

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Friday, April 3, 2020



Dear Parishioners:

Friday, April 3: Daily Readings: Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42

While reading the Bible we have to be very careful not to take things out of context. We can't just take one line or sentence from a passage and say "SEE! THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS!" That's particularly true for me now when our Associate Pastor, Fr. Niru, has a doctorate in Biblical Theology, a program I would never dare to take on. (Hey! How many parishes have two priests assigned to it both of whom have doctorates in theology?). Anyway, I'm going to do what I said shouldn't be done – take a line of out context from today's First Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah. Mind you, Jeremiah was not a joyful prophet. He didn't want the job, try to wiggle his way of the job, God wore him down until he accepted the job – and then faced the consequences. That's the context of part of today's passage. Jeremiah was hounded, hated, threatened with violence and had a price put on his head simply because he was preaching God's word to those who didn't want to hear it. Then, in the middle of today's reading we hear that despite *everything* he was enduring --- "... to you I have entrusted my cause." What a tremendous act of faith! If you start to get depressed over the state of life today just remember it is not the first time in history that humanity has faced such calamities. Such things were more localized in the past but now, with the ease and frequency of global travel and instant communication, diseases and political troubles spread like wildfire! What is our response as Believers? It's the response of Jeremiah: "... to You I have entrusted my cause." Perhaps now that you might have a little more "free" time read the whole Book of Jeremiah. That would be good Lenten reading.

As for Lent: Yes, it's still Lent. If you made a Lenten promise try to keep it as closely as possible. It might even be a bigger sacrifice now than we thought it would be on Ash Wednesday but take that Lenten sacrifice as a true prayer and penance and offer it up for our suffering world because, after all, "... to You I have entrusted my cause."

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be live-streamed this evening at 7:00 p.m.

A Bit of Humor: This guy was sipping his third drink quietly in a bar when he was approached by a stranger with a determined look in his eye who obviously disapproved of the man's indulgence. "Are you living in fear of the Lord? The stranger demanded. "No, I'm not, to tell the truth." The drinker replied. "Him I love. It's that fellow with the horns and long tail that has me scared."

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