

Homily  
Tuesday of Holy Week  
March 26, 2024

In what ways do we betray Jesus? Judas did it for 30 pieces of silver. Each time we argue with one another, every time we treat others as the world treats others, each time we fail to share our faith in Jesus, we betray Him.

In what ways do we deny Jesus? Peter did it three times before the cock crowed. Each time we speak evil, talk foolishly, say unkind or untruthful things or pursue sinful pleasures, we deny Him.

Today is Tuesday of Holy Week, the final stretch to the Glory of the Resurrection. But, we are still in the Season of Lent. How are we doing? Sometimes it has seemed like a marathon, sometimes like a sprint, but now we are getting our second wind and reaching down for that last bit of hope amid despair, that last drop of faith in the face of trials. We are called to continue this season of prayer, repentance and alms giving right up to the beginning of the Easter Vigil, this Saturday evening. Even if we have failed to keep our Lenten disciplines, we can still renew our commitment. Even if we forgot or just gave up, we can start, again, right now, and make it to the finish line.

The disciples didn't understand what Jesus was doing; they tried to follow Him. "Master, where are you going?" They did not understand. Jesus had to pave the way; He had to enter into His Passion. Now we all can join Him. He has taken up the cross; we pick up our cross and we follow Him. This is not easy, but necessary. This is not something we want to do, but we must.

I am amazed at how often I find myself realizing just how much I don't understand. Jesus didn't call us to a life of leisure; He knows our struggles; He understands how much life sometimes hurts and doesn't make sense. But He knows the way; He has paved the way.

He calls us to pick up our cross, embrace the struggles, in all things give thanks, and always praise God. How are we doing? In those times I find myself betraying or denying Jesus, I remember His love and mercy, I remember the sacraments and I remember that we are all in this together.