

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 ~ Third Week of Easter



Readings: Acts 7:51-8:1a Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab Jn 6:30-35

Dear Parishioners:

Boy! St. Stephen had guts! He faced off against a popular and powerful crowd as he fearlessly preached the truth of the gospel to them. He wasn't worried that what he had to say might offend someone's sensitivities, or be considered culturally inappropriate, or politically incorrect. He wasn't afraid to tell people the truth whether they liked it or not. He didn't care if someone ran to mommy or daddy or to the press and said how mean and horrible he was because he hurt their feelings. Stephen preached the gospel; pure, honest, straightforward, unvarnished. Of course, he got killed for doing it. Perhaps the problem with Christians today is that we've become so afraid of what others might think or say that we hesitate to preach and live the truth of the gospel. When Pope Francis issued his encyclicals on the environment and the economy those who didn't like what he had to say (because he didn't worry about American political sensitivities) howled like wounded hungry wolves. Perhaps we Christians in general and we Catholics in particular have become so comfortable that we respond to the truth of the gospel like the self-righteous people of Stephen's day and are infuriated, grind our teeth at the preacher, want to drag him out of the city and stone him to death. It happens. It happens all the time. Rather than bend to the whims of secular society we should stand our ground on the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not the platform of a political party or unwavering allegiance to a politician or social opinion. If we stand on the gospel of Jesus Christ be careful: We could very well end up like Stephen. However, if we have the courage of Stephen we will also be able to see "... the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." The choice is ours, and how will God judge us by the choices we make?

For those who had problems with the sound at our livestreamed Mass today: OOPS! Something went haywire that we hope we have fixed tomorrow. Sorry about that. Yes, watching Mass livestreamed is not the ideal way to worship but, under the current circumstances, it's the best we can do. Someday soon we'll all be able to attend Mass together and receive Holy Communion again.

**A Little Humor:** Four Great Unresolved Confusions!

1. At a movie theater, which armrest is yours?
2. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
3. Why is there a "D" in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
4. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

And it wasn't too long ago that the only time we started panic buying was when the bartender yelled "LAST CALL!"

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Past

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