

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Sunday, March 17**

Jer 31:31-34  
Ps 51:3-4,12-15  
Heb 5:7-9  
Jn 12:20-33

**Monday, March 18**

Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62  
or 13:41c-62  
Ps 23:1-6  
Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday, March 19**

**St. Joseph, Husband of Mary**  
2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16  
Ps 89:2-5,27,29  
Rom 4:13,16-18,22  
Mt 1:16,18-21,24a  
or Lk 2:41-51a

**Wednesday, March 20**

Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95  
Dn 3:52-56  
Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday, March 21**

Gn 17:3-9  
Ps 105:4-9  
Jn 8:51-59

**Friday, March 22**

Jer 20:10-13  
Ps 18:2-7  
Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday, March 23**

Ez 37:21-28  
Jer 31:10-12d,13  
Jn 11:45-56

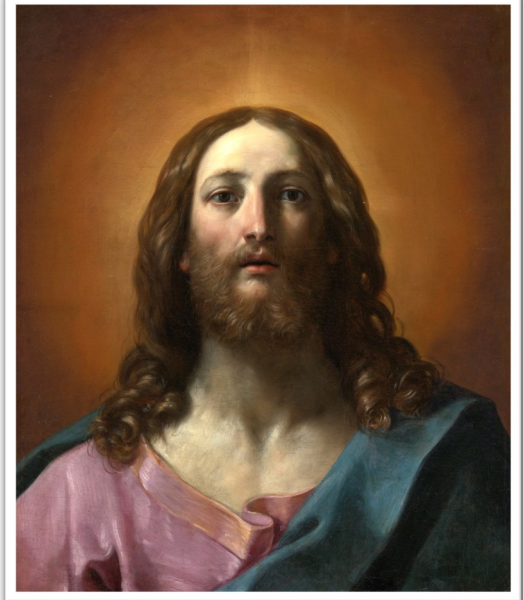
To be a Christian is to follow Christ, be like Christ, serve as Christ, love as Christ, suffer and die as Christ, and ultimately rise as Christ. During his public ministry, Jesus told his disciples from the start that anyone who wished to be a follower of his must renounce himself and take up his cross every day to follow him.

As “his hour” drew nearer and the Holy Will of his Heavenly Father was just around the corner, Jesus once again told his disciples in no uncertain terms that to follow him would mean to take up their own crosses and be willing to suffer and die for the love of others. Jesus challenged his disciples to live lives of selfless service to others then, and his challenge continues for us now.

What a beautiful image Jesus gave us of the grain of wheat! According to the Catechism, “The grain of wheat points to the Holy Eucharist in which the Sacrifice of Christ becomes really present. As we die to ourselves in union with him, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we

become other Christs.” (CCC 2731)

As we submit our hearts to the Lord and give our lives as disciples of Christ, every one of us is called in many ways to share in the joys and sorrows of Christ. Just as at different seasons of our lives we are given different crosses to bear, we are also called to different ways to serve others. When we serve others, Christ works in us and through us. We can be Jesus to those he puts in our paths to help.



We can see Jesus in those we serve.

Sometimes it is easier than other times, but we must remember that Jesus is reflected in us when we are serving. Sometimes God uses our acts of faith and charity to break open seeds in other souls as well.

**Reflect & Discuss:**

- † What has had to die in your life for you to draw closer to Christ?
- † Thinking of a cross you have carried in the past, how has your faith grown since it has lifted?
- † What is the heaviest cross you are being asked to bear right now?
- † How have you seen the face of Jesus in those you serve?
- † What are ways that have helped you the most to bear your crosses as Jesus bore his?