

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life” – Fifth Sunday of Lent

As we gather for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Word of God speaks powerfully of life, hope, and resurrection.

In the Book of Ezekiel (Ez 37:12–14), the Lord promises: “I will open your graves and have you rise from them.” God assures His people that His Spirit will bring new life even where there seems to be only dryness and death. This prophetic image reminds us that no situation is beyond God’s saving power.

In the Letter to the Romans (Rom 8:8–11), St. Paul teaches us that those who live in the Spirit belong to Christ. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us and gives us life. Lent is a time to ask ourselves: Are we living according to the flesh, or according to the Spirit?

In the Gospel of John (Jn 11:1–45), we hear the moving story of the raising of Lazarus. Standing before the tomb of his friend, Jesus proclaims, **“I am the resurrection and the life.”** Even in the face of death, Jesus reveals His divine authority and deep compassion. He calls Lazarus out of the tomb, and foreshadows the victory of Easter.

We are still in the holy season of Lent, a time of conversion and renewal. As in previous years, at the beginning of Lent, our Religious Education students prayerfully participated in the Stations of the Cross during their religion classes. Walking with Jesus on His way to Calvary helped them reflect on His suffering, His love, and the promise of new life that comes through the Cross. This special time of prayer invited our students not only to remember the events of Jesus’ Passion, but to enter into them with their own hearts. Through each station, they were encouraged to see how Jesus meets us in our struggles, carries our burdens, and never abandons us. Many of our students participated with great reverence - reading, responding, and spending moments in quiet reflection - making this devotion a meaningful encounter with Christ.

As a parish family, let us continue our Lenten journey with faith and hope. The same Spirit who raised Lazarus, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, is at work in us. May this season prepare our hearts to emerge from whatever “tombs” hold us back, so that we may fully share in the joy and new life of Easter.

