

St. Francis Xavier Parish

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THE TOMB OF
LAZARUS
AL-EIZARIYA (BETHANY)

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”

JOHN 11:43

MARCH 29
2020

fifth Sunday
OF LENT

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It is difficult to overstate the bleak situation faced by the people of Israel described in today's reading from Ezekiel. Babylon had invaded Jerusalem, killed many of its inhabitants, and destroyed the temple. Some of them were forced into exile in Babylon. Their captors and neighbors likely concluded that the Babylonian deity had pummeled the Hebrew deity into submission. Israel's God was as good as dead, and the people of Israel as well.

In the midst of this catastrophe, Ezekiel announces a counter-story. The narrative of God's death is false. Israel's God is alive, and God's own breath will restore their life. They will be lifted out of the grave of their grief and despair, and be returned to their land. Ezekiel's message speaks to all of us who know of profound disorientation, of separation from loved ones, and of deep loss. God will bear our unbearable sorrow, and God's spirit will offer new life and hope.

RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Today's Gospel tells us of the raising of Lazarus. In Jesus' exchange with Lazarus' sister Martha, she refers to the general

resurrection of the dead on “the last day.” Jesus then shifts the perspective by identifying himself as “the resurrection and the life.” What does this mean? Jesus earlier had spoken of the hour “when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (John 5:25). When Jesus cries out in a loud voice—“Lazarus, come out!”—Jesus fulfills that role in the present, offering resurrection and life here and now, in a new relationship with him.

Resurrection is offered not only on the last day, and not only at our physical death, but in the mix of our present daily lives. Sometimes we are buried in tombs of suffering or of entrapment in sin. When we encounter death in its many forms, in faith we can hear Jesus, who summons us out of death and into life.

Today's Readings: Ez 37:12–14; Ps 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8;
Rom 8:8–11; Jn 11:1–45 [3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45]

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 29, 2020**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
— *Psalms 130:1*



There are no requested Masses at this time. If you want your Mass to be said on your requested date, please contact Father That Son. He is permitted to say Masses by himself.

Otherwise, the Mass will be rescheduled.

Father That Son cell: (408)-858-7467

Father That Son continues to offer Mass privately for all our parishioners and health care workers.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS

We are no longer permitted to distribute palms. The diocese sent this statement: "As we continue to learn more and more about COVID-19 and the ways in which it is transmitted, Bishop Brennan has asked that the distribution of palms also be suspended in any form. It is simply too dangerous to promote people coming together, or to have surfaces of tables—even if left outside—being touched by successive visitors. These are all ways in which the virus can spread."

EASTER FLOWERS

Our Easter Flowers were ordered many weeks ago and we cannot cancel them. If we are unable to have Easter Mass, Gina will keep them in the cool basement for as long as she can. When she finally decorates the church, if it's permitted, we will invite you to come to visit.

WALKING WITH JESUS

You are strongly encouraged to take a walk and recite a decade of the Rosary for the vulnerable in our community and for the end of the pandemic.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Thank you to all those who are mailing your weekly offering.

March 15, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 400.00
Building Repairs	\$ 25.00
Priest Retirement	\$ 50.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 50.00

March 22, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 545.00
Priest Retirement	\$ 102.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 50.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 585.00

Check our Facebook page often for updates and announcements.

Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen, pastor

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):

Sat. 3:30 p.m., or any other time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

By appointment. Contact the parish office at least six months before the date of the marriage.

Pre-Cana is required.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

By appointment. The Diocese requires instructions beforehand for the parents.

Contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (P.S.R.):

Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. for Grades 1-12.

REGISTRATION AND CHURCH SUPPORT:

Parishioners should be properly registered at the Parish Office

Church Office Phone: 304-845-1593
Church Hall Phone: 304-845-9238
Xavier Hall Phone: 304-845-7080
Rev. That Son Cell: 408-858-7467

Parish Office Email: sfxmoundsville@comcast.net
Website: sfxmoundsville.org

MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekends: Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedule:

8:00 am, 7:00 p.m.

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS

Prayer Request: Anna Mae Veronis Holiday, Diane and Ronnie Hill, Connie Howard, Eleanor Smith, Catherine Pellerin, Mary Coffield, Jim Conner, Thomas Sullivan, Sara Walters, Diane Young, Tex Reynolds, Bobby Kleinedler. **Homebound:** Semon & Phyllis Prado, Doris Murphy, Rachel Kerekes. **Nursing Home:** Bertie Gaughenbaugh, Bill Tennant, Gary Dobbs, Patricia Schmidt, Helen Remke, Barbara Meyer, Elizabeth Potts, Ron Jaworski.

TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Do you sew?
Senator Joe Manchin and the Charleston Area Medical Center are calling on any and all who sew, to help make masks for medical professionals during the Coronavirus pandemic, following a severe shortage of supplies and - you can always give them away to family and friends! Here is a link to a pattern you can use:
<https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/>



MUSIC IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Parishioners! We know you are anxious to come back to church. Here is an Easter song for you to practice:

Jesus Christ is Risen Today
<https://youtu.be/r9a41CvVEHw>

A Message from our Easter Choir Director:

To all our loyal choir members and parishioners who may like to hum along:
Here us a YouTube link. Let's practice!

Hallelujah (Easter Version) For two part ensemble
Composer: Leonard Cohen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYhUySFIwR8>

A POEM FROM FR. CHARLES THESSING (Fr. That Son's Friend)

'There just isn't any answer to why things happen the way they do. It's more complicated that preachers like to preach about God getting mad and punishing us. To me, that's not a loving father. Of course, I'm not always a loving father either, but then I am a unwed father!'

Struggle, pain, sickness, strain,
Seems like something is wrong!
Whatever happened to ease and peace?
Will this struggle ever cease?

If it's not a curse, then why?
Could it get worse, will some die?
Faith in the unknown,
Hoping for the ultimate answer,
Even trying to understand cancer,
Makes one prone to give up on perseverance,
Trying to make sense of all these crazy events.

The "Glory of God," being shown today,
Couldn't it be done, in another way?
I can't comprehend the reason,
For hardships in any season,
Age and status of society too,
What are we supposed to do?

Endurance and trust?
Tomorrow it may be okay,
But still, we have to cope with what "they say!"

Ultimately, there need to be more clarity,
To all this absurdity in insanity.
It's driving me crazy!
(I know, for me it's a short trip.)

So I'll be quiet,
Less talk . . .
Less doubt,
Less fear,
More trust in a hope,
That God will get us out of here!

Here's a way to combat your anxiety:

Get connected - remember social distancing is not emotional distancing. Send us a poem (or a haiku!); give us a glimpse of how you are finding your way through the pandemic and we will publish it.

Office of Safe Environment

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, contact local law enforcement, or contact WV Child Protective Services: 800-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese, contact this diocesan number: 888-434-6237.



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