March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

John 9:39
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (March 15): $4,534*
*Includes $695 received through our Online Giving program and $525 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

Thank you also to those of you who are mailing in your offertory envelopes. Your continuing financial support of the parish is crucial for its ongoing operation and the obligations to employees, etc.

ONLINE GIVING
Are you interested in supporting our parish through the convenience of Online Giving? If so, please visit our secure Online Giving website for more info and to register: www.osvonlinegiving.com/1754

CONFESSIONS
Father John is hearing Confessions on the following Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm: March 23, 30, April 6 and on Saturdays at 3:00 pm. Confessions will be heard through the privacy screen rather than face to face.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES
Keep up to date on how the coronavirus is affecting our schedule of Masses and parish events by visiting our website at stedmundcampionparish.org or by calling the parish office at 860-568-5240 to hear a recorded message. View Archdiocesan updates by visiting archdioceseofhartford.org/coronavirus.

SANCTUARY LAMP
The lamps beside the tabernacles in our churches remind us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

❖ The light at the Our Lady of Peace Church burns this week

For a Quick End to the Coronavirus Battle
❖ The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week

In Loving Memory of André Charron
(Wife & Family)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.
**Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo**

(1538-1606)

March 23

In times of crisis, God always surprises the Church with unlikely saints, through whom Christ’s light radiates beyond their local communities to illumine the universal Church. Charles Borromeo was such a saint: appointed Archbishop of Milan at twenty-one by his papal uncle, epitomizing the corruption that the reformers condemned, Charles instead inspired a revival that reinvigorated a Church devastated by the Reformation. His less well-known contemporary, Turibius of Mogrovejo, was God’s “saintly surprise” in the New World. Spanish-born lawyer, professor, head of the feared Inquisition, Turibius was still a layman when a grateful king appointed him Archbishop of far-off Lima. Once in Peru, however, Turibius was appalled at the abuse of indigenous peoples by the occupying conquistadores—his fellow countrymen—and by the complicity of the clergy. He became the natives’ devoted advocate, building churches, schools, hospitals, and the first seminary in the Americas, publishing catechisms and prayerbooks in the native languages he painstakingly mastered. Four hundred years later, whenever Pope Benedict welcomed Latin American bishops to Rome, he always invoked “the shining example of San Toribio.”

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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**Readings for the Week**

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

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

**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10, Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

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

**Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

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**Saints and Special Observances**

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Monday:** St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

**Tuesday:** World Day for Truth Concerning Human Rights Violations

**Wednesday:** The Annunciation of the Lord

**Friday:** Abstinence

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**Charity**

If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first with all your heart. Ask him simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues; with it you can accomplish what you desire.

—St. Vincent Ferrer

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**Light**

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light” (Ephesians 5:14). We are at the midpoint of our Lenten journey of conversion. As always, God never gives up on us, especially those who have “fallen asleep” along the road to conversion. The most powerful stories of conversion are proclaimed during these final weeks of Lent. They have the power to shake us out of our sleep. Today’s Gospel story of the healing of the man born blind exposes the real blindness in the time of Christ—the blindness of the self-righteous religious leaders. In a few weeks, at the Easter Vigil, the Church will proclaim “Christ our Light” as the paschal candle is carried into darkened churches throughout the world. May the darkness of sin that still pervades our lives, communities, and world, be dispelled by the Christ who comes to bring sight to the blind and light to the world.

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**Today’s Readings**

**First Reading** — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

**Psalm** — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

**Second Reading** — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8-14).

**Gospel** — The man who had been blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash (John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]).

Our Lenten journey continues this Sunday as we hear of Jesus healing a blind man in the Gospel of John. Jesus proclaims himself the light of the world, a light that overcomes darkness and enables a new capacity to see. The man, blind from birth, was able to begin his path to sight by first acknowledging his blindness. We are reminded of God’s ongoing invitation to us to journey from blindness to sight. We begin by acknowledging our own capacity for “blind spots,” and so open ourselves to uncomfortable truths and to God’s healing. We are invited to see beyond appearances, as the reading from Samuel indicates, and to look into the heart of things. We are invited to “live as children of light” as the letter to the Ephesians teaches. Like the man healed from blindness, we may gradually learn to see fully and to follow Jesus.

Healing For Community
It is helpful to observe that our Gospel passage from John, the healing of the blind man, is the first part of a longer episode. When Jesus’ words end Chapter 9 in today’s passage, he goes on speaking in the discourse on the Good Shepherd in Chapter 10. The healing of the blind man was not only a demonstration of God’s power, giving him the physical capacity of sight. It was even more than the awakening of the man’s personal faith in Jesus. The image of the Good Shepherd confirms that the man was liberated from the social isolation of his blindness and became a member of Jesus’ flock. All of Jesus’ powerful actions of healing were intended as gifts, not only to individuals, but for the building up of the community of faith.

Humility And Action
“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the LORD looks into the heart.” In our first reading, Samuel draws conclusions about who God will choose as king based on his assumptions of what a proper king looks like. But God sees a deeper reality. How easy it is to miss our own blindness. How frequently we are unaware of our own flawed assumptions about others and about ourselves. We often need a deeper humility about the limitations of our perceptions and our convictions.
Yet, as the letter to the Ephesians encourages, there are times to expose the “fruitless works of darkness”, to speak out, especially when persons or groups are suffering from abuse or oppression. We are called to live within a tension that these scripture passages convey. We are to seek God’s guidance in prayer with genuine openness. We are then to speak and act forcefully against wrongdoing, even as we maintain humility about how much we know, or what is the best action to take. We are called to bring God’s wisdom and mercy to all.

Today’s Readings: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38] Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.