

March 31, 2019

Lent

Fourth Sunday



Liberating Light That Leads to Faith

Jesus' anointing of the man born blind brought light and renewed hope into the man's darkened life.

Liberated from his blindness, the man began to see and to believe in Jesus. His seeing and his believing, challenge us to leave behind our personal darkness and live in the light of Christ. When he was blind, he posed no threat to anybody in his helplessness. Jesus' gift of sight and the man's willingness to use it made him both a target and a threat to others. Are you willing to follow Jesus into the light?

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, April 6

4:30 p.m. George Masek & Parents

Sunday, April 7

8:00 a.m. Mariella Lemon & Harry Herzik

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Fifth Sunday of Lent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

* We return to the Cycle A readings of Lent on Sundays.

SANCTUARY LIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

April 7 & 14 May 5, 19 & 26

The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Allan Wiedemann.



Prepare to Celebrate Easter



Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

Monday, April 8 Moulton 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10 Praha 5:30 p.m.

Priests from the area will be assisting.

** No scheduled confessions in Moulton during Holy Week.*

Our Joyful Walk Toward Holy Easter The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Following Christ, The Light of Our Eyes



By celebrating Christ, the Light of the World, the Fourth Sunday of Lent calls us to a new impetus in our Lenten journey, the purpose of which is to share in the risen Life of Christ celebrated at Easter. We speak of Christ as the Light of the World because he is *Light from Light, True*

God from True God.

In him and through him we have become *children of Light* and can, like him, perform works that are pleasing to God. It is a marvelous transformation that turns a blind person into one who lives by light and is called to walk from light to light.

Liturgical Orientation

Samuel is warned in the first reading not to judge by outward appearances, because God judges more deeply, what is in the heart. God seems to have a different way of seeing.

Seeing is the theme of today's Gospel as well. Jesus gives sight to a man born blind. The curing takes place on the Sabbath which brings the Pharisees on to the stage.

The Pharisees remain blind by seeing only according to their former ways. The man (representing us) who was blind now sees Jesus, worships him and follows him. Our Lenten liturgies and religious practices are all intended to lead us to the "pool" to see Jesus in faith, to hear more clearly who we really are and to trust this Person of Light.

PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY – NEXT SUNDAY



ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
Join us in the Praha Hall for pancakes, scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, juice, coffee & milk. All are welcome. A free will donation will be appreciated.

REFLECTION

Liberating Light

The story of the man to whom Jesus gave the gift of sight is the sixth of the seven signs in St. John's gospel. The story is connected to today's first reading through the sacred action of anointing. Unlike human beings, who sometimes see no further than one's outward appearance, God looks into the human heart. God saw in David the person through whom the Messiah would eventually come among us. For that reason, Samuel was told to anoint David for his special role as God's regent. That anointing graced David with the Spirit of God.

Today's responsorial psalm, Psalm 23, celebrates the fact that everyone who is willing to be led and shepherded by God is also anointed. When a sense of helplessness holds us back, we are to remember our baptismal anointing, and know that we are not alone on our journey.

Blindness in the time of Jesus was regarded as a consequence of sin. As a result, the blind were doubly burdened, first by the disadvantages of their condition, and then by a culture that thought they were living in a darkness they deserved.

Jesus' anointing of the blind man in today's gospel, brought light and renewed hope into the man's darkened life. Liberated from his blindness, the man began to see and believe in Jesus. He not only gained his physical sight, he also began to see and accept Jesus with the Spiritual sight that is faith. Once he was healed by Jesus, the man was thrust into the light and exposed to the hostility of the Pharisees. His seeing and believing challenges us to leave behind our personal darkness and live in the light of Christ. This will require a daily, deliberate decision to emerge from the secure darkness of un-lived faith in order to live fully in the Light of Jesus' truth. This is what it means to be a disciple and a witness to others of the healing and salvation Jesus brings.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



April 6 – Carl Henke

A.C.T.S FAMILY SOCIAL GATHERING – APRIL 6
at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, La Grange. Mass 5:00 p.m., social 6:15 p.m., meal 6:45 p.m., and Spiritual Reflection. Childcare available.

St. Joseph's Lenten Fish Fry - Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.00 Per Plate

Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

Dine in the Social Center Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.

Moulton Easter Picnic – April 21

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

Second Collection Today – Rice Bowl

Today we hear Jesus call himself "the light of the world." We too can offer our light to our less fortunate brothers and sisters throughout the world. *Use your Rice Bowl envelope to help make a difference in someone's life. Be generous.*

Laetare Sunday - Rejoice Sunday

Traditionally, this Fourth Sunday of Lent marks a joyful relief amidst the seriousness and somberness of the many weeks of preparation for Easter. Hence, today is called *Laetare Sunday*, a name that comes from the Entrance Antiphon of his Mass.

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her ...

Be joyful, all who were in mourning ...

Even in Lent, we rejoice because we know that God is love, and our loving God will provide for all our needs. We are joyful because we are much closer to the renewal of our Baptism. The rose-colored vestments which replace the violet of the previous weeks mark our joyful disposition.

Easter Flowers

To make a donation in memory of your loved ones drop the attached Easter Flower envelope in the collection basket or mail.

Stations of the Cross – Fridays of Lent



The journey of the Stations of the Cross is a time honored tradition in the Church. The Lenten Season affords us all a great grace moment to participate in the sufferings of Christ for our salvation. Make an effort to join the Parish Family at 6:00 p.m. in Church.

Lenten Food Drive

We will once again be collecting canned goods for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. You may leave your canned goods at the back of Church.

Easter Egg Hunt



Donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt are welcome and appreciated. To make a donation, contact the Parish Office.

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m. in the home of Gerogia Cerny (President). All members are encouraged to attend.

Altar Society Membership Drive: All men and women of the parish are encouraged to join. The dues are \$5.00 per person. To join provide your name, address, phone number, email address and date of birth. You may drop your details and check for \$5.00 payable to the Praha Altar Society, in the collection basket or mail it to Barbara Prause, 8323 FM 340, Moulton, TX 77975. *Thank you.*