

March 17, 2019
Second Sunday In Lent
Eliminating Distractions : Fears

Ancient Reading ~ *Luke 13:31-35*

Just then, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “You need to get out of town, and fast, Herod is trying to kill you.”

Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘Today and tomorrow, I’ll be casting out demons and healing people, and on the third day I’ll reach my goal.’ Even with all that, I’ll need to continue on with my journey today, tomorrow, and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I wanted to gather your children together as a mother bird collects her babies under her wings- yet you refuse me! So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!”

Contemporary Reading ~ *adapted from Paulo Coelho*

The sculptor Michelangelo was once asked how it was that he could create such beautiful works. “It’s very simple,” he answered. “When I look at a block of marble, I see the sculpture inside it. All I have to do is remove what doesn’t belong.” There is a work of art each of us was destined to create. That is the central point of our life, and — no matter how we try to deceive or distract ourselves — we know how essential it is to our happiness and our being. Usually, that work of art is covered by years of fears, guilt and indecision. But, if we decide to remove those things that do not belong, if we are confident in our ability, we are capable of moving forward with the mission that is our destiny. This is a way to live with honor.