**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR 2-3, 2022**

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 36)**

Jn 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area,
and all the people started coming to him,
and he sat down and taught them.
Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman
who had been caught in adultery
and made her stand in the middle.
They said to him,
‘Teacher, this woman was caught
in the very act of committing adultery.
Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.
So what do you say?”
They said this to test him,
so that they could have some charge to bring against him.
Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.
But when they continued asking him,
he straightened up and said to them,
“Let the one among you who is without sin
be the first to throw a stone at her.”
Again he bent down and wrote on the ground.
And in response, they went away one by one,
beginning with the elders.
So he was left alone with the woman before him.
Then Jesus straightened up and said to her,
“Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?”
She replied, “No one, sir.”
Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.
Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

**Intercession**

For our parish community, that inspired by the Lenten call to engage in almsgiving, we might generously support our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Jesus doesn’t just save us from death—he calls us to new life. We see this clearly in today’s Gospel, when he not only intervenes to save the life of the woman caught in adultery, but also invites her to a life free of sin and lived for God. Life in Christ, then, isn’t primarily about avoiding bad things. It really is an invitation to live a life of abundance by embracing what is good. It’s more of a positive proposal for our lives, less of a list of “do not’s.”

Lent is a time of embracing this invitation to fullness of life by engaging in practices that free us from self-reliance and attachment to sin. Prayer helps us to depend upon God more fully. Penance helps us to loosen the hold of things and habits that can compromise our freedom. And almsgiving frees us from self-preoccupation by taking on the needs of another.

How are you doing in each of these areas? If you’re looking for an opportunity to engage in almsgiving, please consider supporting our diocese’s Catholic Ministry Appeal. You’ll not only be contributing to our very real needs—you’ll also be enabling us to continue Christ’s work of inviting others into the fullness of life he offers.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Our Lenten disciplines can help us grow in freedom to embrace Christ’s invitation into new life. Please consider supporting the diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal as an act of Lenten almsgiving.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Someone embarking on a path.

Text: *“Go, and from now on sin no more.”*

Copy: Christ calls us to new life, and our Lenten disciplines are one way of freeing ourselves to respond to his invitation. Support our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal as an act of Lenten almsgiving!