
Fourth Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Weekend of March 28/29

Krissoff Family and Clara Cammack

New Volunteer Training at CareNet

Training for new volunteers begins on April 7th.

If you've ever thought about volunteering at CareNet, if you want to be a part of your community and see lives changed - this is the training for you. CareNet SoMD is looking for both men and women who want to put their faith into action and be a part of the good work we are doing. Morning and evening sessions are available, to sign up call 301-475-5333 or 410-326-6866.



ANNUAL JUBILIARIAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The Annual Archdiocese Jubilarian Celebration of marriage, honors couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years. This year the Mass will be held on Sunday, **June 28, 2020 at 2:00pm** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with his Excellency, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, as the celebrant. To register, please contact the Parish Office. Friday May 22nd is the last day to register.

Encounter Grace is hosting a **Catholic Women's Book Club Get-Together** Tuesday, April 21, 2020, from 630 pm-830 pm. (Location TBD) The book they will be discussing is *Listen To Your Blessed Mother* by Gary Zimak. This is a free event, open to women 18+. More information and link to register can be found at www.encountergrace.com.

Walking Where Jesus Walked -- Pilgrimage to the Holy Land! Join us in the footsteps of Jesus, October 18 to 27, 2020. We will visit many biblical holy places on this trip! Fr. Rob Maro and Fr. Michal Sajnog will be joining us to provide Mass, confession and spiritual direction. The cost of this trip based on double occupancy is only \$3,855.00. Please contact Bread of Life Center for Peace for the full itinerary and trip details at (301) 475-7139.

Mass Intentions: Fr. John honors all Mass Intentions when he says Mass in the Rectory daily. If you would like to post-pone your intention until public Mass resumes, please call us 301-475-8403.

SUNDAY March 22, 2020 & ITS VIGIL

Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 21	Marguerite Brubacher
Sun Mar 22	Jimmy Abell Our Lady's Parishioners
Tue Mar 24	All Persecuted Christians
Wed Mar 25	Jimmy Bowles
Thu Mar 26	Rev. William Hines
Fri Mar 27	Jimmy Bowles
Sat Mar 28	Cameron Boyce
Sun Mar 29	Jimmy Bowles Our Lady's Parishioners

Charitable Outreach Committee

The Charitable Outreach Committee is continuing to collect food for St. Cecilia's food pantry and for Helping Hands food pantry. **During Lent** we ask that you make a special effort to donate food. Please leave your donations of non-perishable food items in the back of the church near the Sacred Heart Statue.

Thank you for answering Christ's call to "Feed the hungry" by regularly donating food items.

4th Annual "Walk in the Park" 5K Fun Run/Walk

Join us at St. Francis Xavier Church on Saturday, April 25th for this fun event to benefit our parish's Newtowne Manor House Preservation/Restoration Fund. This run/walk is open to all ages and abilities. Course starts at St. Francis Xavier Church and follows the road into picturesque Newtowne Neck State Park. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and run/walk starts at 9 a.m. The registration fee of \$20 which includes a t-shirt will help preserve this religious and historical landmark. Kids 12 and under are free. Information on registration is available in the vestibule and on our website: www.stfrancisxavierchurch.org. Donations are always welcomed. If you need additional information, please contact Sarah Matisick at 301-247-7416.

Catholic Relief Rice Bowl Contributions

For more than 40 years, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl program has helped feed the poor around the world. Please get a cardboard Rice Bowl Bank located at the doors of the church. The bank comes with a Lenten Calendar to guide your Lenten Prayers, fasting and almsgiving -- fill the bank with change or cash during the 40 days of Lent and **return on Easter, April 12**. All money collected will go to Catholic Relief Services.

Check out Our Lady's New Website. You can live-stream Mass and check out the Links to Catholic News and Reflections.

Please, Pray for the Intentions of Our Sick

Ginny Ulett, John Allum-Poon, Evelyn Ryce, Dennis Gatley, Teresa Fenwick, James "Boogie" Howe, Keith Harless, Claudia Fenwick, Cathy Norris, Ricky Burroughs, Anna Daugherty, Ben DeWeese, Dona Hamlet, Bob Russell, Rene Chicoine, Jessica Higgs, Benny Benson, Margaret Breakfield, Irene Dixon, Katie Gatley, Anna Marie Quade, Pat Bateman, Ann & Jim Sheasley, Claudia Geroni, Marlene Norris, Sarah Milburn, Agnes Higgs, James N. Trossbach, Edith McFadden, Ann Duchesne, Pat Goin, Beth Higgs, Peter Van Ryswick, Philip Woodburn, David Wood, Charles Mills, Alice Holly, Jackson Morgan, Gary Rogers, Wayne Norris, John A. Abell, Jessica Coss, John Fenwick, Cecelia Knott, Angelina Prucha, Jimmy Ludwig, David Cook, Angel Spalding, Ray Harding, Jr., Kim Sariago, Caroline Sadler, Ellie Vance, Deacon Tom & Rose Spalding, Trish (McWilliams) Guy, Elsie Good, Christina Howe, Ethan Swayze, Jean Bowles Wathen, Jody Van Ryswick, Jimmy Morrisette, Joyce Thompson, Timothy Sauler, Jacob Johnson, Shane Copsey

Father Andrew White School Crusader Connections:

March Events: Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have canceled all of our school events through the end of March. We hope to provide an update once school reopens. We pray that you stay healthy!

Now Enrolling: Our award winning parish school, Father Andrew White, is now enrolling students for the 2020-2021 school year. For more information, check out their website at www.fatherandrewwhite.org or call 301-475-9795 to set up a time to receive a personalized tour with the principal. Come meet the dedicated and caring staff and find out how the students are "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow, Living our Faith."

Prayer to St. Roch

O Blessed Saint Roch, patron of the sick, have pity on those who lie upon a bed of suffering. Your power was so great when you were in this world that by the Sign of the Cross many were healed of their diseases. Now that you are in Heaven your power is not less. Offer, then to God our sighs and tears and obtain for us that health we seek. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Repeat the following three times:

Saint Roch pray for us that we may be preserved from all diseases of body and soul.

About Saint Roch: According to tradition Saint Roch was born with a red cross on his chest. Saint Roch gave all his money to the poor at the age of 20 after his parents had died. In 1315 he helped plague victims in several Italian cities and cured them miraculously with the Sign of the Cross. While helping the sick he contracted the disease. The Saint survived the disease with the help of a dog that brought him food and comfort. Unfortunately, Saint Roch was mistaken for a spy, put in prison and died. According to tradition an angel appeared in Saint Roch's cell after his death. The angel said that those who invoked his intercession would be cured of the plague.