

March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent
JOHN 11:1-45

Activity for today:

- Watch Mass on Facebook Live at 9:30am
- Read Fr. Brian's Sunday homily
- Bishop Robert Barren's Gospel Reflection
- Children's Bulletin / Activity Sheets

St Pius & St Anthony Homily 5th Sunday Lent Year A

The core of our Christian hope is found in today's gospel....Okay, yes, the reality of Jesus rising from the dead is the true heart of it, but Jesus being God capable of all things, after Christ's own dying and rising, comes a human being dying and rising, and that is Lazarus by name! And he was really dead.....that detail about it being already over three days, he is dead dead... Even the possible decomposition that begins at the moment of our last breath, it all can be undone & restored by Jesus. That is pure regeneration. But I want to begin today by talking about the core of our society (what is holding us all together right now through the provision of the most basic services). That is all the dedicated, selfless souls who are working what we call the front lines in this virus pandemic our nurses, doctors, aides in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and wherever care is being given to the sick, the worried, the most vulnerable among us... those who are reporting in to places of work and care, We think of them, & thank God for motivating them and ask his continued protection over them.... this includes too all of our clerks, cashiers and window attendants....May God help them and their families. When I see them I say, ***"Thank you for being here....."*** And our sick, we pray for them and let them know in any way we can, that we pray with them, think with them and look forward to when we will visit in person again with them.

So, what about Lazarus, today..... Lazarus' resurrection is the longest account of a miracle by Jesus of raising the dead..... In two other places, He raises the supposed dead, raising Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:22-43) and a widow's son in the town of Nain (Luke 7:11-15), but those are brief encounters, and to make ***Lazarus the greatest of 'dead-raisings'***, remember the detail that he had been dead four days...This is past any typical three day wake..... again he was really dead, if there is such a thing..... he wasn't drugged and this wasn't some kind of

coma trick-rousing. No, his public viewing-& funeral are long past, the tomb sealed, and the meal shared. He was gone..... **until** Jesus shows up. That is the point.....But Lazarus becomes a flashpoint between believers & unbelievers.... between the disciples and the authorities. We often just focus on the particular dramatic and miraculous act of Jesus, not thinking about its rippling effects, but as we saw last week with the blind man and the Pharisees attempts to attack him, discredit him, turn even his family against him, some side action here too, is the conniving of the authorities to take out these witnesses to Jesus, those who readily tell of Jesus' power and are walking proof of Jesus' identity as Savior-Messiah. So Lazarus' resurrection becomes a source of major argument and dispute among people (John 12:10-11, "The chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him"). He was 'living proof' of Jesus' divinity. Maybe just bringing up Lazarus' name, stirred everybody up and got an argument going. *You might think this is not related, but stick with me, it is.* How do you start an argument, but bring up some emotionally loaded question and then get out. This is what's happening when we someone say, "Oh, don't get him started on that again!" I like the old Dennis Miller mantra he used to start such a rampage. He would begin a tirade saying, "Now, I don't mean to go on a rant, **but**....." But now he will. Here's a tip: When you hear that, go ahead and excuse yourself. Well, what about this-----I remember when I was a kid I had called my friend. We used to ride bikes all over the city, and was going to ask if he wanted to meet me at the plaza and we'd ride. So I called, keep in mind this is the day of rotary dials (& one phone per building) So I dialed and waited for answer. Then I heard a click and an echo-hello. His mom said 'Hello', and simultaneously his dad said 'Yeah' and then before I say anything, his dad came back with more insistent 'HELLO'. His mom said, 'Willie, you...what do you want?' Then he came back 'What- I don't want anything—I just picked up the phone.' She said, "You called me-I **know** the phone rang-are you playing...." Here I must confess I was just a kid, so I got out at that point hanging up. I didn't try calling again for weeks.

And there is a version of 'getting an argument started' in today's gospel. You may disagree with me on this (see, there we go) but I find a controversial question brought up and dropped on us in the very short verse of John 11:35. It's only three words. "And Jesus Wept". Thanks be to God Jesus wept. I am so glad he did, but my question is "**Why** did he weep?" What motivated, led Him to weep? I am certain we are going to come up with different answers based on where we are in our own relationship to Jesus. Let's consider this a multiple choice question with multiple right answers. But it is a fruitful spiritual exercise to ask & answer for yourself, "Why does Jesus weep in this episode with Lazarus?"

A first answer is ***because Jesus is divine***; He wept because He willed to weep, He did weep and that is it. As God, he knows us through and through and so he can move into our human feelings and take them on himself (Hebrews 4:15)

A second answer is that ***He wanted to weep***; he wanted to feel with Mary and Martha, as is told about Jesus in several miraculous healings that he performed. Matthew 20:34 says that Jesus was moved with compassion speaking with two blind beggars, and he healed them by opening their eyes.

Another, He wept ***to show that we have a Savior who understands us***; to risk vulnerability Himself and offer the hardened crowd a chance to soften up and patiently accept their own feelings as they come to them. He was setting an example of simply feeling fully, what every human is bound to experience—naming and claiming emotions—directing them instead of denying them.

Related to such honest feeling, ***He wept to show us that what is not experienced cannot be redeemed***. As He will say, at the Last Supper, John 16:20, “You will mourn....you will grieve, but your grief will be turned to joy.”

He wept because of the tragedy of the ***stakes being so high*** and only going to get higher in the coming days ***for Lazarus*** (Simply, no one gets out alive). What I mean is the double tragedy that after Lazarus is given a whole new lease on life—resurrected, then as I already quoted, the leading Jews are going to see Lazarus as such a threat to their power, they are going to try kill him, sending him back to death. Such hardheaded-ness would make anyone cry (which brings up another reason that human nature, being as wayward and easily corrupted as it is, is something to cry over).

And He wept ***because it was obvious Mary and Martha did not know Him as well as He would have liked them to***. They both love Him, and love being with Him—they would do anything for Him, but neither of them seemed to think that actual resurrection was something possible for Jesus to perform for brother Lazarus. So

He wept too, because He was tired, similar to how he expressed his human nature vulnerably to the woman at the well by expressing his ‘thirst’, his weariness and need to rest. Now the test: Which of these answers sounds best, to the question we should all ask ourselves: Why did Jesus weep at the tomb? Because we weep too, or because we don’t weep? Again, what an understanding Savior we have, who takes on, embracing the human tragedy we live each day, entering into the same human emotions we all live through and die into every day.

John 11:4 “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it” The same with these tears, this weeping is not an end, but a means to starting over, growing & being raised to new life. But the new life doesn’t come but through the felt sorrow of living & dying with Christ.

Bishop Robert Barron's Gospel Reflection

Friends, today's Gospel about the raising of Lazarus has a pointed message for us.

Everyone reading this is, to a degree, spiritually dead. Maybe you're like Lazarus—four days in your tomb. Maybe you feel there is just no hope for the likes of you. I don't care how far you've fallen. I don't care how dead you are. The voice of Jesus can call you back to life, can pull you out of the tomb.

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Maybe you're sunk in an addiction. Maybe you've done things that you are so ashamed of that you can't even bring yourself to speak of them. Maybe you've fallen out of relationship with the people you love the most.

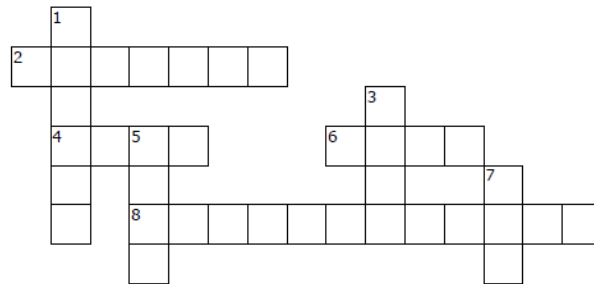
Maybe you've been a first-class jerk. Maybe you just feel you're a failure. Maybe you're terrified of dying. I don't care. Listen for the voice! "Untie him and let him go."

Reflect: What are you "tied up" with right now? Who is the only one who can untie you and give you true freedom?

Children's Bulletin / Activity Pages: SEE FOLLOWING PAGES

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
4. A place where someone is buried
6. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
8. Rising from the dead or returning to life

DOWN

1. One of Lazarus' two sisters
3. To be alive or have life
5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
7. To stop living

TOMB	MARTHA	DIE	MARY
LIVE	RESURRECTION	LAZARUS	SICK



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Jesus Raises Lazarus

John 11:1-45

Word Search

L A Z A R U S E S L E E P M P
Q E N T R A N C E B D F L Y U
L J O A S O W D Y L I F E V L
F N I K T W E I X L G T O M B
X Y K S C Q E S F O E D Z N R
P R A Y E D P C F V R E E E D
B K Q W E S I I A E C A H V X
G L F K K N N P O A V T C V R
R L A Z U K G L G T O H G A E
I W O H F E E E Z R R H H V R
S F C R X J W S B J T T E S A
E H W Y Y N Y B N S R I U W A
L W B P O M A R Y A L S H M K
G C Q L W H J S M E E R A X G
B H A E U U Q H B J S I C K V

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEeping	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP

St. Pius X and St. Anthony of Padua Parishes

Calvert City and Grand Rivers, KY

Multiple Choice

Choose the word that best fits the definition and put the letter in the blank beside the number.

- ___ 1. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
A. tomb B. asleep C. alive D. sick
- ___ 2. To stop living
A. die B. live C. sleep D. resurrection
- ___ 3. To be alive or have life
A. live B. sleep C. sick D. die
- ___ 4. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
A. Mary B. Lazarus C. Martha D. John
- ___ 5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
A. Lazarus B. Martha C. Mary D. tomb
- ___ 6. One of Lazarus' two sisters
A. Lazarus B. Martha C. Deborah D. Elizabeth
- ___ 7. A place where someone is buried
A. bed B. live C. die D. tomb
- ___ 8. Rising from the dead or returning to life
A. die B. resurrection C. sick D. asleep



Coloring Page



Jesus Raises Lazarus

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