

March 11, 2018

Lent
Fourth Sunday



From Blindness to Faith

After the Gospel of Jesus, Source of Living Water, today, Jesus, the Light of the World, opens the eyes of a man born blind. The healing itself is very brief but it provokes a whole series of reactions and questions. By contrast, it is only little by little that the man's inner eyes were opened, that he was brought to faith. The story illustrates our own journey toward faith, under the action of grace from beginning to end; the summit is reached when we prostrate ourselves and confess, "I believe, Lord, you are the light of my eyes."

Today's Bulletin is in memory of Grace Schoenvogel sponsored by her family.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Wednesday March 14
8:00 a.m. Joseph Cahill
- Thursday, March 15
8:00 a.m. Lydia & Joe Raab
- Friday, March 16
8:00 a.m. Evelyn & John Elder
- Saturday, March 17
6:30 p.m. Mary & Anton Pulkrabek
- Sunday, March 18
6:30 a.m. Sophie & August Kasper
9:30 a.m. Lorene Byrnes

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY 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.

Lenten Day of Reflection and Adoration – March 24
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., St Mary's Church, St. Mary's. For more information contact Lorrie Adamek (361-293-1300)

The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Henrietta & Frank Simper.

Prepare to Celebrate Easter



Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

Monday, March 19	Moulton	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 21	Praha	4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Priests from the area will be assisting.

** No scheduled confessions in Moulton nor Praha during Holy Week.*

ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CENTER FUND

We thank the following for their recent contributions to the St. Joseph's Social Center Fund:

- Margaret Dornak Estate - \$53,694.19**
(previous donation - \$50,000)
- In Memory of Joseph B. Lombardo**
Patricia Lombardo - \$5,000.00
Patricia & Kenneth Schultz, Houston, TX - \$1,000.00
- In Memory of Delia Nieto Brigman**
Angeline Jalufka - \$20

* See insert for details on the St. Joseph's Social Center.

YOUTH MINISTRY CENTER DONATION

In Memory of Delia Nieto Brigman
Lorene & Dennis Fishbeck

THANK YOU

The Altar Society members express their thanks to everyone who supported the Noodle Soup Dinner by donating prizes for the raffle, buying raffle tickets, bringing desserts and coming out to support our Annual event. Thanks also to Joe's Fried Chicken, Hallettsville for their donation, Diana & Harvey Kloesel (Kloesel's Steakhouse) for providing equipment and coordinating the Noodle Soup Dinner, and to all those who helped make our annual fundraiser a success.

St. Joseph's Altar Society

THE WEEK AHEAD

- MON. Altar Society Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Family Room
– Gold Star Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC
- WED. – Christian Mothers Prayers After Mass
– Champions Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC
– Lenten Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., Family Room
- THURS. – KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall
- FRI. – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament After Mass
– Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m., Church
– Fish Fry, serving starts at 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall
– Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral emergency call the Parish Office at any time.

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!

Mar. 11 – Shelby Rothbauer, Patrick Wenske
Mar. 12 – Dayton Mejias, Margaret Hanslik,
Madison Rothbauer, Rose Rothbauer,
Elizabeth Wenske
Mar. 13 – Shannon Baker
Mar. 15 – Benjamin Siegel
Mar. 16 – Jerry Fojtik, Lorene Konkaba, Hannah Perez,
Kay Pilat, Dalton Thomas, Jeanette Tousek
Mar. 17 – Ann Konkaba, La Sae Rother

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Today – Youth Mass (6th Grade); CCD
Mar. 12 – K-2nd Grade After School Program
Mar. 14 – 3rd-6th Grade After School Program; 9th-11th CCD
Mar. 17 – 6th Grade Leads the Saturday Evening Rosary
Next Sunday – CCD

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.

Orientation

This Fourth Sunday of Lent stands in the middle of three weeks. Today we hear the story of Jesus who is the light of the world, the one who brings light by bringing sight to the man born blind.

This is the same Jesus who, as we heard last Sunday responds with living water to our thirst as he responds to the thirst of the Samaritan woman. This Jesus as we will hear next Sunday raises us as he raised Lazarus from the dead. In these three weeks, we encounter: the Jesus of **water, light and life.**

Rejoice Sunday

With this week, we begin the second part of Lent. This Sunday is traditionally called *Laetare* Sunday, the mid-point in the Lenten season when we desire to celebrate the approaching mystery of our salvation with greater freedom and greater joy. 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.

The statues are covered. The practice of covering the Cross on which Christ was crucified would be veiled during the penitential season. One of the purposes of the Lenten veiling is the joyful restoration of the Cross as a sign of victory during the Triduum, the three-day celebration.

Easter Flowers: To make a donation in memory of your loved ones drop the Easter Flower envelope in the collection basket or mail slot at the rectory. Extra envelopes available at the main entrance to Church.

Easter Egg Donations: Cal-Maine – 15 dz. eggs
Pat, Will & Tom Lawrence - 50 dz. candy filled plastic eggs
To make a donation, contact the Parish Office.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: An hour after Mass on Fridays of Lent.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Food Drive: Leave your canned goods for the needy at the main entrance to Church.

Lenten Fish Fry: Next Friday's Menu - Fish, Hush Puppies, Macaroni & Cheese, Veggies & Dessert
* 20+ desserts are needed each Friday. Contact Nancy Tomek, Dolores Scott or the parish office to help.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Mar. 12 – Congratulations Rosalie & Timothy Konkaba on your 35th Wedding Anniversary