

MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as “Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday,” expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings both remind us that it is God who gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the First Reading, from the book of Samuel, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul reminds Christians of their new responsibility as children of light to live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”

In The Gospel, at the center is Jesus' miraculous healing of a man born blind. He used tangible things (mud and spittle) in this miracle, just as we use tangible things (oil and water, for example) in the sacraments of the Church.

Some of the Pharisees believed Jesus must have been a sinner because he performed this miracle on the sabbath. The great irony, of course, is that they themselves were blind to the Light of the World: Jesus, the Son of God. The Pharisees questioned both the man and his parents and determined that the man had indeed been born blind. The parents didn't want to say how he gained his sight because they didn't want to be expelled from the temple and they were afraid. The man, however, maintained that Jesus opened his eyes and that God listens to those who worship and obey him, so Jesus must be of God. By the end of their heated discussion, the man born blind was driven out of the temple.

What does Jesus do when he hears of the man's expulsion from the temple? Jesus goes to him. Jesus seeks him out and says, Do you believe in the Son of Man? ... The one speaking with you is he. And the man born blind worshipped him. Jesus seeks that member of his body. Jesus wants to find every lost or hurting sheep. Jesus himself is seeking that person. Jesus knows our hearts, and he seeks out every single person, especially those most in need of healing.

And when he finds us, sitting with our wounds or working through them, he comes with compassion. He asks us, Do you believe in the Son of Man? May he find each of us able to proclaim, “Yes, Lord, I believe.” Yes, Lord, we believe that you are the Son of God. Lord, we believe that you are truly present in the holy sacrament of the altar. Lord, we believe that you died and rose again, and that you can heal our every wound.

We believe, Lord. Help our disbelief. We long to see you, Lord. Heal our blindness.



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM 7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	March 18
8:30 AM	Men's Coffee & Gospel
5:00 PM	Mass: Living & Deceased Parishioners
Sunday	March 19
8:00 AM	Mass: Healing for Karen
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Robert Conklin (RIP)
Monday	March 20
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Mary (RIP)
Tuesday	March 21
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Gerald Dillon (RIP)
Wednesday	March 22
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Grandchildren of Mary O'Reilly
Thursday	March 23
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass:
Friday	March 24
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory
9:30 AM	Stations of the Cross

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

Lent at St. Paul's

Take advantage of these ways in which we can meet God's mercy this Lent at our parish:

Daily Mass & Rosary

Monday — Friday 8:35 / 9:00 AM

Stations of the Cross

Friday 9:30 AM

Lenten Confessions

Saturday, April 1 ~ 8:30—3:30 PM
at St. Philip's Church in Greenville
Palm Sunday, April 2 ~ 11AM-12PM
here at St. Paul's

Lenten Reflection on Our Website

Check out a YouTube video Lenten reflection by Fr. Casey Cole. Scan QR code or visit stpaulsfoster.org/lent



Fasting During Lent

As a sign of regret for sin and rededication to God, Catholics observe two simple obligations about fasting during Lent: First, if we are 14 years or older, we don't eat meat on Fridays of Lent. Second, those ages of 18 and 59 have the special obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: we eat only one full meal that day and take no solid foods between meals. That means our other regular meals are of much smaller portions, with no snacking in between. (health issues excuse a person from these obligations.)

May 2023 Calendar Raffle

Thank you to the generous parishioners who donated gift cards! We are waiting on **2 more** to be returned.

Little Sisters of the Poor

Please join us in welcoming the Little Sisters of the Poor to our parish this weekend. At Jeanne Jugan Residence the Little Sisters offer hospitality and care for 100 needy elderly men and women. They depend greatly on charity to carry on their mission to the aged and infirm. Any assistance you can give will help them provide for the needs of the elderly entrusted to their care. To learn more Visit.. littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org.

Saints Patrick & Saint Joseph Day Brunch

Sunday March 19 after the 8:00 & 10:00 AM Masses

There is plenty of food for everyone so please join us downstairs.

A special thank you to Rick and Lori Copp for organizing this event; and to all those who helped set up and clean up.

Knights of Columbus Italian Dinner

Saturday, March 25

6:00 PM at S. Foster Fire Station

Enjoy an authentic Homemade Italian Dinner prepared by the Master Italian Chefs of St. Paul's Knights Columbus. Menu includes a Fresh Salad, Homemade Italian Soup, Pasta, Sausage, Meat Balls (handmade from fresh ground beef and pork), Chicken Parm, Anthony's Gravy, Italian Bread, Coffee, Soda and Desserts. (BYOB!) All proceeds from the dinner will be given to the parish to fund the handicapped access/ elevator project.

Tickets on Sale now!

Adults \$20 / Under 12 \$10 / Under 5 Free

Memorial Mass for Veterans

Sunday, May 28 at 10:00 AM

Beginning this year, every Memorial Day weekend, the Sunday, 10AM Mass will be offered for all fallen soldiers. Parishioners are invited to submit the names of deceased family members who served our country. Please submit names by Sun, May 7

2023 Catholic Charity Appeal

The CCA is underway in our parish. To date, we have **\$11,890**. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to support the 2023 Appeal. Thank you.

Second Collection—March 18/19

This weekend's second collection will be for the **Little Sisters of the Poor**.

Easter Flower Collection—Mar 18/19

Easter Flower envelopes can be put in with the First Collection this week

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – March 11/12
\$3,055.00

Thank you for your support!

The Wonders of The Mass

What Is the Mass?

1. In the Mass the Son of God becomes man again, so that in every Mass the stupendous Mystery of the Incarnation, with all its infinite merits, is repeated as truly as when the Son of God first took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

St. Augustine: "What a sublime dignity is that of the priest, in whose hands Christ once more becomes man!"

2. The Mass is the birth of Jesus Christ. He is really born on the Altar each time that Mass is said, as He was born in Bethlehem.

St. John Damascene: "If anyone wishes to know how the bread is changed into the Body of Jesus Christ, I will tell him. The Holy Ghost overshadows the priest and acts on him as He acted on the Blessed Virgin Mary."

St. Bonaventure: "God, when He descends upon the altar, does no less than He did when He became man the first time in the womb of the Virgin Mary."

3. The Mass is the same as the Sacrifice of Calvary. In it God dies* as He died on the first Good Friday. It has the same infinite value of Calvary, and brings down on men the same priceless graces.

(*The statements that Jesus (God) "dies" in the Mass and that the Blood of Jesus "is shed" in the Mass refer to an unbloody and mystical renewal of His death and blood-shedding, since, as regards physical death, "Christ rising again from the dead, dieth now no more, death shall no more have dominion over him.")

The Mass is not an imitation, or a memory of Calvary, **it is identically the same Sacrifice** and differs from Calvary only in the manner of offering.

In every Mass the Blood of Jesus is shed for us again. *St. Augustine:* "In the Mass the Blood of Christ flows anew for sinners."

4. Nothing on this Earth, nothing in Heaven itself, gives more glory to God and obtains more benefits for us than a single Mass.

5. By the Mass we offer to God the greatest praise, the greatest glory He could possibly desire. We give Him most perfect thanks for all the benefits He has bestowed on us. We make more reparation for our faults than by the severest penances.

~Father Paul O'Sullivan, O.P.