

Welcome to Week 5!

5th Sunday of Lent Gospel - John 8: 1-11

Jesus and the woman caught in adultery

The scribes and Pharisees drag the woman who sinned before Jesus, and accuse her. How often do we accuse people who we think have done wrong, even if only in our hearts? Jesus asks who in the crowd is without sin, and they all leave, for none of them is. Only Jesus is our judge, and in mercy says, 'Neither do I condemn you,' and 'Go away and do not sin anymore'.

Lord, grant me the grace to condemn no one. Help me not to judge others, but instead seek to grow in love and not to sin anymore.

St Isidore of Seville (April 4th)

Saint Isidore was a very learned man who lived in Spain where he spent many years as bishop of Seville. The Visigoth Kings of Spain were Arians who did not believe that Jesus was fully God as well as fully man; Saint Isidore is famous for helping to convert them to the Catholic faith. He lived in a time when the Roman empire was falling apart, and he worked hard to preserve for future generations the literature and learning of the ancient world, which would otherwise have been lost in the chaos. As bishop he created a school which became a model for the first universities. He liked writing, and is the inventor of the full stop, the comma, and the colon.

Saint Pope John Paul II named Saint Isidore as patron saint of the internet, perhaps because Saint Isidore freely gave away much of his learning, and we can use many resources on the internet free of charge.

Do I need help wisely to use the internet, my school, libraries, and other opportunities for learning? Can I think of ways to use my talents and knowledge for the good of others? Do I need help with punctuation?!

Saint Isidore pray for us.

Activity

- ❖ Cover up (veil) any crucifixes of Jesus for the last two weeks of Lent with a purple cloth.
- ❖ Make a simple Easter Garden towards the end of the week. You could use a large plant pot or tray, sticks and twine for the crosses, a small plant pot or cup for the tomb, pebbles, and a large rock to cover the entrance. Add anything else you would like. On Easter Sunday, the children will roll the rock away, and they can place flowers there too!



(See <https://www.sunhatsandwellieboots.com/2013/03/grow-easter-resurrection-garden.html> for other ideas on what you could use instead.)

Prayer

- ❖ Consider going to the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness, and to free us from the burden of sin. In addition to the normal times each Saturday of 11am - 12 noon and 4:30 - 5pm, there will be a longer opportunity on Saturday April 9th (9:30am - 12 noon) with extra priests supporting.
- ❖ An Examination of Conscience - There will be the parish Lenten Reconciliation Service on Tuesday April 12th at 7pm with an extended Penitential Rite, inviting us to examine and conscience.
- ❖ For our younger children who haven't made their First Reconciliation, there is a lovely Ignatian examen for children to be prayed at the end of the day from 'Pray As You Go'. You may like to listen and pray through with them; it's about 6 minutes long.

<https://soundcloud.com/pray-as-you-go/examen-for-children>

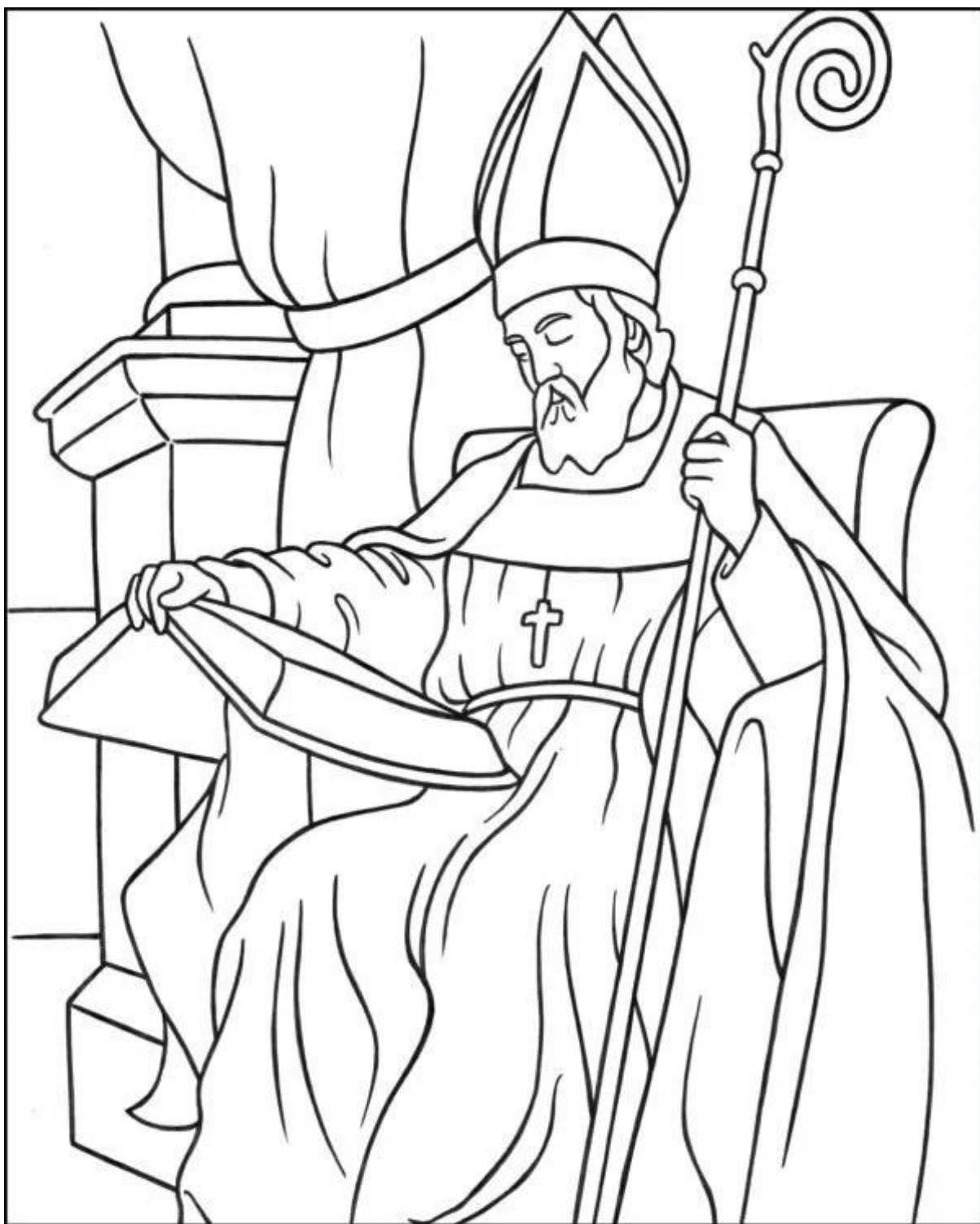
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They said this to test Jesus, so that they could have some charge to bring against Him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with His finger. But when they continued asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again He bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. (John 8:6-9)

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