



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings
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Covid's Control, Lent's Let Go

Enough already! New strands of the virus, long lines or inaccessibility for the vaccine, winter's desire to have its voice be heard, the ongoing separation from loved ones, and the loss that so many have suffered. Enough already is a very understandable response as we enter March and close in on one year of shutdowns and uncertainty. I think it is very difficult for all, but as Americans, we like to have more control and independence in our daily decisions and choices. I share in those desires.

Interestingly, our Scriptures tell a different story. Israel was a Roman-occupied nation. The daily life of an Old Testament figure was guided by strict social norms based on family ancestry and the religious guidelines and restrictions according to the law of Moses. In the New Testament, Jesus is addressed by some of these guidelines. We think of him as Jesus Christ, but during his time, he was identified and maybe judged by geography, Jesus of Nazareth, and by his family: the carpenter's son and Mary, his mother. His non-conformity was not approved of by many.

I have been challenged throughout my life to find more and more the gift of patience. St. Francis de Sales is known as the gentleman saint, and patience was a gift recognized in him. I was heartened but surprised that he struggled with patience throughout his life.

In our Lenten journey, our Scriptures remind us of the importance of patience, trust, and letting go of the illusion of how much power and control we have over our lives: a health scare, economic uncertainty, and the ability to protect those whom we love from all that can take place in life. In these forty days, we are invited to bring our hearts to the Lord and ask for the grace to respond to all people and situations in love, compassion, and generosity. It is also a call for us to exercise more trust in God, more humility, and patience in those moments when life does not go as expected. Happy Lent!

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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In Christ - Stronger Together

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If you know someone who would like to be added to the list have them

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