

PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday
in Lent

March 31, 2019

**Rejoice Jerusalem,
and all who love her!**

Saturday, March 30	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 31	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:45 a. m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, April 1	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, April 2	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting - Kamiano Tailer
Wednesday, April 3	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, April 4	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 7:30 p. m.	<i>Prayer Meeting - Church</i>
Friday, April 5	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Stations of the Cross - Finance Council
Saturday, April 6	..... 4:00-4:45 p. m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Eze:37:12-14: *I will put my spiring in you*

Rom:8:8-11: *You will be raised through the Spirit of Christ living within you.*

John:11:1-45: *"Lazarus, come out!"*

The first reading tells us the story of Samuel's journey to Bethlehem to the house and family of Jesse. Here, God tells Samuel he should anoint the future king of Israel. Samuel meets the older, strapping, capable boys and thinks they're fine indeed. But these were not God's choice. Samuel is reminded that God sees into the heart; God sees differently. So Samuel calls for the youngest boy—David. He is God's choice, and the spirit rushes upon him.

This story and the Gospel are complementary. The story of the cure of the man born blind is also about seeing. A blind beggar draws Jesus' attention. He gives elaborate directions, which the blind man follows. And lo and behold! he comes back seeing. So far, the blind man has no further insight. All he knows is that once he could not see and now he does.

His neighbors take him to the Pharisees. This is standard operating procedure at that time. So far, so good. But then things turn sour. The educated and religiously sophisticated Pharisees cross-examine the poor fellow. Rather than rejoicing in his newfound vision, they castigate him for violating the Sabbath.

There is a lot of back and forth in this story, and in the end, the blind man stands alone. His parents are cowed or bullied, and do not speak up for him. The establishment condemns him. The man born blind is thrown out of the temple, that vital center of Palestinian life.

Then Jesus comes to him. He asks simple, direct questions of the man, and the man answers simply and directly. In the end faith is added to sight, as the man who was once blind sees: "I do believe, Lord." Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

*Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for thou art with me.*



Psalm 23:4

CHRIST
our light

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION: This week, we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: ENCOUNTER KUMBA: We encounter Kumba from Sierra Leone, who, through her education, is providing hope for her family and community. How has education given you opportunities in life? How do you use your education for the common good? Visit www.crsricebowl.org for more information.

WORD OF LIFE: “Because life is our first and most basic gift from an infinitely loving God, it deserves our utmost respect and protection. Direct attacks on innocent human life are always gravely wrong.” *United States Conference of Catholic Bishop - On Embryonic Stem Cell Research*

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 31 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sam:16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps:23; Eph:5:8-14; Jn:9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Apr 1 Mon: Lenten Weekday

Isa:65:17-21; Ps:30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b; Jn:4:43-54

Aor 2 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Eze:47:1-9, 12; Ps:46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn:5:1-16

Apr 3 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Is:49:8-15; Ps:145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn:5:17-30

Apr 4 Thu: Lenten Weekday

Ex:32: 7-14; Ps:106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn:5:31-47

Apr 5 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Wis:2:1a, 12-22; Ps:34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23; Jn:7:1-2, 10, 25-30

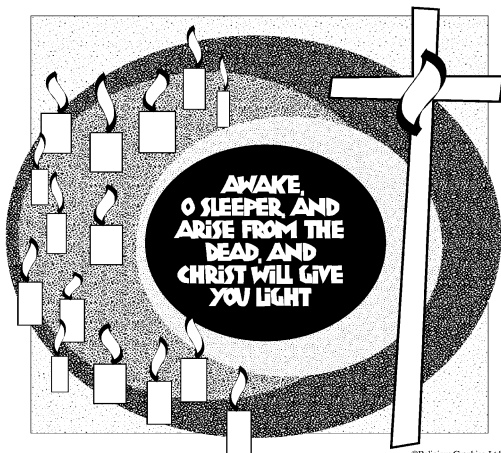
Apr 6 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Jer:11:18-20; Ps:7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn:7:40-53

A Reading Lesson

Sound is by definition only sound when it is heard. Jesus' miracle in today's Gospel is a sign. That's what John calls miracles—signs. But signs are not signs unless they are read.

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NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

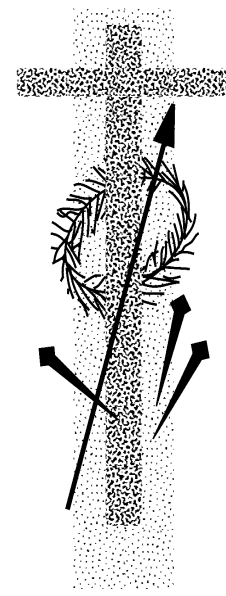
Today we hear one of the most beloved stories in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son. Reconciliation is a prominent theme. Seeing the younger son returning to him, the son who left the family and squandered his inheritance, the compassionate father runs to embrace him. Jesus offers us a vision of a loving God who is merciful and forgiving when we, through our own sinfulness, leave his presence, and then through repentance, return to him. The remainder of the Lenten season offers us an opportunity to reflect on God's compassion and our need for reconciliation. Consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation and experience God's loving embrace and forgiveness.

(International Catholic Stewardship Council)

Reflection

The Ephesians, whom Paul addresses in the second reading, never saw Jesus physically. Paul himself saw him in a flash of blinding insight. We are all in the same “faith” boat here. We and the Ephesians are counseled to remember that we all were once in spiritual blindness, and now are light in the Lord. This isn't something tacked on; it's intrinsic. At one time in the Church's history, the newly baptized were called illuminati, the illuminated, those wholly filled with the light of Christ.

Light is everywhere in these readings. The insight of God chooses David as the future king. The Responsorial Psalm is from the most beloved and well-known of all the psalms, Psalm 23, the “Good Shepherd Psalm.” It is sung today largely because of these words: “Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil.” If ever there was a dark-valley walker, it was the man born blind. Jesus Christ, the light of the world, is the one to whom the blind man, now seeing, finally confesses his faith. As we move through this Lent, we too are invited to shed our blindnesses and walk in the light of Christ, who is with us in even the darkest valley. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



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The Word of the LORD gives light to the world

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