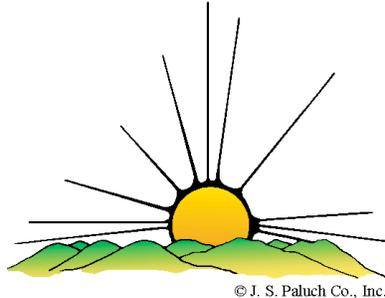




St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

Reflections with Fr. Mark

April 21, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

Today is the optional Memorial of St. Anselm. He wrote devotional and spiritual treatises as an abbot, defended the Church against secular incursions as Bishop of Westminster, and is known as the Father of Scholasticism for his theological works. He was stubborn in his defense of truth and the spiritual authority of the Church, even when it put him in conflict with worldly authorities. We might pray for his intercession today as our churches are closed and our faith being attacked on so many levels, especially in the political world of legislation.

In the early Church, each person gave from what they had or all they had for the good of the community and communal care of those in need. This is a radical sense of giving or tithing that sometimes we forget is the basis of our communal life. It is this radical love that comes from Christ and empowers us to go out into the world and confront the evil disregard for human life we often find in secular society. All too often we forget this most basic commandment of Christ: *To Love God and to love our neighbor, as thyself.*

If we look to the positive that is going on due to the COVID pandemic, we are witnessing a greater care being fostered for those who are least in our society. Sometimes people fall into circumstances through no fault of their own; and, others, choose to be in those circumstances due to choices they have made in life. Jesus does not distinguish and helps both perhaps with a loving admonition for the one to “sin no more” and straighten out their chosen path and hoping for a correction.

There is a fine line between judging a person or admonishing them; and, whether you are a parent, teacher, political leader or priest, you learn along the way to judge the “action” and not the person and to admonish the person in the hope of correcting the action. Many of our great saints aimed to defend the Church in secular society in much the same way.

As our journey continues, may we pray for a spirit of giving and forgiving. A spirit of humility and not making anything about ourselves. A generous spirit of serving according to our own talents and not looking for reward or recognition. A spirit of abandonment, trusting in the supportive and nurturing hands of God. May the God who powerfully fulfilled this kind of spirit in the person of Jesus lead us to be open to His will. God bless!

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Mark

Watch Sunday Mass from St. Luke at Home: The recordings are available on our Parish website,

www.stluketemplecity.org, and sent through our e-communications. The services will remain posted so you may view at your convenience.

Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications: <https://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19>