

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

On these Sundays in Lent the liturgy takes us on a true and proper baptismal route through the texts of Saint John's Gospel: last Sunday, Jesus promised the gift of "living water" to the Samaritan woman; today, by healing the man born blind, He reveals Himself as "the light of the world"; next Sunday, in raising His friend Lazarus, He will present Himself as "the resurrection and the life". Water, light and life are symbols of Baptism, the Sacrament that "immerses" believers in the mystery of the death and Resurrection of Christ, liberating them from the slavery of sin and giving them eternal life.

Let us reflect briefly on the account of the man born blind. According to the common mentality of the time, the disciples take it for granted that his blindness was the result of a sin committed by him or his parents. Jesus, however, rejects this prejudice and says: "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him".

What comfort these words offer us! They let us hear the living voice of God, who is provident and wise Love! In the face of men and women marked by limitations and suffering, Jesus did not think of their possible guilt but rather of the will of God who created man for life. And so He solemnly declares: "We must work the works of Him who sent me.... As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world".

And he immediately takes action: mixing a little earth with saliva He made mud and spread it on the eyes of the blind man. This act alludes to the creation of man, which the Bible recounts using the symbol of dust from the ground, fashioned and enlivened by God's breath. In fact, "Adam" means "ground" and the human body was in effect formed of particles of soil. By healing the blind man Jesus worked a new creation.

But this healing sparked heated debate because Jesus did it on the Sabbath, thereby in the Pharisees' opinion violating the feast-day precept. Thus, at the end of the account, Jesus and the blind man are both cast out, the former because He broke the law and the latter because, despite being healed, he remained marked as a sinner from birth.

Jesus reveals to the blind man whom He had healed that He had come into the world for judgement, to separate the blind who can be healed from those who do not allow themselves to be healed because they consider themselves healthy. Indeed, the temptation to build Himself an ideological security system is strong in man: even religion can become an element of this system, as can atheism or secularism, but in letting this happen one is blinded by one's own selfishness.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us allow ourselves to be healed by Jesus, who can and wants to give us God's light! Let us confess our blindness, our shortsightedness, and especially what the Bible calls the "great transgression": pride. May Mary Most Holy, who by conceiving Christ in the flesh gave the world the true light, help us to do this.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Please note that we will not be having Tenebrae services this year.

Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday at 7pm in the Church.

Liturgical Ministers for March 28th/29th, 2020

Mass	Lector	Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00pm	D. LEGATO	J. FLYNN, H. ECKES	J. LEGATO
8:30am	M. LATINI	A. WITKOWSKI, J. TAYLOR	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI, S. GOTTLIEB
11:30am	H. MARINARO	J. SNELLINGER, N. SMITH	A. EPPS, S. BHIKARRY, M. FEDRIZZI

We have begun the next Formed Lectio Bible Studies Series. We will meet in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room. Class runs from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

The Topic is: Lectio: Salvation with Dr. Michael Barber

23 March: Session 4: Not Just Personal

30 March: Session 5: Not Just a Legal Transaction

20 April: Session 6: Not a Spectator Sport

27 April: Session 7: Not Simply a Moment

4 May: Session 8: Not Inevitable

1 June: Session 9: Not Just for Other People

8 June: Session 10: Not Only About the Future

*Join us next Sunday, March 29th for the
All You Can Eat Breakfast.
Bring a friend.*

The Mount Carmel Society of Port Jervis N.Y. are having their famous Sausage and Pepper sit down/take out at their hall located at 21 First Street. For dessert you will be able to purchase Zeppoli's. It will be Saturday March 28th from 4:00PM until 7:00 PM. Cost \$8.

Clean up at St. Mary's Cemetery has begun. Kindly clean up and pick up any personal belongings that have been left at your loved one's gravesite.

S.M.A.R.T. will also be selling Palm Crosses for \$10 in the Narthex the weekend of March 28th/29th and if any are left the weekend of April 4th/5th (Palm Sunday)

Boyscout's Annual Car Wash & Clothing Drive will be on May 2nd, 9am-2pm, Car Wash is \$5 and collect: **CLOTHING** –

(ALL TYPES, SEASONS & SIZES)  **SNEAKERS &**

SHOES (ALL KINDS),  **HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES,**

HANDBAGS, BACKPACKS, BELTS,  **TOYS &**
GAMES (ALL TYPES, SMALLER THEN 2 FEET BY 2

FEET),  **ALL BEDDING & TOWEL ITEMS,** 

DRAPERIES & CURTAINS,  **STUFFED ANIMALS &**
DOLLS.

We are in need of 3 people to step up to be on the Parish Advisory Council for a 3 year term. We thank previous members Steve Riordan, Cheryl Lovelace, and Janet Smith for their 3 years of service. Please call the parish office to submit your name by Friday, May 22nd. Names will be picked on Sunday, May 31st-Pentecost Sunday.

Reconciliation Monday will be on April 6th. All churches within the Archdiocese of NY will be hearing confessions from 3pm until 9pm.

Due to unfortunate incidents hindering safety within the Church, we will begin locking the Church doors 15 minutes after Mass begins. You will still be able to exit but will not be able to reenter. This will take effect the weekend of April 18th/19th.

Announced Masses

- Monday, March 23 (Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop)**
9:00am Margaret Boyle, by Kathleen Osowick
Dominick Amitrano, by Eleanor Brady
- Tuesday, March 24 (Oscar Romero, bishop and martyr)**
9:00am Mary Wohlscheid, by Kathleen Osowick
- Wednesday, March 25 (Annunciation of the Lord)**
9:00am Juanita Garcia, by the Anaya family
- Thursday, March 26**
9:00am Margaret Manzi, by Janet and Casimir Tyborowski
- Saturday, March 28**
4:00pm Deceased members of the Kucher family, by Hannelore Kucher and family
- Sunday, March 29**
8:30am Mary Wohlscheid, by Bob and Nancy Dunn
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
1:00pm Intentions of Zachary Adamcik, by the Carmody family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ana Anaya, Glenn Lagatol, Ellen Pentland, and Shirley Simeone.

Court Madonna No. 114 will be hosting their annual ladies' tea on Sat., April 18th. Ladies \$15/pp-Young ladies under 12 are \$7/pp. The theme is *Tea at Tiffany's with Court Madonna & Co.*. So put on your favorite little black dress or something divine, your most dazzling pearls or costume jewels, and join us for a fabulous afternoon. Tiaras are the way to go, fancy or not these will be hot! Advance registration needed. No walk-ins. Kindly RSVP to member, Laura Nicolette at (973) 293-3523 by March 28th. Please make checks payable to Court Madonna and mail to: Laura Nicolette, 21 Chubby Lane, Montague, NJ 07827.

The Cardinal's Appeal has begun. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$5,860 from 19 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. Our Parish number is **518**.

The collection for March 14/15 was \$2,540.
Thank you for your continued generosity.