

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Ephesians 5:8-14

Sunday, March 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:30 KS Special Intentions of Parishioners and Friends of St. Rose
 10:30 DE Special Intention for Karen and Kevin Riley from Suzanna Tosolini
 12:00 DE Marcia Trautmann Sullivan from Nancy and John Paddock

Monday, March 20

12:10 Paul Gosiger from Molly and Jeff Seamon

Tuesday, March 21

12:10 Purgatorial Society

Wednesday, March 22

12:10 Alois and Christa Wedekind from The Mohr Family

Thursday, March 23

12:10 Fobiano Family from Carol and Larry

Friday, March 24

12:10 Mary Wittenberg from Mary Beutler

Saturday, March 25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

12:10 BW John and Mary Rizzo (Anniversary of Marriage) from Joan Rizzo Mackey Family
 7:00 BW Estelle Lange from Elaine Mushaben and Family

Sunday, March 26 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:30 BW Special Intentions of Parishioners and Friends of St. Rose
 10:30 BW Bill Pewther from Tom and Jean Maphet
 12:00 BW Marcia Trautmann Sullivan from Nancy and John Paddock

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our readings this week all focus on the idea of vision or perspective. The choosing and anointing of the future King David in our first reading clearly spells it out. We judge by what we can witness; God judges by the qualities of the heart and mind that are beyond our ability to know. When I was in seminary at times one young man would discern out, a natural part of the process, but sometimes you would ask, why him, he would make a way better priest than me. But it is God's choice, His invitation.

The next way God's vision is different from our own is time. God exists outside of time, every moment from God's perspective is now. We are obviously bound to linear time, His gaze is wider, encompasses our own futures. One might ask, do we truly have free will then? Yes, God knowing what we will choose does not negate the fact that we choose it.

Related to time but slightly different, the idea of temporal retribution is presented in our readings this weekend. Temporal retribution means that God rewards or punishes us in time, live a good life have a mansion, live a naughty life have cancer, serious sin of parents born blind. Obviously, we do not believe this, although in our search for meaning sometimes this answer is the one we still grasp for, or the only one within reach. We have to divorce ourselves from the notion that God exists to punish or reward. It is love and meaning He wants for your life. How we respond to that love and meaning is the point.

Finally, when it comes to vision, we have a choice to make. Spiritually we are not blind. If you are reading this, or coming to Mass, you are gaining insight into God's perspec-

ive. We do have a choice to make when it comes to being challenged by God. When He illuminates your mind to see that something in your life needs to change, we either listen and change that behavior or relationship, or we choose to ignore it. Christ points out to the pharisee at the end of the Gospel, choosing something different than God's perspective is not blindness, it is rebellion.

May the Love, Peace and Grace of God be with you,

Father Adam

HERE AT ST. ROSE

Abigail Ashford and Paddy Affolter were united in the Sacrament of Matrimony here at St. Rose Church on March 11.

NATIONAL MEN'S CONFERENCE

The National Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Cintas Center on Xavier's campus. Join us as we hear from inspiring presenters, including keynote speaker **Jonathan Roumie** of *The Chosen*, grow in fellowship, and build our relationship with Jesus Christ centered on the Eucharist. Mass will be concelebrated by **Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr** and **Bishop Earl K. Fernandes**. To purchase tickets or for more information visit: nationalmensconference.com

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

You are invited to join us for the Lenten Soup Suppers during the first four Tuesdays of Lent. No need to RSVP if attending. The remaining supper is: March 21 at St. Stephen's. It begins at 6:00 p.m.

LENTEN REMINDERS

Ash Wednesday, February 22 and Good Friday, April 7, are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of **abstinence** binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of **fasting** binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday (canons 97, 1252).

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 12:10 mass concluding with **Stations of the Cross & Benediction** at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday in Lent beginning March 1st.

Lenten Penance Service is Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 P.M.

LEGION OF MARY ACIES

All are invited to a Marian Consecration officiated by Fr. Rob Jack at noon, Saturday, March 25, 2023, St. James of the Valley Church, 411 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH. The event includes the Rosary, consecration to Jesus through Mary, and Benediction. A reception to follow. RSVP by March 19 to Gloria Dodd, 937-229-1431 or legionofmarystalbert@yahoo.com

This Weekend's Hymns
All hymns can be found
in the Seasonal
Missalette.
Opening: #313
Closing: #221

Rev. Adam Puntel

Pastor

St. Rose Church

2501 Riverside Drive

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 871-1162

office@strosecincinnati.org

www.strosecincinnati.org

Trevor Kroeger-

music@strosecincinnati.org



Opening Prayer

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

John's dramatic ninth chapter describes the healing of the blind man and the range of responses to it. The blind man must do his part, must obey Jesus, the Sent One (John 7:28-29; 10:36; 12:44-45) and go to the Pool of Siloam (which means "sent") to wash his eyes. Then the blind man will see and himself become a *sent* one, a witness to what has happened to him not merely physically, but also because the eyes of his spirit have been opened to the truth of Jesus.

The healed man immediately becomes the center of attention and controversy, yet he remains steadfast in his witness to Jesus as the one who healed him, and secure in his identity as the one "born-blind" but now re-created and seeing. A cast of players appears on stage: neighbors, Pharisees, parents. The man's witness to Jesus is the cause of division among the religious leaders, those supposed to be insightful but blind to the truth about Jesus. Like the Pharisees with their Sabbath myopia, we can misjudge others because of our ingrained religious prejudices; like the man's parents, we can be too frightened to get involved in any controversy, especially with a powerful yet unjust authority.

This gospel challenges us, as individuals and communities, to examine how we see with the eyes of faith and whether we are willfully blind to the Sent One, turning away from the Light of the World. What are our contemporary blindnesses? Sin gets clicks. Are we more interested in sin than in grace? Are we brave enough to accept being sometimes ostracized by others when we choose to walk in the light of Christ rather than stumble away from him along our complacent, selfish, and socially pressurized paths of darkness?

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to grow in relationship with you. Open our eyes that we might see you and know you as we remain faithful to your gospel and the way of discipleship. **Amen.**

For Reflection:

- Where might there be a pocket of blindness in your own life? How could you invite God in to heal it?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayers."

The readings from the *Lectionary for Mass* copyright © 2001, 1998, 1992, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Living Liturgy™ Sunday Bulletin. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321. © 2022 by Order of Saint Benedict www.litpress.org | 800.858.5450

Gospel

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 (shorter form) or John 9:1-41 (longer form)

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him,

"Go wash in the Pool of Siloam"—which means Sent—.

So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as

a beggar said,

"Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?"

Some said, "It is,"

but others said, "No, he just looks like him."

He said, "I am."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.

Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.

So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

He said to them,

"He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."

So some of the Pharisees said,

"This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath."

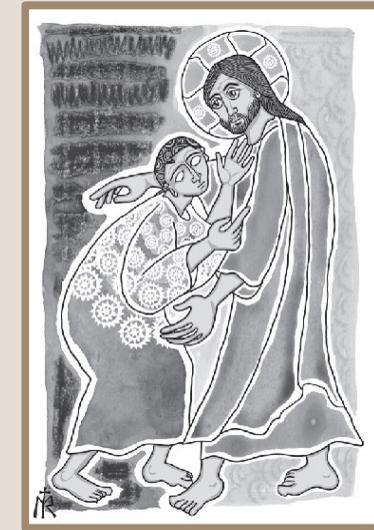
But others said,

"How can a sinful man do such signs?"

And there was a division among them.

So they said to the blind man again,

"What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?"



He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?"

Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He answered and said,

"Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

Jesus said to him,

"You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

He said,

"I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

Readings for the week:

4th Sunday of Lent

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Eph 5:8-14
John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday St. Joseph

2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Matt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a

Tuesday

Ezek 47:1-9, 12
Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
John 5:1-16

Wednesday

Isa 49:8-15
Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18
John 5:17-30

Thursday

Exod 32:7-14
Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23
John 5:31-47

Friday

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

Saturday Annunciation

Isa 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11
Heb 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

5th Sunday of Lent

Ezek 37:12-14
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Rom 8:8-11
John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45