



My Dear Parishioners,

With Lent looming on the horizon, memories of last Lent come hauntingly to mind. Remember that? What began on Ash Wednesday with full Churches ended not only with an empty tomb, (Thank you God!), but also with empty/locked Churches across the nation even here in Kennett Square. (O, God spare us from that this year!)

Let's pray that this year's Lent is different. Not a bad intention and thought as we enter this week: How might this Lent be different for you? What might God be asking? No doubt, some form of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, but what might that look like now from you to Jesus for this Lenten Season of your life. Give it some thought. In the meantime, this week provides us with two dates, two saints and two thoughts.

The Dates: Monday, Feb. 8 and Thursday, Feb. 11.

The Saints: St. Josephine Bakhita and St. Bernadette Soubirous

The Thoughts: God's Providence, God's Freedom and Joy.

Monday is the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, she was a slave-girl trafficked in her youth who turned Christian and is now a beautiful witness of God's Providence. She is invoked in prayers against human trafficking which is quite providential because here in the USA her feast day falls around Super Bowl Sunday. ***Did you know that the largest national event in the U.S. which attracts the most human trafficking is the Super Bowl?*** That's right. Studies show that the Super Bowl is not too super in that regard. For human traffickers seek to exploit an increased concentration of people in a relatively limited geographic area that tends towards an atmosphere where recreation and self-satisfaction are common and the availability of discretionary income is increased. Thus, the Super Bowl is a prime target. Let's pray this week for all victims of such horror and crime.

Thursday is the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes, as such it is the World Day of the Sick. This year, the whole world has a lot to remember in that regard. So I close with some words from St. Bernadette who saw our Lady in Lourdes. May they words spur us on to a greater freedom and joy.

"I am entrusted with telling you what I have seen and heard I am not entrusted with making you believe it."

"What do you think of me? Don't I realize that if the Blessed Virgin chose me it was because I was the most ignorant? If she had found anyone more ignorant than myself she would have chosen her."

"I fear nothing because I have always told the truth."

Peace,