

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."

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, March 17
4:30 p.m. Dianne, Yvonne & Julius Simper and Rhonda Simper Ronan
Sunday, March 18
8:00 a.m. Louis Stryk

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the 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 FISH FRY

St. Joseph's Church, Moulton
Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$9.00 Per Plate

Next Friday's Menu: Fish, Hush Puppies, Macaroni & Cheese, Veggies & Dessert

Dine in the Parish Hall Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.

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.*

**DAY OF PRAYER
AND RECONCILIATION - MARCH 18**



The ladies of St. Mary's Altar Society invite all the ladies of the parish to a Day of Prayer and Reconciliation next Sunday, March 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the school in Praha. The day will include breakfast, spiritual talks, lunch and end after lunch with a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The director of the retreat will be Fr. Gabriel. *We hope you will be able to join us.*

CHURCH DOORS

The front doors of the Church have been taken down to be restored after the damage from Hurricane Harvey. The Insurance Adjustor has made his report and the cost of the repairs will be borne by our Diocesan Insurance Company.

**K.J.Z.T. District II Meeting
In Praha Next Sunday**

Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (K.J.Z.T.) District II meeting and social will be held Sunday, March 18 at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Praha. Registration at 1:30 p.m. Memorial Service, awarding of pins and meeting at 2:00 p.m. Door prizes and catered meal to follow. All societies' members and their families are invited. Praha Society #4 is hosting the event. Praha members attending are asked to bring a dessert and a door prize.

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!



March 12 – Margaret Hanslik
– Rosemary Klekar
March 17 – Gary Greive
– Julie Schneider

PRAHA CHURCH PICNIC – AUGUST 15

Bands For Picnic

Shiner Hobo Band – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
and 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Mark Halata & Texavia – 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
and 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
The Lost Cause Band – 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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.

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

Easter Egg Hunt: Donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt are welcome and appreciated. To make a donation, contact the Parish Office.

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

Lenten Food Drive: We will once again be collecting canned good for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. You may leave your canned goods at the back of Church.

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.

Remember to pray for the following intentions:

In Thanksgiving
For Wilbert Hollas
For My Husband & Dad
For Our Sons & Daughters
For Financial Help & Healing From Work Injury
Healing For Daughter-in-law's Gall Bladder Surgery
For Thomas R., My Brother Living End Days With Cancer
– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued