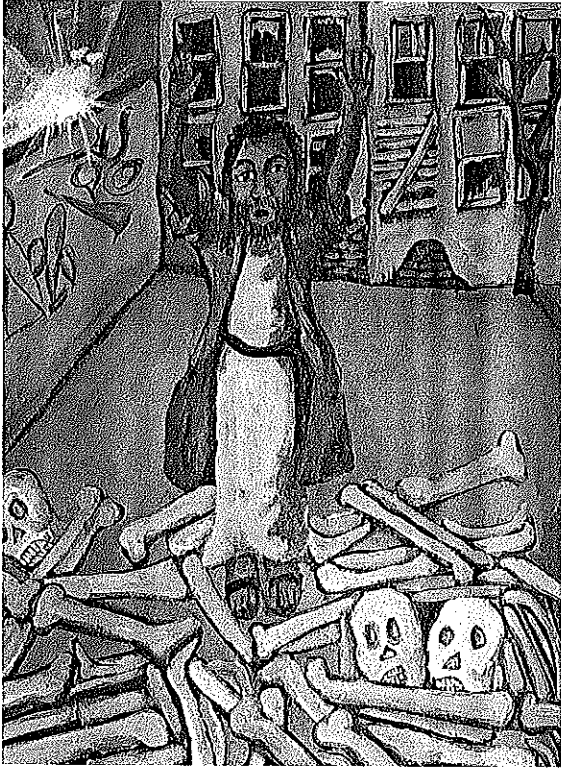


Fifth Sunday of Lent



Release Us by Your Spirit

God of all life,
 who raised Lazarus from the dead,
 and released the poor from their suffering;
 you who lead us in the land of the living:
 bless us and give us your Spirit, your Spirit of
 generosity and holiness, of life and of crea-
 tive energy.

Lift us from our graves of sinfulness
 and raise us from our dry and wasteful ways.

May our sins be left behind
 and our life in your Spirit bring us joy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who
 lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
 Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Spirit Dwelling Within

Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45.

The Spirit of God gives life. The Spirit, given by God, is all about life. Today's readings emphasize the role of the Spirit in those apparently dead. Ezekiel emphasizes this quite vividly: graves will be opened and we will rise from them. That is only the beginning, though. God will settle us in our land by putting his Spirit within us.

Have you already died, buried in a grave of apathy or disillusionment or sinfulness? Have you allowed a negative attitude or an overly judgmental nature to cut you off from God? If so, you have dug your own grave. If the Spirit of God is within you, now is the time to release that Spirit, for it is the spirit of life. The First Reading reminds us that God's Spirit is in us that we might live; and we are not just to live, but live and "settle" in the land of the living.

We who have been baptized carry within us the Spirit of Christ, as St. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading, and therefore have life—Christ's life—dwelling in us. That is not just a calling, but a reminder that we are sustained by our baptismal graces throughout our ups and downs, our joys and our failings. We do not need to remain in the graves we have dug. We must settle in the land of the living.

Belief in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life is at the heart of today's Gospel passage about the raising of Lazarus. In the dialogue between Jesus and Martha, Jesus states clearly, "Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." Martha, Mary, and Lazarus had lived the life of the Spirit of God. They not only believed that Jesus was the Messiah, they lived that daily. Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead, then, is an affirmation that the grave had no power over a life lived in the Spirit.

Weekly Offering

March 18th & 19th 2017

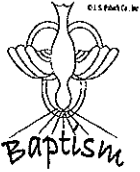


J.S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Weekly Collection	\$ 8,850.50
Weekly Loose	2,587.97
ACH Monthly	4,512.00
ACH Weekly	325.00
Total	\$ 16,005.47

Our Sunday Bulletin is supported by the advertisers who are listed on our back page. What better way to say THANK YOU than to remember them the next time you go shopping.

Thank you for your generosity!



The following were Baptized into the family of Christ recently:

- Dante Joseph** child of Frank & Casie Tisellano
- Michael John** child of Kacey & Sarah Youens

"What a Life"

by: Fr. Wilmer Todd

Fr. Todd is selling autograph copies of his book "What a Life". The hard covered book contains 370 meditations taken from his columns from the last 16 years. The cost of the book is \$25 and the profits go to the Fr. Willie Todd Foundation to startup programs in our diocese. The book is available in the Life Center office.



**Baptismal Seminar
Ministers
Volunteers Needed**

The purpose of Baptismal Preparation is to educate the parents and godparents of the new baby in their responsibilities in bringing up their child in the Catholic faith. Volunteers are grouped into teams and are called on to present the seminar once or twice a year. Call the Life Center if you are interested in this ministry.

Lenten Gumbo

Every Friday during Lent @ St. Joseph Life Center
11AM—1PM

Dine In - Take Out - Drive-Thru
\$8.00



Benefits Good Samaritan Food Bank, Thibodaux

**Crossroads Baby
Bottle Fundraiser**



Our parish will be participating in a Baby Bottle Fundraiser on April 1st/2nd to help support Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center. Crossroads is a non-profit Christian organization that promotes the sanctity of life by providing caring services to pregnant women in crisis. Our staff provides education, guidance and spiritual support, especially to those considering abortion or other alternatives, in a spirit of compassion, love and grace. Founded in 2002 by Bishop Oscar Solis, Crossroads has helped over 2,500 women and men in Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, Saint James and Saint Mary parishes.



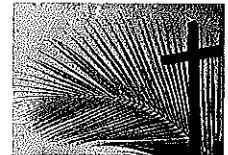
Please be generous.



Please remember Franklin Pierce who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that his family may find comfort and consolation through their faith.

Palms Needed

If you have palms to donate, please leave them under the carport the week of Monday, April 3rd - Friday, April 7th.



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We are looking for Catechists (Grades 5th, 6th, 8th, and possibly 9th) for the next school year.

Please call Sue at the Life Center
(985)446-1387.

ROSARY
Mondays & Thursdays
9:30 AM
in the Church.

