



Fifth Sunday in Lent

I suspect that most of you are reading this today on your parish website. I pray that you are each safe from this scary virus, and that the controls put in place have in fact flattened the curve of infection. May our fast from the Eucharist make us stronger, kinder people, and may we be especially mindful of those most in need of our strength.

It's been so inspiring to go on to our Next Door Neighbor site and see the hundreds of generous young people offering help to any neighbors who need child care, grocery pick-up, snow shoveling, or just a well-visit at the door. Barbra Steisand is so right. We people who need people are the luckiest people in the world.

Jesus needed people. He needed his disciples. He certainly needed his Mother, and Joseph. And among his friends, it seems that he needed Martha, Mary, and Lazarus most of all. The gospels tell of two significant meals at their house in Bethany. Jesus and his disciples spent a lot of time in that town (including the week before his death). Most compelling of all, though, is that after the death of Lazarus, his sisters sent word to Jesus, saying *the one you love* has died. And two verses later we learn that *Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus*. And, of course, when he wept at the tomb, the onlookers said *see how much he loved him*.

It warms my heart to imagine Jesus losing control and sobbing at the tomb of Lazarus. *The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us*. His weeping for his friend is the surest way for us to know that he is ours.

How are you watching out for loved ones during this challenging time?

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