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Pastor's Column

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"The Mark of a Christian"

As we continue to make our journey through this Season of Lent, as we lose ourselves in the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and alms, and as we participate in our Parish Retreat this week, we ready ourselves to be refreshed and renewed in our Baptismal Promises.

On Easter Sunday, with renewed vigor, as we renew our Baptismal Promises, we take on again "The Mark of a Christian." May these words of St. Basil strengthen us in these efforts:

"What is the mark of a Christian?"

That we be holy and blameless
and so eat the Body of Christ
and drink His Blood.

And what is the mark of those
who eat the Bread
and drink the Cup of Christ?

That they keep in perpetual remembrance
Him who died for us and rose again.

What is the mark
of those who keep such remembrance?

That they live not for themselves
but for him who died for us and rose again.

What, then, is the mark of a Christian?

That our justice abound in all things,
to watch daily and hourly
and to stand prepared in that state
knowing that the Lord comes
when we least expect Him.

So, then what is the mark of a Christian?

That we love one another
as Christ loves us.

What is the mark of a Christian?

To set the Lord always in our sight.

—St. Basil (329CE-379CE)

Continue to be faithful to your Lenten resolutions so that these days of Lent will help us to bear the marks of a Christian, to carry and wear the wounds of Christ Crucified!

Fr. Mike