March 29, 2020

**Fifth Sunday of Lent Homily by Father Mike**

The opening prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Lent is as follows;

**“By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death.”**

We first acknowledge that we need the help of God, and we beg Him as the One true God, that we may walk with Jesus, with the same love that He has for all creation, which was manifest in His dying for us. In this time of great suffering and death we see so many people expressing their love for one another. As I walk around the parish property I have encountered a number of people who make visits to the Church just to be in the presence of the Lord. I greet and am greeted by those walking or jogging on the sidewalk. I can see that many people are staying home because the traffic on Massachusetts Ave is almost nonexistent. All of these are examples of people being concerned for one another.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus shows His love for Lazarus, Martha, and Mary as he raises Lazarus from the dead. Beyond this He shows His love for us, those who came before us and those who will come after us. He does this by giving us the sign that He is the Lord of life, and death is not more powerful than Him. In the Resurrection of Jesus we witness that He is also the Lord of Eternal Life. Eternal Life is given to those who believe in Him, who follow His commands. Many of us will experience the death of a friend or family member who will succumb to this virus or its complications. We do not lose hope or give up on our trust and faith in the Lord. We stand as witnesses for Jesus and His Church in the good times and the bad, in the light and the darkness, in death and life.

Please pray with the Scriptures for this Sunday: Ezekiel 37:12-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:8-11, and John 11:1-45 for these are the words of Eternal Life.

God’s Peace,

Fr. Mike