



THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Parish Family,

For the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we recall Our Lord's healing of a blind man that brought many more things to light than just one man's eyesight. It teaches us how blind we can be to what's going on. The Lord wants to cure us of the worst blindness: a spiritual one. Through faith in the Son of Man, we receive a deeper interior vision beyond our physical sight thanks to Christ, the light of the world.

In today's First Reading the prophet Samuel has been sent to the house of Jesse to identify and anoint the new king of Israel. He's been sent by the Lord to anoint a replacement for King Saul, who was a tall, golden-haired, powerful man who chose to ignore the Lord's command because he feared public opinion. Samuel thought Jesse's son Eliab would be a good replacement, because he was tall and handsome, much like Saul. The Lord shuts him down right away: "man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." David was not considered important enough to even invite to the feast. His father sent him to go do something "useful" while the big boys attended to serious things. We all know how the story of King David goes from there. He not only becomes the greatest king of Israel (before Christ) but establishes the dynasty in which Christ will be born as the Messiah, the definitive king of Israel. Our Lord always looks into the heart and helps bring the truth of people to light.

In today's Second Reading Paul reminds us that the Lord has brought us from darkness to light, and that light has exposed the good and the bad. Humanity was in darkness until the light of Christ came to lead us out of it. Sin not only disfigures us, but it also blinds us. With impaired vision and everyone disfigured it was impossible for us to see the right way to live without Our Lord's help. It seems paradoxical that light is needed to recognize darkness, but before the coming of Christ, the darkness of sin did an admirable job of

presenting itself as very enlightened. Paul puts Christians who've now received the light of Christ on guard against a worldly outlook that seems enlightened, but actually is darkness and fruitless.

In today's Gospel, the Lord heals a blind man and helps him to see with an entirely new level of light, the light of truth. This light shines on everyone involved in the story, and that light is Christ. The man born blind not only received the gift of sight, but he also received an opportunity to see that Jesus had been sent by the Father and had the power of God to heal. He saw a miracle happen. The disciples thought his blindness was due to either his sin or the sin of his parents. Our Lord corrected them. His healing was to show God at work. The man born blind wanted to get on with his life, but his neighbors insisted on taking him to the Pharisees because Jesus had healed him on the Sabbath. Our Lord had performed a miracle on the Sabbath. If God had not wanted to work miracles on the Sabbath, he would not have healed the blind man. Yet he did. The Pharisees showed how blind they were to the will of God. They wanted to condemn Jesus as a sinner breaking the Sabbath because that was the way they saw the world. It was their interpretation of the Law of Moses.

The man born blind could not deny what was right in front of his face. At this point the Pharisees had decided to cast out anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah. He didn't claim Jesus was the Messiah, but when he presented irrefutable logic to the Pharisees: "We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him ... If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." His healing was to show God working but the Pharisees couldn't accept that and cast him out. Jesus went looking for him and gave him the opportunity to believe in him as the Messiah, and he accepted wholeheartedly. Our Lord had not just restored his sight; he'd given him the light to see salvation at his doorstep and the need to give witness to it. Christ showed the Pharisees that they weren't blind, a motive for innocence for their attitude. They chose not to accept what they saw.

Peace to you and yours,

Fr. Stevens

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 21
5:00 p.m.
Chelsea N. Bramblett (D)

Sunday, March 22
8:00 a.m.
St. Louis Parish
10:30 a.m.
PA Julius and Mrs. Regina Edemo (D)

Tuesday, March 24
6:00 p.m.
Medical Workers

Wednesday, March 25
8:30 a.m.
Civil Authorities

Thursday, March 26
6:00 p.m.
All Vocations

Friday, March 27
8:30 a.m.
Sick and Dying

Saturday, March 28
5:00 p.m.
St. Louis Parish

Sunday, March 29
8:00 a.m.
Bill Dombrowski (D)
10:30 a.m.
PA Julius and Mrs. Regina Edemo (D)

All Masses cancelled, until further notice

LENTEN FISH FRY
This event has been cancelled

ST. LOUIS WORKDAY
This event has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

OFFERTORY REPORT (for Sunday, March 15)

Offertory this week:	\$3,417.00
Target:	\$4,734.78
Collected vs. Target for month:	-\$2,334.60
Collected vs. Target for Fiscal Year:	\$1,631.59
Projected Offertory for year:	\$272,310.78
Annual Budget:	\$270,000.00

Building Fund this week:	\$560.00
Collected this month:	\$1,552.00
Target for the month:	\$2,713.00

Improvements Collections:	\$113.00
Total collected to date:	\$6,073.50

ON-LINE GIVING

During this global pandemic St. Louis Catholic Church will be closed for an undetermined amount of time. Please take a moment to consider the option of On-Line Giving.

On-Line Giving will ensure that the church continues to meet our financial obligations. Visit www.stlouiscatholicchurch.org and click the On-Line Giving box to start your On-Line Giving journey.

WE WANT YOUR CANS!

 Please remember to save and bring your emptied aluminum cans for our recycle program. You may drop them off and place them in the bins inside the dumpster's gated fence (left side), located on the church grounds' parking lot. Since its inception, we have raised much funding towards continued building and grounds improvements at Saint Louis. Your devoted support is very much appreciated!!

SAINT LOUIS FUNDRAISING DINNER EVENT NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

During these times of a national emergency, the parish-hosting Fundraising Dinner Event, scheduled for April 17th has been cancelled. As we have all been looking forward to putting together this event for the Open Door Women's Clinic's Mobile Health Care Unit as a fundraiser, we regrettably have to make this call and are thus following suit to cancel. It would have been lots of fun, and something our parish would have been proud to sponsor for this very worthy cause. Along with the Baby Bottle campaign, and all donations received, our collective fundraising efforts have brought in over \$5,000 thus far. We will continue to gladly accept additional monetary contributions. All checks should be written to: "Knights of Columbus" with "MHCU Ultrasound" noted. **Please Note:** ODWC has agreed to transport and display this new Mobile Health Care Unit trailer on Saint Louis' parking lot upon completion of the drive for everyone to check-out and see what our fundraising efforts went for (hopefully sometime in late summer or early fall). Notice will be given when definite date(s) are established.

Thank you very much for all your tremendous, generous support!!

CRS RICE BOWL

Meet Maria Ana
Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school so they can focus on achieving their dreams. How was education important for you future? How can we ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.