



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Committed to living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition, we are blessed to have as our patron saint someone who continues to call us to reach out to others in charity and compassion.

Church of

St Francis of Assisi

1114 Third Street SE

Rochester, MN 55904

507.288.7313

<http://stfrancis-church.org>

Parish Center Hours

Mon-Fri: 8AM - 4PM

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday - Friday 7AM

School Mass:

Tuesday 9:30AM

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 4:30PM

Sunday 8AM, 10AM

In Spanish:

Thursday 7PM

Sunday 12PM

Misa En Español:

Jueves 7PM

Domingo 12PM

Pastor

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Luis Vargas



Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."
- John 8:6b-7

A MESSAGE FROM FR JIM BERNING



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT. Today's Scripture Readings overflow with the promise of new beginnings that are life-giving. "See, I'm doing something new!" says the Prophet Isaiah. The words of Jesus, "From now on..." in today's Gospel have to be among Scriptures most hopeful and life-giving words. They speak of a **NEW BEGINNING TODAY – NOW!**

We are all energized by something that is new - if it is life-giving. A new medicine, a new job, a new book, a new friend - can all give us increased zest for living life more fully. This journey of Lent offers us something new and life-giving for each of us. A time to return to the Lord - come back to Church - and invite others to do the same!

THANK YOU! MUCHAS GRACIAS! We are so grateful to the 78 parish families that have contributed **\$33,340** towards our 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$49,661. Participation is the key to reaching our goal. If you have yet to make a contribution, please prayerfully consider doing so. Please note, 100% of the monies reached over our goal will be returned to the parish for our designated building project - refinishing the pews, woodwork and cabinetry. Let us reach our goal quickly - and exceed it - to help fund our own project!

RECONCILIATION. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Saturdays in the Cry Room from 3:30-4:15PM. A Communal Lenten Reconciliation will be held at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Sunday, April 10 at 3:30PM. Fr. Luis and I are also available by appointment.

CHRISM MASS. The Chrism Mass, the blessing of the oils by the bishop, will take place at 4PM on Monday, April 11 at Pax Christi Church. All are invited!

WELCOME EVENT. Rochester Catholic Schools will be hosting a welcome event to invite our Hispanic families to our schools on Sunday, April 10 following the 12PM Mass. Thanks to all of them for hosting this event.

CONFIRMATION. Father Luis and I are interviewing our Confirmation candidates this week as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be held here on Friday, April 29 at St. Francis along with St. Pius X Parish.

PALM SUNDAY. Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord is next weekend and Mass will begin in the Gathering Space with the Blessing of Palms. The Spanish Mass will begin in the school gymnasium. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

TRIDUUM. All are invited to this most Holy Week of the Year! Our Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (Trilingual) will be at 7PM. Good Friday Services will be at 3PM (English), 5PM (Spanish/Live Stations in the School Gym) and 6PM (Spanish). Our Easter Vigil Mass will be at 8PM on Saturday with our RCIA and RICA candidates being baptized and received into the church. Congratulations and blessings to all of them and their sponsors, godparents and families. Thanks to their catechists who have helped by their witness and formation. Easter Sunday Masses will be at 8AM and 10AM (English), 12PM (Spanish) and 2:30PM (Vietnamese). Thanks to everyone for making our Easter Triduum so beautiful and meaningful for us!

Fr. Jim C. Berning

WELCOME

Welcome to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Our church has helped to bring Jesus Christ to the city of Rochester since 1937. We seek to foster the spiritual growth of our parishioners through the celebration of the Sacraments, catechesis, community life, and personal prayer. Like our patron saint, we strive to rebuild the Church and to console the heart of Jesus by serving our neighbors in need.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Center Office

(507) 288-7313

Pastor (x 202)

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar (x 203)

Rev. Luis Vargas

Parish Administrator (x 204)

Sarah Kinsman

Office Manager (x 201)

Michelle Ibarra

Financial Secretary (x 205)

Paula Oates

Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)

Hope Giesen

Faith Formation (x 207)

Mark Nuehring

St. Francis of Assisi School

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Principal

Andrew Poterucha

Trustees

Bruce Anderson

Rosemary Bengal

Knights of Columbus

Bruce Anderson

Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director

(507) 273-0140

Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047



CADA VEZ MAS CERCA. Ya nos queda una sola semana para celebrar la gran "Semana Santa", cuan bendicidos somos al tener este tiempo grande de gracia y bendición, que ninguno de nosotros nos quedemos sin participar en las principales ceremonias donde podemos meditar y profundizar en el Misterio de la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección del

Señor, es decir el Misterio Pascual.

SEMANA SANTA. La próxima semana ya empezamos con el Domingo de Ramos la vivencia de la Semana santa. Y además ya tenemos a la mano el programa, no deje de llevar el flyer donde están especificadas las fechas con las horas de las diferentes celebraciones religiosas para que estemos atentos a participar en cada una de ellas.

CONFESIONES. Recuerden que el padre Luis estará atendiendo el sacramento de la Confesión todos los jueves después de la misa de 7:00 pm.

ALTAR DEL SANTO MONUMENTO. Nuevamente tenemos la alegría de poder tener el Altar del Santo Monumento en la zona de hospitalidad, es una hermosa tradición que se tiene el Jueves santo, una vez terminada la misa de la Cena del Señor o del lavatorio de los pies, se llevara al Santísimo Sacramento al altar que se decorara en la zona de hospitalidad, en gesto de piedad y acompañamiento a nuestro Señor Jesucristo que ha sido llevado preso para adorarlo durante toda la noche. En esta ocasión queremos decorar un jardín de orquídeas, por tal motivo les estamos invitando a quienes quieran tener ese gesto de amor al Santísimo Sacramento para que donen una planta de orquídea de diferentes colores, las estaremos recibiendo en la oficina o durante la misa la próxima semana, les agradecemos su cariño y generosidad.

ESCUELAS CATOLICAS. Estamos muy orgullosos de tener un distrito escolar católico en la ciudad de Rochester y somos mas afortunados aun de tener la escuela Católica en nuestra parroquia de San Francisco de Asís, queremos invitarlos para que como comunidad hispana nos demos la oportunidad de conocer la escuela y tener la gran posibilidad a su vez de matricular a nuestros niños latinos en nuestra Escuela Católica, por eso los estamos invitando a quienes estén interesados en conocer la escuela y el sistema que se maneja para pertenecer a ella, para que después de la misa el próximo Domingo de Ramos, nos quedemos a compartir como comunidad. Habrá comida mexicana y un tour por las instalaciones de la escuela.

MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of April 4, 2022

MON Apr 4		NO MASS
TUES Apr 5	7:00 AM	Abel Subia †
	* 9:30 AM	Steve & Clara Woodward †
WED Apr 6	7:00 AM	Germaine Little †
THU Apr 7	7:00 AM	John Fohrman † (Birthday)
	** 7:00 PM	Armani Soto (Birthday)
FRI Apr 8	7:00 AM	Rosie Budde †
SAT Apr 9	4:30 PM	Living & Deceased Members of the Blaul Family †
SUN Apr 10	8:00 AM	Teddy Klobe †
	10:00 AM	Kinsman Family †
	** 12:00 PM	For the Parish

* School Mass ** Spanish Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

If you have a desire to remember someone who has passed away or simply in need of some extra prayers, Mass Intentions are available every day for our weekday Masses and on the weekends. You are welcome to stop by the Parish Office and schedule a Mass intention during normal office hours.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 3, 2022

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
 Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6/Jn 8:12-20
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
 Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
 Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
 Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
 Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49

LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 3 DE ABRIL DE 2022

Domingo: Is 43, 16-21/Sal 125, 1-2. 2-3. 4-5. 6 [3]/Flp 3, 8-14/Jn 8, 1-11
 Lunes: Dn 13, 1-9. 15-17. 19-30. 33-62 o 13, 41-62/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5-6/Jn 8, 12-20
 Martes: Nm 21, 4-9/Sal 101, 2-3. 16-18. 19-21/Jn 8, 21-30
 Miércoles: Dn 3, 14-20. 91-92. 95/Dn 3, 52. 53. 54. 55. 56/Jn 8, 31-42
 Jueves: Gn 17, 3-9/Sal 104, 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/Jn 8, 51-59
 Viernes: Jr 20, 10-13/Sal 17, 2-3. 3-4. 5-6. 7/Jn 10, 31-42
 Sábado: Ez 37, 21-28/Jr 31, 10. 11-12. 13/Jn 11, 45-56
 Domingo siguiente: Lc 19, 28-40/Is 50, 4-7/Sal 21, 8-9. 17-18. 19-20. 23-24 [2]/Flp 2, 6-11/Lc 22, 14—23, 56 o 23, 1-49



RCS SUMMER CARE PROGRAM.

Registration for our Summer Care program for ages 3-12 is open! The registration link can be found on the RCS website. Summer Care will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic School. For families interested in Summer tutoring and Summer

Academy, registration will open at a later date.

THE NEST PRESCHOOL AT RCS IS EXPANDING IN 2022-

2023! The Nest preschool is growing and will feature expanded offerings including programs at all five of our convenient RCS locations for the fall of 2022. New offerings include an all-day Pre-Kindergarten (Age 4) program at our St. Francis of Assisi and Lourdes High School campuses. In addition, we have added a Pre-school (Age 3) classroom at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Middle School, and opened an Early Preschool (Age 2) program at Holy Spirit Catholic School! Our classrooms are filling - learn more and register today by visiting rcsmn.org/thenest

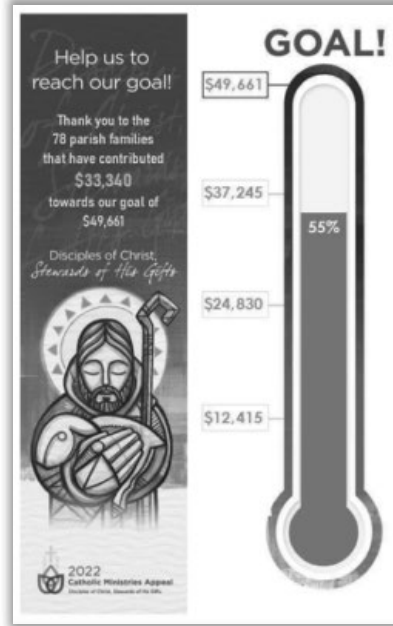


The Sacred Triduum

During Holy Week, we celebrate the "high holy days" of our Catholic faith – the Triduum. These are the most important liturgies of the church year! This is the week when everything else stops so that we can focus on the Dying and Rising of Christ. We invite you to make these evenings a priority so that you are able to participate fully in these sacred liturgies.

SACRED TRIDUUM LITURGIES

- ✘ **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**
Holy Thursday, April 14 @ 7PM
- ✘ **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
Good Friday, April 15 @ 3PM (English)
6PM (Spanish)
- ✘ **Easter Vigil**
Holy Saturday, April 16 @ 8PM
- ✘ **Easter Sunday**
Sunday, April 17
8AM, 10AM (English)
12PM (Spanish)
2PM (Vietnamese)



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL.

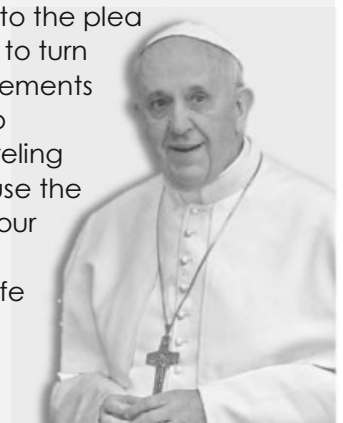
As Catholics, we are blessed to be strengthened and united by Christ in the Eucharist and sent forth to bring the peace and joy of our Triune God to all those we encounter. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we all possess different gifts and talents for furthering the ministry of Christ and His Church. During this year, may we all strive to be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts throughout

the Catholic community, using our personal gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

2022 CMA APPEAL PRAYER. *"Heavenly Father, may we become Your disciples through our support of the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings of our lives. We cherish the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that each member of our universal Church family makes to build up Christ's Church in love. We ask you, Lord, to send us forth in this spirit of love to serve our communities and our world with open hearts. Amen."*

Please support the 2022 CMA so that we may be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts. Every gift makes a difference! To give: www.catholicismn.org

INVOCATION OF PEACE. God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. . . Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that. . . our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



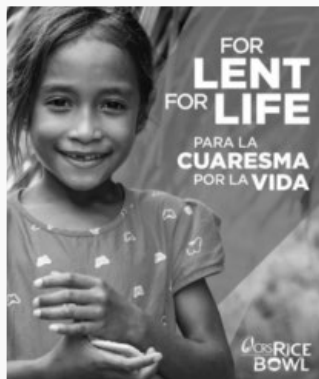
THANK YOU! The Jeremiah Project service project is now up to 7 complete "Welcome Baskets." Our goal was to assemble 10. I hope we can accomplish that in the next few weeks. Jeremiah House provides housing for single mothers to help break the cycle of poverty. They have also asked us to focus on these four areas of significant need going forward: Set of Pots/Pans, Dish Drying racks, 16 gallon garbage cans/garbage bags. The QR code below is the link to an Amazon list for the Jeremiah House. I hope you can find an item you would like to donate?

TOTUS TUUS UPDATE: JULY 10-15. We recently got a new date (July 10-15) from the Diocese of Winona to host Totus Tuus. Totus Tuus is a summer program for grade 2 – 12th grade students similar to VBS, but with much more content. The day program is for elementary students and the evening program is for middle and high school students. You can register by going to our website and looking under the YOUTH tab.

BECOMING CATHOLIC. This year, 10 adults and 3 children have been preparing to join the Church of St Francis of Assisi. They will officially be welcomed into the Church during Holy Saturday Mass on April 16. Please pray for them during the next few weeks as they culminate this year-long journey. If you know someone who would like to become Catholic, please invite them to call the parish office.

MISSION TRIP. Please keep praying for our summer Mission Trip... 21 students are currently signed up and more want to attend.

- Mark (youthminister@stfrancis-church.org)



BECOME CLOSER TO GOD THIS LENTEN SEASON USING CRS RICE BOWL. Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 different countries each year.

Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. For more information, please visit: www.csricebowl.org. **Please be generous!**

CANTORS AND CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED! St. Augustine said that when we sing, we pray twice. If you are a singer and are interested in sharing your gift by singing in the choir at St. Francis, please join us as we start up our choir for Palm Sunday and Holy Week liturgies.

"The Church needs musicians. How many sacred works have been composed through the centuries by people deeply imbued with the sense of the mystery! The faith of countless believers has been nourished by melodies flowing from the hearts of other believers, either introduced into the liturgy or used as an aid to dignified worship. In song, faith is experienced as vibrant joy, love, and confident expectation of the saving intervention of God." - Pope Saint John Paul II

May all our voices join together to proclaim the goodness of the Lord!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 9/10:

	Reader	Hospitality Minister	Minister of Holy Communion
Saturday, 4:30 PM	Maureen Jones Sahs	John Sibley Natalie Norris	Robin Erickson
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Tim Lawler	Tim Macken Sue Macken	John Winkels
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Florence Miller	Bill Cleveland Becky Cleveland	Beth Lamsam

- Hope (liffranc@stfrancis-church.org)



Due to attrition and especially COVID, we are presently in very great need of additional Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministers and Readers.

If you can share your time with the parish community, please contact the Parish Center Office at 288-7313. Everyone Confirmation age and older is asked to prayerfully consider this request. Training provided. We try to schedule per your request and no more than twice a month. Thank you!



PARISH LENTEN OPPORTUNITY.

During Lent the Church invites us to participate in three traditional practices – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Resource ROOM is dedicated to providing love, hope and a new beginning for persons in need. We invite you to give to our neighbors in one of two ways. Either purchase an

item from the list below for the Resource Room or make out a check to Neighbors in Need and place it in the collection basket. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Silverware | Frying Pans | Crockpots |
| Toasters | Paper Towels | Dish Soap |
| Laundry Soap | Toilet Paper | Hand/bar Soap |
| Toothbrushes | Toothpaste* | Shampoo* |
| Conditioner* | Deodorant* | Cleaning Supplies |
| Sheets (Queen) | Blankets (Queen) | |

* Full-Size

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate Easter flowers or decorations for our church, either as a gift or in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with your donation either in the collection or to the Parish Center. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

In Honor of/Memory of: _____



#MERCYINMOTION CAMPAIGN.

The last year has been filled with many challenges, whether physical or spiritual, personal or societal. In the face of so many difficulties, we can feel helpless to make a difference in our world. But we are reminded of the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Inspired by this "little way," Catholic Charities is inviting you to join us in our second annual #MercyInMotion Campaign. Like last year, we will focus on one of the Corporal Works of Mercy each week. To learn more, visit www.ccsomn.org/mercyinmotion

BURY THE DEAD: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come" (Mt. 24:42-44). This week, answer Christ's call to Bury the Dead by 1) Praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; 2) Fasting from gossip, swearing, and cruel words; 3) Attending the funeral of someone who might not have many friends or family.

DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS: April 11. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester will be celebrating the Chrism Mass on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 4PM at Pax Christi Church in Rochester. Bishop Quinn will bless the oil of the catechumens, the oil of the infirm, and the holy chrism which will be used throughout the year in administering sacraments. All are welcome to this celebration!

TENEBRAE SERVICE AT PAX CHRISTI: April 13. Pax Christi Church will present "Song of the Shadows," a Tenebrae service featuring music by Joseph Martin on Wednesday, April 13th at 7PM. This dramatic work reflects on the life of Christ from His entrance into Jerusalem to His passion on the cross. This service includes powerful music by choir, orchestra, and soloists with dramatic readings. Join us in this great opportunity to prepare for the Sacred Triduum!

WAY OF THE CROSS: April 15. Walk with Christ on the Way of the Cross through Downtown Rochester, with scripture, poetry, song, and silence. We will stop at four stations throughout the city on Good Friday, April 15, 2022, at 4PM (gather at 3:50). The procession will start at the main entrance to the Government Center at 201 4th Street SE and will proceed to the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 11 4th Avenue SW, where a Good Friday Service will follow at 5:30PM. All are welcome to attend!



FAMILY CONNECTION.

There are few people that we know better than the members of our own family. We know one another's strengths and abilities, and we also know one another's limitations and weaknesses. Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel, we may be tempted to focus on the faults and sins that familiarity with

one another can sometimes reveal. As family members, however, we also have the ability to see one another's faults and sins within the context of the whole person. When we can keep this perspective, we are more likely to look upon one another with compassion. Family life, then, presents us the opportunity to see one another as God sees us, not with judgment and condemnation for our weaknesses and failings, but with mercy and compassion. When we learn to withhold judgment for the faults we know are there and seek the best in one another, we help one another to experience the depths of God's compassion, mercy, and love.

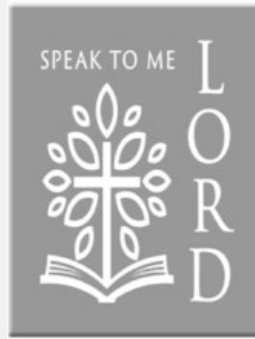
As you gather as a family, observe that when we know people well we know their faults as well as their strengths. At times, we can be tempted to focus on the faults we see in others. Discuss what your family life would be like if you always focused on one another's faults. Observe that in today's Gospel, Jesus refuses to focus on the sin of the woman brought to him for judgment. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 8:2-11. Ask: What did the people who focused on the woman's sin want to do? (stone the woman) What does Jesus say to the people who accused the woman caught in adultery? (that the person with no sin should throw the first stone) Are any of us without sin? (No.) Observe that we can help each other to grow in God's love by refusing to focus on one another's faults and sins. In this way, we can help one another to see ourselves as God sees us: with understanding and compassion. Conclude in prayer together asking God to forgive our sins by praying the Act of Contrition.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

cont., from right)

sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>



The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case. The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in Mark 12:13-17. Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See Luke 18:9-14). Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the

◀ (cont., at left)

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