



St. Ann Parish

ESTABLISHED 1913

3010 Ridge Road, Lansing, IL • 708-895-6700



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



March 29, 2020

Reverend Mark Kalema, Pastor
www.saintanncatholicparish.com

Masses

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.
 First Friday Mass: 7:30 a.m.
 Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
 Confessions: 3:00 p.m. Saturday
 Day-Long Adoration: Last Wednesdays

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:00-Noon & 1:00-4:00 p.m.
 Office closes at 3:00 p.m. on Fridays
 Closed Saturday & Sunday

Contact Information

Parish Office: 708-895-6700
 Parish Office Fax: 708-895-6877
 School Office: 708-895-1661
 Religious Ed. Office: 708-895-5970
 St. Vincent DePaul: 708-745-4760
 Fr. Mark's email: frmark@saintanncatholicparish.com
 Parish email: parishoffice@saintanncatholicparish.com
 Bulletin email: jeng@saintanncatholicparish.com
 RE email: sandra@saintanncatholicparish.com
 Prayer Tree: debndnut@aol.com
 School Website: www.stannschoollansing.org
 Parish Website: www.saintanncatholicparish.com

Please call the Office
 to request prayers
 for the sick.

For Ministry of Care to the homebound or hospitalized, please call the Parish Office or fill out a form in the Narthex.

Bulletin articles are due 10 days in advance of the Sunday you would like them to run. During holidays, deadlines are accelerated. To add items to the calendar or to schedule the Narthex or other meeting spaces, forms must be filled out in the Parish Office.

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 Jennifer Gray, Communication/Bulletin Editor
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 Brian Kozlowski, Music Ministry & Liturgy
 Cindy Hope, Altar Servers
 Kim Jacobson, Art & Environment
 Bill Benne, Ushers
 Gail Lee, Eucharistic Ministers
 Gerrie Szewczyk, Sacristans

St. Ann Parish Mission Statement

We are called by a loving God
 to make St. Ann of Lansing a Catholic community of faith.
 We are a family of diverse people with various ministries:
 healing the body and spirit, teaching of God and His love,
 united in sacraments and prayer, reaching out to the extended community.
 With God's revelation of Himself in Scripture as our guide,
 we strive to grow in His Spirit and to fulfill the promise of Christ's Kingdom.



Christ, The Resurrection & the Life - John 11:1-45

In today's Gospel we see a scene with which all of us are familiar, namely, people weeping over the death of a loved one. Jesus is at the center of that scene. He is the one who gives hope to those who are surrounded by the shadows of death.

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark." The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark, dear," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother really hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure! He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. "Jesus! If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

In two weeks on Good Friday, we will recall the death of Jesus, but today we are confronted with the death of Lazarus. It seems we're being asked to think about what we would prefer not to think about: death. And to ponder the little boy's question, "Jesus are you out there in the dark?" Really?

The little boy's question, "Jesus, are you out there?" must have been Lazarus' question. The good news is that he was: for Lazarus, for you, for me. **We must FIRST and foremost remember that we are not alone.** Everybody needs friends — even Jesus. In the village of Bethany, Jesus had three very special friends — the sisters, Martha and Mary, and their brother, Lazarus. Their house remained open to him when many other houses were being closed against him.

When Lazarus got sick, it was only natural that the first one the two sisters should turn to for help was Jesus. They sent an urgent message to him, couched in language calculated to appeal to his heart. It said simply, "Lord, the man you love is ill." Their hope was that he would drop everything and come and cure him.

But surprisingly, Jesus did not drop everything and rush to the bedside of his dying friend. Instead he stayed on where he was for two whole days. We don't know why. His delay in coming must have been heartbreaking for the sisters. Right in front of their eyes their brother's life was ebbing away. And the one they believed could do something about it wasn't there.

So what can we do? We must try to imitate Martha. The story presents her as a model of faith. In her hour of grief,

she ran to the Lord and poured out her sorrow to Him. And when He challenged her to believe, she made a wonderful profession of faith: "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, the One who was to come into the world."

Well, Lazarus died. The Gospel shows the desolation his death caused to Martha and Mary. While they had sympathetic people around them, the one they most wanted to be with them was not there. Jesus, their friend and the friend of Lazarus, was absent. And when He finally came, they suggested that He could have prevented this death. "Lord, if You had been here, our brother would not have died."

The desolation experienced by Martha and Mary is one many of us have experienced. And when something bad happens to us or to a loved one, **we can't help thinking that if God really cared about us, if He really loved us, then He wouldn't have allowed this thing to happen. We feel abandoned by God. We feel He has left us alone.**

What we have to do then is to turn to God. Neither a good life, nor a close relationship with God, will necessarily save a person from a tragic death. In the face of our pain all we can do is commend ourselves to God and abandon ourselves to His care.

During these difficult days of Coronavirus (COVID-19) where we are going through hardships, and at times feel helpless and powerless, let us turn to the wonderful friend Jesus. In John's Gospel, Jesus goes around doing things in a big way and then saying lots of very big and very complicated things about them. He starts out in the Gospel turning water into wine and now, by the time we get to today's Gospel, He is turning death into life!

I am glad two things occur in today's Gospel which give me another insight into the Jesus who is described by John. First, Jesus describes Lazarus as *his friend* as mentioned above and later, *we are told Jesus wept.*

To be a friend means to be willing to share with another a common life, to support and be supported. It seems clear from John's Gospel that Lazarus and his sisters had been a source of comfort to Jesus. It was at their home He found hospitality and rest from the bustle of the crowds and the hostility of those who did not understand Him. Now here was an opportunity to return the favors of the loving care of that house in Bethany. Not only would He be able to bring Lazarus back to life, but, by that event, Lazarus would become the means by which others would see God was working through the ministry of Jesus. Lazarus would become a living, walking testimony to the power of God in Jesus Christ.

To weep means to identify with another's pain and sorrow and to admit it as our own. When Jesus wept beside the tomb of Lazarus, He was weeping with every person who has ever lost a loved one to the power of death. A few weeks ago, when we heard the story of the temptation, we

emphasized that that event meant Jesus could understand the weakness of each man and woman. Now we learn Jesus knows our grief and suffers the pain of loss as we do. These words assure us that the Jesus who makes those magnificent claims about Himself throughout John's Gospel is not simply some divine being set apart from us, but He is one of us. God is a human being! Or, as John puts it at the beginning of his Gospel, "The word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The Gospels record three times Jesus wept. Each time tells us something about his identification with humanity.

The first time was that of the circumcision. Granted, the Scripture does not say, in as many words, that Jesus wept, but I think one can assume. Jesus feels the pain of the human flesh for the first time. The ancient fathers used to make great comparisons between this shedding of His blood the first time under the law, and the final shedding of His blood to fulfil the law completely. We are not as impressed with those kinds of images today, but we should not neglect to remind ourselves Jesus understands our frustration with all the dos and do nots of this life because He was Himself subject to law and its consequences.

The other time Jesus wept was over the city of Jerusalem. He wept because of the conspiracy of human sin and human ignorance that would not see, in Him, the fulfillment of God's law. It was this conspiracy that would finally bring Him to His death.

Jesus weeps because he understands the weakness of human flesh. He weeps because our ignorance turns us from Him. And, finally, He weeps at the tomb of Lazarus. He weeps as a friend. He weeps as one who knows our sorrow and the harsh depth of its reality.

Because Jesus was human, He wept. Because He was the Son of God, He restored Lazarus to life. In the same way, Jesus calls us friends and meets us in our need. He is the Resurrection and the Life as much for us as for Lazarus. How sad it is when we do not remind ourselves of the presence of this friend each week as we come to Holy Communion! How sad many congregations neglect to have the Eucharist each week! It is like saying to Jesus, "Yes, we want You to be our friend, but if You are around too much, we might get tired of You."

Christ comes to us in the Eucharistic banquet, just as He came to Lazarus and Mary and Martha and ate at their home. He comes as a friend. He comes in the ordinary objects of life, in bread and wine. In the offertory we give God the bread and wine, and God returns it to us as a dynamic reminder of the living presence of Christ in the world. This is not simply a pious hope that we may live beyond the grave. It is God's assurance to us eternal life has begun now, now in our baptism, and the Holy Communion is the food which nourishes that eternal life within us.

Mr. John Wesley (English cleric and theologian) referred to the Holy Communion as "an antepast of heaven." That word ought to have a slightly familiar ring to people who eat in Italian restaurants. It is the same word as antipasto. It is the first course of the meal, if you will. In other words, we know the banquet has already begun. It may be a kind of progressive dinner, but the dinner has begun. Eternal life has started now! In Holy Communion the One who is the Resurrection and the Life assures us we are participating in it.

Do not be deceived by those who try to tell you our life here is only a preparation for eternity, getting ready to take the final examination to see if we will graduate into Pearly Gates University. The water has already been changed into wine by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Eternal life has begun for us now.

Of course, that does not mean we will be excused from facing death. Lazarus wasn't. He had been revived, but he had not been resurrected. The early preachers used to see great symbolism in the fact that Lazarus came out of the grave still in his burial clothes. They understood that to mean Lazarus would have to face death again. But this time he would be facing death with a difference. The difference would be Christ had gone before him and cleared the way, had gone to prepare a place for him.

When people are baptized on Easter Day in many parts of the world, they are reminded that they die in baptism. That is what going under the water means (immersion). But they are also raised in baptism. That's why the priest or deacon takes them out! Eternal life with Christ will have begun for them.

You may know His presence in a special way each week as you meet Him at the Lord's Table. Like Lazarus, we still have to face a physical death. But we will face it equipped with the knowledge that Christ will continue to walk with us through that door as He has faithfully walked with us through all the days of our earthly tour. No wonder we can sing, "*What a Friend We Have in Jesus!*"

Fr. Mark Kalema, Pastor

If you wish to receive the weekly St. Ann church bulletin electronically, please send your name and email address to

jeng@saintanncatholicparish.com

or subscribe here:

[https://www.jspaluch.com/
BulletinSubscribe.aspx](https://www.jspaluch.com/BulletinSubscribe.aspx)

Please tell your friends!

Today's Readings

First Reading — Thus says the Lord GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalms — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

EZEKIEL'S COUNTER-STORY

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.

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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3/29/2020

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Opportunity to Dream

Young people must be provided good nutrition to be able to pursue their dreams. Did you have the opportunity to dream?

What can you do to give young people the opportunity to dream?

Visit crsricebowl.org for more.





Dear St. Ann parish, parents, and students,

It seems like a month has gone by, but we are now at the two-week mark since St. Ann School moved to online learning. I am extending my hand to each of you who find this process anywhere from "great" to "I am not sure what to do." The roll-out of our academic online learning program went seemingly well, but we have a long way to go to make sure everyone makes progress together over the next several weeks. There will be hiccups and adjustments, but the teachers and staff at St. Ann School are dedicated to providing the same quality education our students receive when they are in our physical building.

This will be a difficult and trying time for us, as it is for everyone, but if we all work together—parish, students, staff, and parents—we can ensure that education continues uninterrupted during this health crisis. Most importantly, if a student does not hear from their academic teachers each day, please contact me immediately. Students must also check in at 10:00 a.m. daily in order to continue their online learning schedule. Beginning this past week, if we did not hear from a student on a daily basis, a call home from our attendance office went to the home.

I have put together a parent website to provide Google training modules and information about Google classroom to help parents and their students meet their academic goals:

<https://sites.google.com/stannschoollansing.org/parentresourcepage/home>

As I said before, this is a learning curve for all of us, so students, please provide feedback to your teachers as you're going, so they can tweak and improve lessons for you. And should you experience technical difficulties, whether with your Chromebook or other device, or with any aspect of Google Classroom, please reach out to Mr. Snyder for assistance:

dsnyder@stannschoollansing.org.

Effective this past week, students no longer have assigned work on Fridays so they may catch up on

LOOKING FOR A JOB IN EDUCATION?



ST. ANN SCHOOL
LANSING IL

Please visit our website for information on Career Opportunities at St. Ann School:

<https://stannschoollansing.org/career-opportunities/>



The best way to keep up to date with us is to look for "St. Ann Catholic Parish" and "St. Ann Catholic School, Lansing" on facebook, and "like" us. Both pages are updated several times daily with breaking news and helpful resources.

their lessons in IXL and iReady with their homeroom teachers. Specials such as music, Spanish, and art will also take place on Fridays. Additionally, our support staff will reach out to the students who need additional support in their lessons. Fridays are good days for parents to reach out to their student's teachers as well.

Finally, our Spring Break will begin on March 30 and end on April 3, which is two weeks earlier than originally planned. This will allow us to tweak our academic program based on the two weeks of online learning we have already accomplished. In observance of our faith, there will be no classes on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Thank you all again for your patience and cooperation.

We must continue to assist our school, church, and each other spiritually, educationally, and emotionally, as the Lord enables us to. In that regard, we will be distributing free breakfasts and lunches with milk for all children under 18 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the church. Please bring your own tote or other bag to carry the sack meals.

We also want to thank our St. Ann parishioners for all you do for our school. We could not move forward without your generous support. Please stay safe and continue to practice the guidelines set forth by the CDC, including social distancing and hand washing. We look forward to seeing everyone again when we are all able to gather!

God bless you,

Principal Gonzalez



St. Ann School



Nourishing Mind, Soul, & Body

- PreKindergarten through 8th Grade
- Comprehensive curriculum, including Spanish, religious instruction, and enrichment activities
- iReady diagnostics for ultimate differentiated and customized learning (our scores have increased exponentially across the board since adopting iReady)
- **Online learning for full credit during the current health crisis, including virtual tutoring**
- Available before & after-school care; breakfast, lunch, & after-school snacks

2020/21 Enrollment Now Open!

Email Janice Summerrise to save your children's seats **TODAY!**

We have openings for next year at most grade levels, but spots are filling quickly.

Visit our website FMI: www.stannschoollansing.org

jsummerrise@stannschoollansing.org

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Lord Jesus Christ healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from this virus. May they be at rest with You in Your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know Your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know Your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know Your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Lord Jesus Christ stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of anxiety, give us Your peace. Lord Jesus Christ, heal us. AMEN

HUMOR

DEATH OF COMMON SENSE: AN OBITUARY (as Printed in The London Times)

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair; and
- Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home, and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; by his wife, Discretion; by his daughter, Responsibility; and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers: I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, I'm a Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

St. Ann Catholic Church

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Bulletin Editor Jennifer Gray

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