

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?

Today's Bulletin is in memory of Rudy Simper Jr. sponsored by his family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Wednesday, April 3

8:00 a.m. Alfons Cejka

Thursday, April 4

10:30 a.m. Shady Oaks – John Lewis Beran

Friday, April 5

8:00 a.m. Claude & Henry Jalufka

Saturday, April 6

6:30 p.m. Kenneth Kirkland

Sunday, April 7

6:30 a.m. Marie McMurrey

9:30 a.m. Bessie Fike

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 & Adoration, April 13, St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's. Call 361-293-1300 for more details.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in honor of St. Therese and Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CENTER

We are very grateful to the following for their recent donation to the St. Joseph's Social Center Fund:

Mary Ann & Charles Rother - \$5,000

Total amount donated towards the Social Center Fund so far - \$462,546.42. Thank you for your generosity and support. To make a tax deductible contribution contact the Parish Office.

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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY – Gold Star Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC

TUESDAY/THURSDAY – Quilting Group Meets

WEDNESDAY – Champions Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC

THURSDAY – KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall

FRIDAY – Frist Friday Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 a.m.-

6:00 p.m., Family Room. .

– Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m. Church

– Fish Fry, serving begins at 5:00 p.m., Social Center

– Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral Needs 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. 31 – Angelica Manzano
Apr. 2 – Betty Roznovsky
Apr. 4 – Troy Barta
Apr. 5 – Julie Fojtik

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Today – C.C.D.
Apr. 1 – K-2nd Grade After School Program
Apr. 3 – 3rd-6th Grade After School Program, 9th-11th CCD
Next Sunday – C.C.D.

Moulton Easter Picnic Update

We thank those who are contacting the office to volunteer to help and to make donations toward the Picnic. Look out for more details next week.

*** Easter Picnic Chairpersons Meeting today in the Family Room after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.**

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

Second Collection Today – Rice Bowl

Use your Rice Bowl envelope. 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.

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

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

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

Easter Eggs: We thank the following for their donations: Cal-Maine - 15 dz. eggs; Barbara & Eugene Anderle – 24 dz. plastic eggs; Patsy Zamykal 42 dz. plastic eggs, Tom, Pat & Will Lawrence – 40 dz. candy filled plastic eggs & extra candy for filling eggs. To make a donation, contact the Parish Office.

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent, 6 p.m.

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

Lenten Fish Fry - \$10.00 Per Plate

Next Friday's Menu: Fish, Hush Puppies, Broccoli/Rice Casserole, Corn, Dessert

*** 25 desserts are needed each Friday. Contact Dolores Scott or the parish office to help.**

The Fish Fry has been doing very well. We average over 300 plates per week. We thank all those who help in various ways: monetary donations, donating cakes, helping prepare, cook, fry, serve and clean up afterwards. We could not offer this service to the community without you.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration: 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Doris Foster, Sharon Etlinger; 9:30-11 a.m. - Anna & Michael Fishbeck; 11-11:30 a.m. - Cindy Cinadr, Barbara Hermes; 11:30-12 p.m. – Joyce Pavlicek, Nancy Sivyver; 12-12:30 p.m. - Mary Ann Wenske, Nancy Sivyver, Gussie Machalec; 12:30-1p.m.- Scott Wenske; 1-2 p.m. - Maria Kloesel; 2-3 p.m. - Lisa Rothbauer; 3-3:30 p.m. – Linda Pilat; 3:30-4:00 p.m. Linda Pilat, Cathy Wenske; 4-5 p.m. - Rose Rothbauer, Mike Janecek; 5-6 p.m. – Angie Jalufka. *Come spend some time in prayer before the Lord.*