



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020



ATTENTION

**All scheduled masses and events are cancelled due to the ban.
As a Parish Family we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.**

**The Church/Rectory is open during the day;
(Monday – Friday 9:00am – 2:00pm) (Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm) (Sunday 10:00am – 3:00pm)**

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

"I WAS BLIND AND NOW I SEE"

(John 9: 1-41)

The mere story of a blind man regaining his sight is already a cause for joy. Perhaps that is why the liturgy uses it on this Fourth Sunday of Lent that is called "*Laetare Sunday*." This name is given by the first word of today’s antiphon "Rejoice." For those who feel that the Lenten season is long and somber because of its emphasis on denial and penance, this Sunday wants to be a pre-announcement that the good is yet to come. Let us recall once again the words of Pope Francis who encourages us to look at the Lenten journey with the glorification that Jesus receives with his resurrection.

That is, the believer of all times must look at life with joy as one who appreciates the light at the end of a tunnel.

In the first reading, God chooses the least of Jesse's children because God looks beyond appearances. The Pharisees are unable to see under the appearance of sin, while the healed blind man is able to see Jesus as the Lord. For this reason, on this Sunday already close to Easter, let us ask for the grace to look beyond our short gaze and beyond mere appearances.

Samuel was one of the great leaders of ancient Israel. He received his vocation at a young age and many recognized him as a prophet and visionary even before he became a political and military leader. With all these abilities he was wrong when choosing one of Jesse's sons since Samuel hoped that God would choose one of the eldest and strongest among them. So, we should ask ourselves that if this great leader was unable to choose a successor to the throne, how much more do we need the grace of God to know how to choose the decisions that God wants us to make. Saint Ignatius in his military and spiritual wisdom wants “those who really follow Christ” to make the choice for Him and for the values of his Kingdom. He asks all those who do the Spiritual Exercises to be always ready to fulfill the will of God. Today is the time to review our choices or decisions and look beyond appearances to see if they conform to the will of God as Christ did in accepting the way of the Passion and the Cross.

Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees can show us their intellectual laziness. Before taking the time to reasonably judge about the healing of the blind man, they hasten to judge Jesus as a sinner. The Pharisees choose to strictly observe the commandment to keep the Sabbath rather than rejoice in the goodness of God who is able to restore the sight to the blind. They are not impressed by the healing of the blind man, but instead place their interest in law enforcement. For this reason, filled with the Spirit of Christ, let us ask for the grace to follow Jesus. If we do that, we will find the path that leads us to the light. Let us ask that we be light that illuminates all who come into contact with us. Let us ask that we can make good use of our judgment towards others. And finally, let us rejoice because we are called to be the person of Christ to others.

Fr. Hernán, S.J.

Weekly Memorials

**Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle
Memorial Candle**



**~ For the People of
our Parish Community**
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SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

March 22: Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A
Psalm 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 5:8-14

March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Romans 8:8-11



MASSES CANCELED IN ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

In light of the continued concern surrounding the coronavirus, and the advice of medical experts, all Masses in the Archdiocese of New York have been canceled.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, urged the faithful to remember in their prayers all those whose lives have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. "Let us pray for all who are sick, as well as doctors, nurses, caregivers, and all those working hard to combat the disease. We should also remember those whose lives have been otherwise disrupted, especially anyone who has lost income from a loss of work during this difficult time."

"We need to rediscover the concreteness of small things, the small acts of kindness shown to those who are close to us, family, friends. We need to realize that our treasure lies in small things. There are tiny gestures that sometimes get lost in the routine of everyday life, gestures of tenderness, affection, compassion, that are nevertheless decisive, important", he says. The Pope gives the examples of sharing "a hot plate of food, a caress, a hug, a phone call... These are familiar, attentive gestures regarding everyday details that make life meaningful, and create communion and communication amongst us". (**Pope Francis** offers advice about how to face the daily challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic)

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK

Father Hernán and Father Luis Mario are offering virtual Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament through our Facebook page. Connect and follow us to see these transmissions in your homes. Masses on Sundays; 10:00 am (English); 11:30 am (Spanish) Masses from Monday to Friday; 12:00 pm (Spanish) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; daily at 7:00 pm (Spanish)

REGISTER for ONLINE GIVING - ParishPay.com/WeShare allows parishes to receive online gifts and give their parishioners a safe and easy way to do so. You are able to set up recurring donations and manage your online giving accounts. If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Customer service number 1-800-950-9952.

1. Visit <http://www.paritypay.com> and register for a new account.
2. Click on the collection you wish to donate to.
3. Click Recurring Donation, then enter your donation amount and frequency.

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

CANCELATION OF SCHOOL & CCD - Out of an abundance of caution and at the recommendation of expert health officials, the Safety Task Force of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools and the Archdiocese of NY, our School and our Religious Education classes are canceled until further notice, as the Coronavirus situation is monitored. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution. Any further information will be forwarded to parents as it becomes known. The health and safety of our students, staff and families is of the utmost importance. We are continuing to monitor the situation surrounding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). It is rapidly changing and we are closely following the advice of city, state and federal health officials. We truly understand that taking this action may cause some disruption to our families, but we strongly believe that these measures taken now will have the greatest success of decreasing risk to the whole community.

ALSO CANCELED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE – Stations of the Cross, Weekly Lenten Series, Bible Study, RCIA classes, Youth Choir Rehearsals, Parish Retreats and any Parish meetings.

If you had a mass scheduled or offered the Bread and Wine or Sanctuary Candle for a loved one, for this week or the upcoming weeks, please call the rectory to reschedule to a later date. We apologize for the inconvenience.

POWERFUL RAYER TO THE VIRGEN MARY FOR PROTECTION

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas –