

## **Fifth Sunday | Year A**

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Is 58:7-10 | 1 Cor 2:1-5 | Mt 5:13-16)

Isaiah urges the Israelites to do good things by feeding the poor and sheltering the oppressed. When righteousness is done in our midst, God lives in us. Let us ask God to hear our prayers.

1/ The just ones are the light in darkness to their neighbors, because their deeds reflect God's tender love to humanity. For all assemblies of God. We pray that all God-fearing peoples, led by Pope Francis, may learn to do good things for the poor and the underserved. Let us pray.

2/ There is one thing about which Paul boasts to the Corinthian Christians, namely that, his faith in God who raised Jesus from the dead. For vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. We pray that God inspire holy men and women in our time, so that they will come forth and serve God's people by following the footsteps of Jesus. Let us pray.

3/ Following Jesus's footsteps demands sacrifices from the disciples. They have to say "No" to the lures of this world and strive to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. For peoples who are lured to follow their own desires and glories. We pray that, through the Holy Spirit, they may say "No" to the deceit of this world and turn to the living God. Let us pray.

4/ The suffering and death in this life are nothing in comparison with the blessedness and glory in the life with God. For the suffering shall be consoled and the dead shall be raised to be with God. For our sisters and brothers who have experienced suffering and death. We pray that, because of their faith in Jesus, God may raise them to eternal life. Today we remember [at 4:30 Mass] Sonny and Betty Hardesty, and Joan Whelan; [at 10:00 Mass] Liz Wheatley and Joan Whelan. Let us pray.

Father in heaven, in faith and love we ask you to watch over your family gathered here today. In your mercy and loving kindness, we pray that no thought of ours be left unguarded, no tear unheeded, and no joy unnoticed. Through the intercession of Jesus, lead us to the treasures of your heavenly kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.