

**MARCH 27, 2022**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
*Joshua 5:9a, 10-12*  
*2 Corinthians 5:17-21*  
*Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

Reconciliation, the Effective Way to Get Even!

As we have observed war between nations, arguing among our elected officials that does not address true needs of our own people and as we might argue within our own homes, we can observe childish behavior. It is possible to find rivals who try to "get even" with each other.

How does God feel about all of this vitriol? Is it possible God wants to "get even" with all of us, his creatures? Perhaps the Lord is tired of all we have done with his creation. What would be getting even on God's part. How would he get even for all the hatred we have built up in the world? That is, if God wanted to get even.

It might be conjectured, the ultimate "getting even" would be to reconcile the world, all of us with each other. The most effective means to get even is to *reconcile*. When people are reconciled, they are even.

To reconcile means to bring together, to make one. As one might see in the readings of the Second Sunday of Lent, God is the Prime Mover. God is the first to move. God reaches out to make us His friends. Friends reconcile when they have a falling out. In the case of Joshua and the people of his time God has led them into the Promised Land and it is fruitful.

While the people had wondered getting to the land they were not always as faithful to God as they should have been. Nevertheless, God as a good friend reaches out to them to bring them back to Him, to reconcile. The fruitfulness of the land is a sign of the reconciliation.

As in the time of Joshua we, today, are constantly being redeemed by the grace of God. New things come to us, perhaps each day that let us know God is still working with us. Sometimes we have spent enough time in prayer worship and celebration to see God's

actions. Sometimes we have not. Yet, God continues to try and be one with us regardless of our own deficits.

The gospel story, the Prodigal, shows how we hurt our relationship with God. You and I can be demanding of God but not be properly responsible with gifts He gives us. After some wayward episode we might run back to God and say, "I am sorry." While God might offer some correction of us, to get us right again, He never seeks vengeance. He is not out "to get even" but to get even as in to reconcile.

When we reconcile with God we can be reconciled with people. Reconciling with God shows we are open to His reconciling Grace. That Grace of God can serve to make us one with other people. In this way we become one again with them as well as God. This is what most effectively makes us even.

Give reconciliation a try. You might find out that even something very simple and silly caused a rift between you and another person. Maybe a misunderstanding that was left to fester. Or, you just decided not to hear the other person's side of the story and walked away from a long friendship. Perhaps the other person even tried to get you to listen and hear his or her explanation.

Truly, get even. Reach out or accept the other person's effort to reach out to you. Get even! Reconcile.

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Remember, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturday, 3-3:30pm

And

Each Thursday prior to the Stations of the Cross or *Scripture Sharing* from 6:30pm to 6:50pm.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Is43:16-21; Phil3:8-14; Jn8:1-11**  
**Scriptural Stations of the Cross, Thursdays, 7-8pm.**

**STEWARDSHIP**  
**Time, Talent, Tithing**

**It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.**

**Attendance last week:**

**Tithes Collected:**

***Per capita:***

**Thank You!**

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

### **During Lent Scriptural Stations of the Cross Thursdays at 7:00pm**

This dynamic way of the cross greatly takes from the biblical accounts of Jesus' passion and death. It is truly attractive to the children. Come as a family each Thursday evening. A preview of the next Sunday's readings is given. You might even get a little reward too!

Sunday School students and parents must participate.

### **Holy Week Schedule**

April 14 @ 7:00pm: Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

April 15 @ 7:00pm: Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord.

April 16 @ **8:00pm**: Easter Vigil  
(There is NO morning Mass on the above days.)

April 17: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord. 9:00am & 10:45am.

together with the rest of the faithful of God you come to make the choice to celebrate. You do so freely and responsibly.

Let us return to the obligation of celebrating Mass every Sunday with each other. We are a community of Faith. No longer can we sit at home and watch it "stream" on the screen. Without trepidation of the Lord come back to Mass and celebrate the Lord in awe, respect, and with uplifted spirit.

**Beginning Pasion Sunday (Palm Sunday)the permission to stay at home on Sunday is lifted.**

By the Grace of God's goodness we now return to being an in person celebrating people.

## **STEWARDSHIP and LITURGY**

### **Time to Return to In Person Celebration of the Sunday Liturgy!**

**How blessed we are to be able to celebrate the Liturgy freely every Sunday. Let us be sure to do so every Sunday.**

Calling all disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is time to return fulltime in person to the celebration of Sunday Liturgy.

Brothers and sisters, we have been through much angst over the past couple of years. We mourn the loss of people who died of COVID. Some of us who had the disease continue to recover due to long haul conditions. We will always have to be vigilant for any future outbreak of the virus. But now we are quite free of great fear and danger.

Sometimes it feels like a chore to celebrate Mass every Sunday. But when you come