



# Time to PREP

- ♥ For Class
- ♥ For the Week
- ♥ For Yourself
- ♥ For Lent

WEEK #19 – February 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Gospel for February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***Luke 6:39–45***

*Jesus told his disciples a parable,  
“Can a blind person guide a blind person?  
Will not both fall into a pit?*

*No disciple is superior to the teacher;  
but when fully trained,  
every disciple will be like his teacher.*

*Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye,  
but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?*

*How can you say to your brother,  
‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’  
when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye?  
You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first;  
then you will see clearly*

*to remove the splinter in your brother’s eye.*

*“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit,  
nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.*

*For every tree is known by its own fruit.*

*For people do not pick figs from thornbushes,  
nor do they gather grapes from brambles.*

*A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good,  
but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil;  
for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.”*

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The third and final section of Luke’s Sermon on the Plain begins: And he told them a parable. There are actually four parables, three of which we read this week. They are all about how to be a good disciple.

The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the teacher who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother’s eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart.

The final parable, which we do not read this week, is about building on the solid foundation of rock and not on sand. This is the only way to face the difficulties a disciple will encounter and survive. In both Gospels, Jesus’ words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God’s love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.



### **PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

- ♥ *The well-being, health and happiness of PREP catechists, students and families;*
- ♥ *Pray for all, especially those suffering and struggling silently.*

## ***Lent is coming. Are you ready?***

*by Michael Podrebarac, February 11, 2022*

In the older liturgical calendar, this Sunday begins what is known as Septuagesima, a two-and-a-half week time of preparing for Lent. While the calendar revisions following the Second Vatican Council did not retain this pre-Lenten period, Lent still begins in two-and-a-half weeks.

Are you ready?

We most often don't think of getting "ready" for Lent, for, after all, Lent is the liturgical season during which we prepare for Easter, right? Yes and no. Yes, Lent does prepare us for celebrating Easter. We spend some penitential time making sacrifices and praying so that we may be able to rise with Christ in his resurrection on Easter Sunday and during the Easter season. In this sense, Lent is a lot like Advent, the season which provides us an opportunity to prepare to celebrate Christmas and welcome once again the Christ Child into our hearts. But Advent also stands on its own, as it were, directing our minds to that time when Christ will return in glory. And Lent, like Advent, also stands on its own. We don't keep Lent just so we can keep Easter. We observe the Lenten season so that we may direct our minds to being more like Christ.

And so I ask again: Are you ready?

Forty days is a long time, nearly six weeks. Lent is an opportunity to form new habits, habits which will carry us far past the 50 solemn days of commemorating Christ's resurrection from the dead, if we let them. What we accomplish this Lent should mean that when we get to next Lent, we won't have to start from where we started this year. We should be a good 40 days beyond where we were the year before.

For some, Lent might be like a great marathon race, from ashes to the empty tomb, from death to life. Fair enough. All the more reason for us to take some time to prepare before beginning this race. No one in a right state of mind would ever seriously think to run a race before training. To fail to do so would surely result in lots of pain and plenty of discouragement.

No one would ever want such physical frustration and torment. No one should ever want such frustration in the spiritual life, either. How's your prayer life? Your ability to deny yourself? Your concern for your neighbor? The strong should plan to grow stronger. The less strong should know that now's the perfect time to get moving forward. The strong will want to limber up some in order to be able to try a higher level of discipleship than before. The less strong will want to warm up.

For those who feel completely out of Lenten shape, there's no better time to begin than the present. Begin a daily conversation with God. Examine your conscience. Give up something and rework its place in your life so that, after Easter, things don't just fall back into rest mode.

Call it Septuagesima — or call it simply getting ready for Lent. But prepare, for this race is one where everybody can truly be a winner!

