

## Homily

Friday of the First Week in OT

January 14, 2022

One of the advantages of attending daily Mass is that we get to hear more of the story. For example, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, we heard about the demons identifying the Christ and Jesus rebuking them, telling them to be quiet. Then today we hear the scribes, Jewish leaders who were knowledgeable of the law, recognizing the divinity of what Jesus was saying but denying Him, claiming His words as blasphemy.

How many other times in scripture do we hear about the scribes, the pharisees or the Sadducees questioning or denying Christ? Today, we have Jesus right here, in the Word proclaimed and in the Sacrament we are about to receive.

Jesus truly present – present to us, present among us, present within us. Yet, how often do we deny Jesus? Put another way, how often do we put other things before Jesus? Isn't that a type of denial? In today's world of constant distractions, it is so difficult to keep Jesus front and center.

Yet, that is what we are called to do; to pray constantly, to see Christ in one another, to do and say all things with love, with intention, for the glory of God. It's difficult, but that's why we come here, to see and be with the Lord of the Universe who wants so deeply to be with us. We are encouraged by His Word and strengthened by His Sacrament.

As we leave here today, we remember that, upon receiving Jesus sacramentally, He is truly with us, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. And He is with those around us, sacramentally or not, because we are all sons and daughters of the Father, and brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

Jesus is with us! We just need to try to remember that as we travel on our pilgrimage towards our eternal home.