

St. Louis Catholic Church

Friday of the 4th Week of Lent

Wisdom 2:1, 12-22

John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

"They were looking for a chance to kill Him". Kill Jesus? Why was He not recognized as the Messiah because of His many signs and miracles? He certainly showed no threat to the people. He came to be their salvation and to give them eternal life. Yet they plotted to kill Jesus. They felt it necessary for their safety, to maintain their way of life, to have Jesus dead.

"His life is not like other men's, and different are His ways. He judges us debased; He holds aloof from our paths as from things impure". Jesus was a living reproach to the leaders in their wickedness. And so they judged that to kill Him was the best thing and He would be out of the way. But "they knew not the hidden counsels of God nor did they count on a recompense of holiness". Death was not the end of Jesus, but only a passage to eternal life and exaltation by His Heavenly Father.

Christ was different and therefore a threat. They weighed His life and teaching against themselves. They fell very short. He was obnoxious. Let's plot and rid ourselves of this pebble in our shoe. What about today? Christ is still around today. He is present in His Body--the Church. The Church is you and me. What do "they" encounter today?

We are called to be bold enough to be different from the wicked; we must hold aloof from things that are impure. And, frankly, we must face the consequences. I guess there is evil in this world that does make us suffer for trying to be good. Our behavior, speech, lifestyle, principles and attitude probably should be ridiculed as being odd and an obstacle to the world.

When people reject the Word of God, the Commandments, the dignity of the human person; when they fail to love God, neighbor and self; and when they are carrying the mantle of materialism, relativism, hedonism, individualism, they are again plotting against Christ--who is in the world. Part of the attack is to lure people away from their foundation in Christ's teaching. We live in the world and are seduced constantly. When we succumb we too inflict wounds into the Body of Christ. In fact sin is an affront to Christ. That is why we, in Lent, are reminded to repent, confess and change our lives to become like the Just One who was plotted against in the Gospel and predicted in Wisdom. In the plotter's lives, in the worldly of today and even we in our sinfulness, we see our dark side and the capacity to violence. No we may not want to kill someone but we do kill the grace and life of Christ within ourselves, the world and the Church.

The people of the Gospel and those referred to in Wisdom were confronted with the way, truth and life of the Just One. They had a choice to be open to the message and challenge or to kill the messenger. They could only kill the mortal but not the Truth. Truth was killed but Truth was raised and lives.

Lent calls us to listen, discern and follow the Just One in order that we can be a just, good and righteous person of faith. Just people are found today. They are the ordinary people like parents, spouses, teachers, community leaders, civil servants, fellow parishioners and countless others.

They are those among us who are tried and true. The just ones among us rely on God for their strength and in turn they strengthen the rest of us. Quietly, in the ordinary stuff of life, they model Christ among us. I buried one yesterday in Mr. Edwin Bennett. So many poured into the Clunan Center and the Mass to pay tribute and to console the family. What did we admire about this man? I hope we imitate those great qualities. He wasn't like the Just One in Wisdom who is described as obnoxious. But his way was obnoxious to the values and ways some live. Daily Mass, Adoration time every week, daily prayer, devotion to and time spent with spouse and family. A mentor, friend who prayed daily to get to know his brother Jesus better. To know Him more clearly, to love Him more dearly and to follow him more nearly.

We may not at first recognize the righteous ones because an attribute they share in common is profound humility. Those who most imitate Christ are the last to proclaim their own goodness and gift. They don't toot their own horns. The just ones, by God's grace, are among us. May we be numbered among them. Be Different! Be Courageous! Be Humble! Be Obnoxious!

God Bless,
Msgr. John McArthur

Key Events This Week:

1. Stations of the Cross--Friday Evening--5:30 p.m.
2. Saturday Morning Masses--6:15 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.
3. Saturday, April 9th--Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood--10:00-11:00 a.m.
or Any Hour--7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
4. How about 24 Hours for the Lord this year?
 - Have you made a commitment
 - Bring food for St. Vincent de Paul to Church
 - Holy Hour in Adoration
 - One Hour at Planned Parenthood
 - Make sandwiches for the poor
 - Volunteer at Soup Kitchen--downtown
 - Opportunities on website [click here](#) or call church
 - Take Easter Flowers to Shut-in and Senior Parishioners--come to church starting Thursday

Bishop's Annual Appeal--2nd Weekend--Let's go for 100% participation--we're at about 35%
Let's reach \$439,000 goal
We are at \$335,000
Thanks