Dear Parishioners,

Good day! Today is Saturday of the Third Week of Lent. We are bound together as a parish in the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ who walks with us on our Lenten journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

CONFESSIONS TODAY UNTIL 5PM

I am hearing confessions today until 5pm in the church. The Knights of Columbus will be assist as ushers to help us observe proper social distancing. I will hear confessions in the back of the church outside the confessional. Only one person at a time will be allowed in the church for confession. If you are coming by car (which I recommend), you will park in a line in front of church and remain in your car until it is your turn for confession. If you are walking to church, you should introduce yourself to the assisting Knight who is standing by the side door of the church facing the rectory. He will determine your place in the line and take you into church when it is your turn. Of course, if you are not feeling well, please stay home. There will be other opportunities for confession before Easter.

Today’s morning Mass is being offered for the repose of the soul of Elmer Fletcher. Please pray for him.

Here is today’s daily prayer from the Church’s liturgy:

Rejoicing in his annual celebration of our Lenten observance, we pray, O Lord, that, with our hearts set on the paschal mysteries, we may be gladdened by their full effects. 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.

The readings of today’s liturgy are from the prophet Hosea and the gospel of Luke. In the first reading Hosea “hears” Christ speaking to the Father: “Come, let us return to the Lord, it is he who has rent, but he will heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence.” Here Christ speaks of the suffering he will endure to bring healing to the whole human race. He also speaks of the defeat of death by his Resurrection on the third and his bodily Ascension into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus invites us to share in his suffering for the sake of others that we might be healed and raised to eternal life on the last day.

In the gospel the Lord tells the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector who go up to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee congratulates himself on how good he thinks he is and looks down contemptuously on the Tax Collector whom he considers beneath him. The Tax Collector simply asks for mercy with downcast eyes because he knows he is a sinner.

Fallen human beings like ourselves, marked with the effects of original sin, find it very hard to admit our faults and how deeply sinful habits are ingrained within us. We avoid thinking much about it; or, when we do think of our sinfulness, we do so only in the most abstract terms. We typically look down on others and are quick to point out their faults while being woefully oblivious to our own failures. We congratulate ourselves for the good we think we’re doing when, if we have done something good, the credit belongs to God not to us.

Today’s thought question: Jesus is addressing the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector to me. What is he telling me about myself? How is he willing to help me?

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I encourage you to watch Mass on television. Please mail your offertory donations to the church or drop them off during the week through the side door of the rectory. Throughout this crisis we must continue to pay our bills and our employees.

Please remember to keep our parish in your prayers. Holy Mary, Mother of God, St. Joseph and St. Hugh, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

Father Walter