



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

14 March 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent - Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma

Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus, and the vaccine distribution. This is a crisis that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- Happy Birthday to George, today
- Let's remember those we love, in prayers, for this week...
- Deacon Suzanne continues treatment. She says she is responding well and feeling better. Please also pray for Flo who takes care of Suzanne.
- Maria and Roberto's granddaughter Jessie, has contracted Covid. We pray for her.
- Philip continues to have trouble with his back. We pray for him and for Ruth Ellen who cares for him.
- and we pray for many others whose names I did not mention today... God bless them all
- Carol and Harry say hi to all the Church family and wish us to stay safe and healthy, they plan a visit in late Spring or early summer.
- We sent you all an email. Check your inbox and get the details which I will read now:

for Thursday 18 March 2021 at 7:00pm

It is the time of the year for our annual Council Meeting that everyone can attend. The entire population of St. Paul is and should be, involved in planning and management of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church.

Our Council President, Vincent Spadafora, has asked me to arrange a teleconference for our annual meeting. All of the congregation is invited to participate. Since it is not advisable to meet in person this meeting will be held by phone conference.

We will use a meeting system called UberConference.

To join the call, you dial the interface number, then enter an access code (if prompted).

The meeting date and time is: Thursday 18 March 2021 at 7:00pm

call 720-835-5869 - the access code is 77741 (if prompted to enter one)

Please join the conference call and help plan St. Paul's future.

- Let us watch the news carefully; listen to what doctors say, and pray that all the people of the world will be vaccinated. Pray so that all churches may resume the gathering that means so much.

website <https://spcath.org>

Gospel John 3:14-21

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."



Homily

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. The year is estimated to be 30 AD (that's "anno domini" which is Latin for "year of the Lord.") BC was used for the years before Christ. In our more modern approach to describing time, the period after the birth of Christ is called CE or Common Era.

We talked about Jesus clearing the temple that was full of merchants and his teaching that the temple was for worship, and not a shopping mall. He declared that he himself was the temple for the Lord. In other chapters of the Bible we can read accounts of teaching and miracles and Jesus reinforcing faith in the Father and the Son.

The Jewish high court was called the Sanhedrin; the court was made up of Pharisees. Nicodemus was one of the members of the Sanhedrin, and he was impressed by the teaching of Jesus. He visited Jesus in the evening, suggesting that he may not have wanted his fellow Pharisees to know he would be speaking to Jesus directly.

He said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these things that you do, unless God is with him." Jesus tells Nicodemus that in order to enter the Kingdom of God, a person must be "born again." We have all heard the expression, "born again." What does that mean exactly? Simply put, it is accepting the word of God and repenting for the things you have done which are contrary to the commandments; and asking forgiveness from the Lord. It is treating other people as you would be treated.

Nicodemus said to him, "how can a man be born when he is old?" Jesus explains that being born in the flesh is one thing. We have all done that. But to enter the kingdom of God you must be born into the Holy Spirit and accept the word of God. Yes, it is a poetic way to explain something but that is the lesson. The best example is when Jesus was baptized and holy spirit descended upon him, he was then born from water and spirit... born again. And God approved; "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Nicodemus begins to understand and Jesus continues with the lesson.

The Son of man must be lifted up as the savior and great example so that those who believe in him may have everlasting life.

Jesus is wise and calls out the experience of Nicodemus as a priest, teacher and leader. In those capacities he would be very familiar with the wondrous world of God that was passed on through the centuries... sometimes hard to understand but always reinforcing faith in God.



Nicodemus, the Pharisee, must now reflect on what Jesus has taught him and decide his own salvation. Jesus hoped to impart knowledge not with just one person at a time, but for those who heard his words to share and teach others. We still do this today.

I tell you often that you are made a disciple through your baptism. Almost all of us were baptized as babies or very young children... some as young or old adults. If one was baptized very young, they truly did not understand the Christian responsibility of walking with Jesus.

Here is the link... here is what to teach the young who grow into the church. A person must find, and claim, and grow into their baptism. When they reach the age of reasoning and responsibility they have to take the steps to say, "this is mine, and I accept the promises that were made in my name."

We teach the young ones in our lives about committing to Christ. We teach and honor the commandments of God. We teach as Jesus did to help others be born again with the Holy Spirit. This is the way to the kingdom of God. It is your responsibility to share the light.



Evangelio Juan 3:14-21

Jesús dijo: —Así como Moisés levantó la serpiente en el desierto, así también el Hijo del hombre tiene que ser levantado, para que todo el que cree en él tenga vida eterna.

»Pues Dios amó tanto al mundo, que dio a su Hijo único, para que todo aquel que cree en él no muera, sino que tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para condenar al mundo, sino para salvarlo por medio de él.

»El que cree en el Hijo de Dios, no está condenado; pero el que no cree, ya ha sido condenado por no creer en el Hijo único de Dios. Los que no creen, ya han sido condenados, pues, como hacían cosas malas, cuando la luz vino al mundo prefirieron la oscuridad a la luz. Todos los que hacen lo malo odian la luz, y no se acercan a ella para que no se descubra lo que están haciendo. Pero los que viven de acuerdo con la verdad, se acercan a la luz para que se vea que todo lo hacen de acuerdo con la voluntad de Dios.



Homilía

Jesús estaba en Jerusalén para la fiesta de la Pascua. Se estima que el año es 30 d. C. (eso es "anno domini" que en latín significa "año del Señor"). BC se usó para los años antes de Cristo. En nuestro enfoque más moderno para describir el tiempo, el período posterior al nacimiento de Cristo se llama EC o Era Común.

Hablamos sobre Jesús limpiando el templo que estaba lleno de comerciantes y su enseñanza de que el templo era para adorar y no un centro comercial. Declaró que él mismo era el templo del Señor. En otros capítulos de la Biblia podemos leer relatos de enseñanzas y milagros y Jesús refuerza la fe en el Padre y en el Hijo.

El tribunal superior judío se llamaba Sanedrín; el tribunal estaba formado por fariseos. Nicodemo era uno de los miembros del Sanedrín y quedó impresionado por la enseñanza de Jesús. Visitó a Jesús por la noche, sugiriendo que tal vez no hubiera querido que sus compañeros fariseos supieran que él estaría hablando con Jesús directamente.



Él dijo: "Rabí, sabemos que usted es un maestro que viene de Dios; porque nadie puede hacer estas cosas que usted hace, a menos que Dios esté con él". Jesús le dice a Nicodemo que para entrar en el Reino de Dios, una persona debe "nacer de nuevo". Todos hemos escuchado la expresión "nacer de nuevo". ¿Qué significa eso exactamente? En pocas palabras, es aceptar la palabra de Dios y arrepentirse por las cosas que ha hecho que son contrarias a los mandamientos; y pidiendo perdón al Señor. Es tratar a otras personas como te tratarían a ti.

Nicodemo le dijo: "¿Cómo puede un hombre nacer siendo viejo?" Jesús explica que nacer en la carne es una cosa. Todos hemos hecho eso. Pero para entrar en el reino de Dios debes nacer en el Espíritu Santo y aceptar la palabra de Dios. Sí, es una forma poética de explicar algo pero esa es la lección. El mejor ejemplo es cuando Jesús fue bautizado y el espíritu santo descendió sobre él, luego nació del agua y del espíritu ... nació de nuevo. Y Dios aprobó; "Este es mi Hijo, en quien me complazco".

Nicodemo comienza a comprender y Jesús continúa con la lección.

El Hijo del Hombre debe ser levantado como salvador y gran ejemplo para que los que creen en él tengan vida eterna.

Jesús es sabio y recuerda la experiencia de Nicodemo como sacerdote, maestro y líder. En esas capacidades, estaría muy familiarizado con el maravilloso mundo de Dios que pasó a través de los siglos ... a veces difícil de entender pero siempre reforzando la fe en Dios.

Nicodemo, el fariseo, ahora debe reflexionar sobre lo que Jesús le ha enseñado y decidir su propia salvación. Jesús esperaba impartir conocimientos no solo a una persona a la vez, sino a aquellos que escucharon sus palabras para compartir y enseñar a otros. Todavía hacemos esto hoy.

A menudo te digo que eres discípulo a través de tu bautismo. Casi todos fuimos bautizados cuando éramos bebés o niños muy pequeños ... algunos como adultos jóvenes o adultos. Si uno se bautizó muy joven, realmente no entendió la responsabilidad cristiana de caminar con Jesús.

Aquí está el enlace ... esto es lo que se debe enseñar a los jóvenes que crecen en la iglesia. Una persona debe encontrar, reclamar y crecer en su bautismo. Cuando llegan a la edad del razonamiento y la responsabilidad, tienen que dar los pasos para decir: "esto es mío y acepto las promesas que se hicieron en mi nombre".

Enseñamos a los jóvenes de nuestras vidas sobre cómo comprometerse con Cristo. Enseñamos y honramos los mandamientos de Dios. Enseñamos como lo hizo Jesús para ayudar a otros a nacer de nuevo con el Espíritu Santo. Este es el camino al reino de Dios. Es su responsabilidad compartir la luz.

