

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

JESUS IS OUR WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE



The Word we have just heard this morning is one we know well. It is often chosen for funeral services. Jesus is presented to us here as "the Way." **Yet, when Jesus tells us that He is the Way, it is something altogether different.** It is not a path of aimless wandering. Rather, He proclaims to us the goal and the ultimate fulfillment of our lives. **He Himself is eternally alive in the presence of His Father.** At the same time, He assures us of His presence among us every day, until the end of the age. **For us, He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life."** He alone can lead us to the Father. His great design is to gather all humanity together. He is preparing a home for us a place where everyone will feel welcomed with love.

That said, this path is not the path of ease. It is narrow, and it leads us toward a narrow gate. Our lives are a daily struggle against the forces of evil that seek to drag us down paths of perdition. The Acts of the Apostles (our First Reading) shows us how the early Christians followed this path of Christ. In the Second Reading, Saint Peter invites us to draw near to the Lord Jesus. We recall that, in the Gospel, He spoke to us of the Father's House, which contains "many dwelling places." Here, Saint Peter tells us that Jesus is "the living stone rejected by men, yet chosen by God, for He alone knows its true worth." This house of which he speaks is not built merely of stone or wood; it is a fraternity, a community built by the breath of the Holy Spirit. **As disciples, we share in His Victory. We have become "a Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a People belonging to God."**

However, there is a snare we must avoid: the risk of becoming complacent indulging in honors, seeking the easy way out, and succumbing to pride. We have an urgent mission: to proclaim, **"the wonders of the One who called us out of darkness into His Marvelous Light."** It is urgent that we demonstrate to everyone that we know where we are going. We are traveling a path marked out by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In this, we possess an essential guidepost for our journey. In one of his audiences, Pope Francis urged us to read it every day. The Word of God is indispensable nourishment for our journey toward the Father.

In conclusion, I offer you a few words from Saint Augustine that resonate with us on our path: **"Here (on earth), it is hope that moves us to sing... Sing but keep walking. Let your singing make you forget your weariness yet beware of laziness... Sing and walk without losing your way, without turning back, and without standing still."**

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Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – May 3, 2026