in my back yard.

If we look carefully, we will realize that the way of life Jesus promotes is based on the dignity of each person, who is made in the image and likeness of God. Actions that dismiss, demean, damage, or destroy human life are contrary to the teaching, life, and example of Jesus. Accepting his way brings forth a new society called "the reign of God." Rejecting it will undermine the foundations of the society we have. Which will it be? You decide.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- * How might you have compromised your religious values in order to get by in life?
- * Might God be asking you to choose something new?



And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

JOHN 3:19

Dear Padre,

My friend's parish is having a St. Joseph's Day Altar. What is that?

According to tradition, the altar to St. Joseph originated in the Middle Ages by Sicilians who invoked their patron saint during an extended drought and famine. When rain finally brought relief, the people expressed their gratitude in two ways: by displaying a table with the foods they harvested and by distributing their plenitude to those most in need.

Over time, the custom of an altar around the March 19 feast day of St. Joseph gained popularity and is now embraced by the faithful of any nationality wishing to share their good fortune with those who have less. The meatless feast usually includes baked items, beans, nuts, fruits, and seafood presented in ways that symbolize elements of the faith. Prayerful rituals and children portraying the Holy Family add to the celebration and heritage.

Whether the altar is modest or elaborate, at home or in church, it's a labor of love meant to strengthen the bonds of family and friends in its preparation and to strengthen one's faith and charity in its execution.

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WILLIAM A. MORGAN/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MARCH 19, 2013

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Calendar

Monday

MARCH 15

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17-21

Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday

MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1-9, 12

Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday

MARCH 17

Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8-15

Jn 5:17-30

Thursday

MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday

Ex 32:7-14

Jn 5:31-47

Friday

MARCH 19

St. Joseph,

Spouse of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a,

12-14a, 16

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday

MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18-20

Jn 7:40-53

Sunday

MARCH 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34

Heb 5:7-9

Jn 12:20-33

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