

ST. ISIDORE IN YOUR HOME  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (3/29/20)



It's the fifth Sunday of Lent. When you open this email, spend a few minutes to join fellow Isidorians to pray together.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us feel sorry for our shortcomings.

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy. May the Lord have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, Amen.

Let us pray: By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Liturgy of the Word*

God is good, all the time; all the time, God is good. (Is this the responsorial psalm, and if so, should it go after the first reading?)

**First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14**

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your soil," (v.14). The reading is both soothing and relevant to all the nations, as it is to the beautiful country of America. It assures us that this great land of the brave and the free will not be destroyed or be taken over by Coronavirus and COVID-19 for long. The Lord will return (his?) its glory and victory to it and keep us safe here.

Despite its insidiousness perhaps coronavirus and COVID-19 are here to compel us to stay home and take some rest which some never get to do in the normal scheme of things or to take time to reflect on some pertinent questions: Where does all this lead us? What is it that really matters? Is God in His rightful place? There is no spiritualizing of the pandemic here, but perhaps the end of it will bring us closer to forge ahead as one people renewing the grand theology of "in God we trust." Perhaps it will result in "googling God" more and increasing our quest for God's ever-refreshing tweets in the scriptures rather than look forward to those from politicians and celebrities to start our days.

**Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11**

**Gospel: John 11:1-45**

"Untie him and let him go" (v.44). This is one of my favorite verses in the scriptures. What a way to give freedom to a person. Isn't the freedom to live the greatest gift as well. Life is sweet and dignified and no one should be stopped to enjoy this gracious gift. Jesus didn't only give freedom to Lazarus to live, but he wept that he was denied living for four days. It hurts the Lord that some are denied living at this time by COVID-19. But the good news is that he will give them life forever. Whose duty is it to liberate others so they can live? All of us. Give life. Give love. Love is life.

**Prayer:** For the Church, for all our parishioners in this hard time, for the world, and for all who are sick and mentioned in the pariah book of prayer and on the prayer chain list We pray to the Lord.

**Closing:** We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.