**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 16-17th, 2024**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Gospel reading**

Jn 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who had come up to worship at the feast.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him,

“Sir, we would like to see Jesus.”

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,

and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’?

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven,

“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”

The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said,

“An angel has spoken to him.”

Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours.

Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”

He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

**Intercession**

That, responding to Christ from our hearts, we might generously support our Diocesan Ministry Appeal and help make it bear much fruit.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Facing death, Jesus said in today’s Gospel, “‘I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? *“Father, save me from this hour”? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour’”* (John 12:27).

When was the last time you had to face something difficult? Christ’s perspective sheds new light on life’s trials: *“If [a grain of wheat] dies, it produces much fruit”* (John 12:24-25).

As each of us follows Christ, we face trials. Our parish, like Christ, desires that our trials bear much fruit. Our Diocesan Ministry Appeal is a time when we ask for your help. There is a sacrifice behind each gift: a dying to the other possibilities one might have used the money, time, or resource for. As you give, you can participate in Christ’s sacrifice. You honor us with your gift, and we honor you, as we honor Christ’s sacrifice for us! In advance, we thank you for helping us bear fruit and for all the souls entrusted to us. God bless you!

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Giving is not easy. It costs us something. We thank you in advance for the sacrifices you make for our community of faith, and we honor you for your generous support of our Diocesan Ministry Appeal.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Mother Teresa’s beautiful, wrinkly smile.

Text: *“The Father will honor whoever serves me.”* - John 12:26

Copy: Christ asks us to serve others as we would serve him. Please support our Diocesan Ministry Appeal so that we might all serve Christ in those in need.