

# *Live* as children of *light.*

Ephesians 5:8

## Lazarus is Raised from the Dead (John 11:1-45)

Poor Lazarus!

When my mother was alive we had several discussions about this story. She always felt badly for Lazarus. She thought it was horrible that he came face to face with his death, went through it, only to come back and then at some point had to die all over again.

We all have to deal with our own death. Some people do it better than others but in the end, we face it alone. It is inevitable for each one of us, and we know it. When we are younger we tend to think about it less because it seems like something that will never happen.

As we get older, we become more aware of people dying and become more aware that our own life won't go on forever. We start to think about our own death and try to come to terms with it. Woody Allen once said, "I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens."

I wonder if Lazarus was afraid of death (the first or the second time). Lying there in his bed wondering if his friend Jesus was coming to save him, he must have been a little bit scared. Then he died. Not like some people that you read about being dead for a few minutes on an operating table, or in a car accident, or being revived after drowning. Lazarus was in the tomb for four days! I guess Jesus really wanted to make a point. I think he did indeed.

What was that time of being dead like? My Mom used to say it would have been nice to hear from Lazarus and ask him about that. Where did he go? What did he see? What was it like hearing the voice of Jesus calling him back to life?

Even though Lazarus came back to life only to have to deal with death again at some future point, he came back to be with his friend Jesus. What an awesome gift, to hang out with our Lord and Savior. How cool that he was a part of Jesus' plan to show his power over death. He heard Jesus calling him even beyond his own death.

I believe that we each have that same opportunity. Each of us can have a real relationship with Jesus and hang out with him all of the time. We can meet him in all of our sisters and brothers in every walk of life. We just need to look, listen, and pray. We are called to be a part of his divine plan. Like Lazarus, we need to be ready to respond to that call.

### **For reflection:**

Am I ready to face my own death? Am I afraid?

What am I doing to meet Jesus in my life? Do I see him in others?

Where do I hear Jesus calling me this Lent?

*-Ralph Stewart, Director of East Side Child & Youth Ministry*

## Lenten Almsgiving

One of the primary commands we find in the Bible is to love our neighbor, recognizing them as our brothers and sisters. Too often we see people who don't look or sound like us as the other, and we don't treat them the same as we treat our friends and family. But we are called to kinship - a family relationship - with all people because we ARE in the same family: the family of Christ.

This Lent marks the start of what will surely be a wonderful, life-giving and solidarity-producing relationship. Our family of four parishes is entering into an intentional relationship with the family of four central city parishes - All Saints, St. Martin de Porres, St. Michael and St. Rose. This relationship can move us further towards healing the deep divide in our community, and - literally speaking - they are our neighbors. Who better to form a relationship with than the parishes next door?

As a first step in this relationship, our Lenten almsgiving will help support the All Saints Meal Program. Some of our parishioners are already involved in this important ministry, and we have an opportunity to help sustain this ministry by raising money that will allow All Saints to hire a Dining Room Coordinator who will oversee the three-dinners-per-week ministry. Many of our brothers and sisters in the central city are facing hunger and isolation, and the meal program at All Saints brings people together in community to meet their basic needs of food and human connection. We need to raise at least \$10,000 for this effort. If we all work at it, we could raise enough to support this for the next few years and it can grow into an even stronger and more supportive ministry. Sacrifice for the poor especially gives praise to God, so please be as generous as possible.

Please return your Almsgiving gift - **checks made out to All Saints Catholic Church** - on Holy Thursday. You may also turn your donation in at any of the other Triduum masses, weekend collections, or the parish office.

If you have any questions please contact Andrew Musgrave at [musgravea@archmil.org](mailto:musgravea@archmil.org) or 414-271-6577. As you move through your Lenten journey, prayerfully consider supporting this great community resource, both through your prayers and your alms.

## Catholic East Fish Fry

Only 1 left – Friday, April 7, 4:00-7:00pm  
SS Peter & Paul Campus Cafeteria (2480 N Cramer St)  
Adults \$10; Seniors/Takeout \$9; Kids \$6

## Communal Reconciliation

Saturday, April 8, 10:00am  
Three Holy Women-Holy Rosary Church (2011 N Oakland Ave)  
Celebrate God's unending mercy in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Communal prayer and individual confessions will be available.

## Stations of the Cross

### Wednesdays

- before the 12:05pm Mass (11:45am) at Old St. Mary (844 N Broadway)
- after the 5:30pm Mass (6:00pm) at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig (1702 N Humboldt Ave)

### Fridays

- after the 8:15am Mass (8:45am) at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig (1702 N Humboldt Ave)
- before the 12:05pm Mass (11:45am) at Old St. Mary (844 N Broadway)