



From the desk of *Father Rich Yanos*

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

The second book of Chronicles is part of a series which traces Jewish history from its beginning down to the end of the exile in Babylon, five centuries before Christ. Today's reading is the conclusion of the book. It summarizes the reasons for the exile and tells how it ended after 70 years. Second Chronicles was placed last in the Jewish bible. When we hear the final words of this reading, we hear how the Jewish Scriptures conclude on a positive note.

Ephesus is located on the western coast of what is today Turkey. The author of this letter to the Christians in Ephesus writes about the saving power of God that is available to both Jews and non-Jews. Today's passage reminds us that salvation is God's gift alone. "Gift" is the root meaning of the word "grace."

Should Others Be Like Me?

Recently I came upon a poem that didn't use the word "stewardship" but posed some good questions that each of us could use to examine how we live our lives.

- Do we give thanks each day through prayer for the blessings we've been given?
- Are our actions, our attitudes and our responses to others a reflection of the teachings of Jesus Christ?
- How do we share our time, talent and treasure as an expression of our gratitude to God for the goodness in our lives?

But the most important question I came upon that truly gave me pause was one that I've adjusted a bit for our faith community...

What sort of Church would Queen of Peace be if every parishioner were just like me?

At times it's easy for us to sit back and let things be handled by others. There always seems to be someone who will come forward and make sure everything gets done. In fact, when we look at the people who are on our various committees and ministries (Morning Rosary Group, Food Drives, Knights of Columbus, Friendship Club, Music Ministry, etc.), we frequently see the same names over and over. Thank God for those individuals! What would Queen of Peace look like if every parishioner were just like me?

Would the sick and homebound receive the Eucharist? Would there be any greeters to welcome people at the weekend Masses? Would we be able to teach our children through our Religious Education program? Would decisions be made? Would anything good happen?

We are all part of the Queen of Peace family, and, like every family, we each must take responsibility for making our home a happy, healthy and thriving place to be. If your answer to “What sort of Church would Queen of Peace be...” was a wake-up call, then now would be the perfect moment to make some changes. Begin by giving back through your time, talent, and treasure as a way to say “thank you” to the One who makes all things possible, and then watch as our Church grows and flourishes in His name!

Our Parish Communal Lenten Reconciliation Service with individual confessions will take place here at St. Eugene Church on Tuesday, March 19th, at 7:00 p.m. Confessions will be heard in English and Polish. I invite you to join us in receiving the healing power of Jesus and the gift of God’s grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please plan on joining your parish community on Tuesday, March 19th as you make your personal preparations for Holy Week and Easter. No confessions will be heard on Holy Saturday, March 30th.

Just a reminder that Stations of the Cross are prayed at St. Eugene Church every Friday throughout Lent at 7:00 p.m. On Good Friday, however, they will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. at both Our Lady Mother of the Church and at St. Eugene Church simultaneously.

Just a reminder that this coming Friday, March 15th, will be our last Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. Serving begins at 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. If you haven’t attended one of these days, you really ought to.

Fr. Rich Yanos



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.
- Jn 3:20-21

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