

March 11, 2018

Rejoice, Jerusalem,
and all who love her.

Saturday, March 10	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 11	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass - <i>Knights of Columbus Breakfast</i>
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass - <i>Knights of Columbus Breakfast</i>
	..... 10:45 a.m.	Religious Education Classes (Gr. 1-8)
		Confirmation & Youth Ministry
Monday, March 12	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, March 13	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, March 14	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 15	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:30 p.m.	<i>Prayer Meeting - Church</i>
Friday, March 16	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - Prayer Group
Saturday, March 17	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confessions
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

CHRIST
our light

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Ezk:37: 12-14: God's life-giving presence restores Israel

Rom:8:31b-34: If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive

Jn:11:2-45: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

Living Catholic in the 808: Encounter Christ in Creation (Reflections by Pope Francis)

The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast." [152] for this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion.

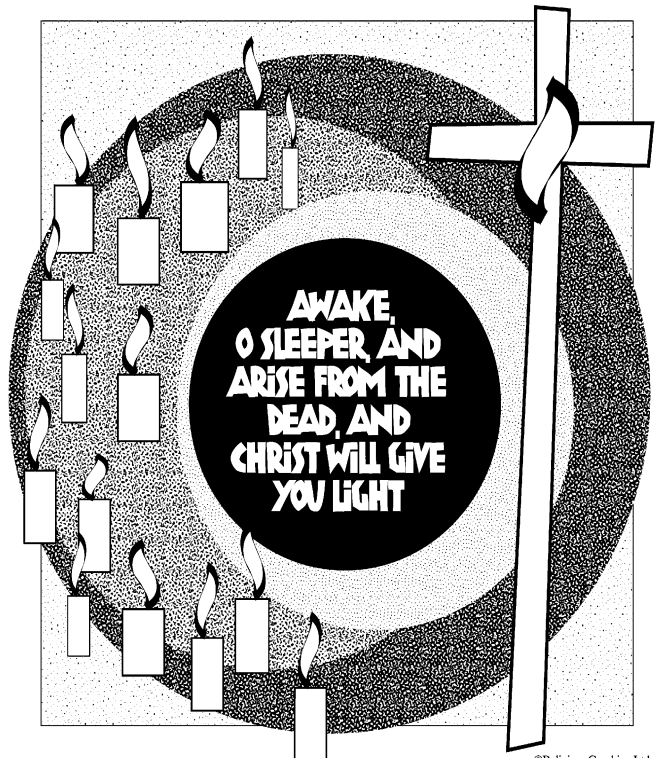
It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion," whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them.

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. Laudato Si', 217

Question: Where do you find Christ in creation? By encountering Christ in creation, do you recognize your responsibility to be in right relationship with the environment? How does an encounter with Christ-present in the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor-fuel an ecological conversion?

Prayer: God of all people, may we be your hands in caring for all creation.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION RICE BOWL: ENCOUNTER Andrise: We encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community—and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community. How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit www.crsricebowl.org for more information.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION: This week, we are taking up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to respond to Jesus in disguise. The collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward 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 at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

WORD OF LIFE: “When I voiced my objections to do abortion-related services, I was terminated. It’s against my conscience. I became a nurse to protect lives, not to take lives.” **Sandra Mendoza, LPN Take Action**, www.humanlifeaction.org /Video: www.bit.ly/StandwithSandra

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 11 Sun: 3rd Sunday of Lent

1 Sam:16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23; Eph:5:8-14; Jn:9:1-41

Mar 12 Mon: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 13 Tue: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 14 Wed: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 15 Thu: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 16 Fri: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 17 Sat: Lenten Weekday

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

For a Change

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.”

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today’s Gospel, Jesus and his disciples are walking along when they encounter the man born blind. The disciples ask a question that reflects a narrow understanding of God’s mercy. They assume that if people suffer, then they must have done something bad to deserve it. In the case of a man born blind, it had to be something done by his parents. But Jesus says: “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him” Good stewards know that God is working in their lives so that through their lives, God’s goodness will be revealed. How is God working in you? Do you see God’s goodness reflected in your life? (International Catholic Stewardship Council~e-bulletin)

REFLECTIONS

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.

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