

March 6, 2016

Lent

Fourth Sunday



To See As God's Sees

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 because he proclaimed Jesus as a man of God. Are you willing to follow Jesus into the light?

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, March 9
6:00 p.m. For the Welfare of Parish
Saturday, March 12
4:30 p.m. Patalik, Firasek & Vanek Families
Sunday, March 13
8:00 a.m. Ernest Chaloupka

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. (*Cycle A Readings*)

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14
Responsorial Psalm: 130
Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45

No Bible Study Wednesday, March 9

C.C.D. Wednesday, March 9

K.J.Z.T. DISTRICT II MEETING TODAY

Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Flatonia

Registration at 1:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 2:00 p.m.

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

February 18, 2016

St. Mary's - Praha

Dear Pastor,

The diocesan goal for the year 2015 was \$1,826,700. This year it is \$1,936,221. This is an increase of \$109,597. Your parish goal for 2015 was **\$7,532**. This year it is **\$7,618**. Enclosed for your review is the DSA brochure for 2016 that will be mailed out to our list of registered households on Friday, February 26, 2016.

You will be receiving another letter around the 15th of March informing you of the amount collected towards your 2015 goal and whether you owe additional monies or will be receiving a refund.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Brown
Business Manager

Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:

In Memory of Arnold Bohuslav

Julia Stryk - \$20

In Memory of Anton Okruhlik

Marcella & Henry J. Henke Jr., Hallettstville, TX - \$25

Celine Kalina

In Memory of Norman Novasad - \$25

In Memory of Alois, Lillie & Gerald Kalina - \$500

To make a donation to the project contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674 or send an email to st_joe@sbcglobal.net.

ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Anton Okruhlik: Mary & Charlie Bartos

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.

REFLECTION

On Trial For Jesus

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent 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 responds with living water to our thirst. This Jesus as we will hear next Sunday raises us as he raised Lazarus from the dead.

This passage of John is a sandwich – at the beginning and the end we hear about Jesus and the man born blind. In the middle of the passage there are four separate trial scenes where people are being questioned and judged about what they have seen and heard. The question in these trials is: What is the truth?

The first trial takes place after the man has been healed and goes home to his neighbors who do not believe it is him. All the man born blind does is tell the story of what he experienced: *I met a man and he healed me.*

The second trial happens before the Pharisees, who will not stand for the man born blind's story. For them anybody from God cannot break the Sabbath Law by healing on the Sabbath. The man again tells his story: *I met a man and he healed me.*

In the third trial, the Pharisees bring in the man's parents. They plead with Fifth. "We don't know! He is an adult ask him!" they say.

In the fourth trial, the Pharisees who would not take "No" for an answer because they thought they knew how God acts in the world, brought in the man for more questioning. "We know this man who healed you is a sinner." In all these trials the man is faithful to what he experienced. He tells the truth: *I met a man and he healed me.*

We learn from this story that when we accept the healing offered by Jesus, when we are baptized into him like the man born blind washes in the pool, we will undergo the exact same trials that Jesus had to undergo.

To be baptized is to be commissioned to take Jesus' place in the world. We remain faithful to our experiences of Jesus in our life as we are sent to give **water, light, and life** to a world that needs it badly.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



March 7 – Lexie Noska
March 8 – Judith Kubecka
March 9 – Michael Fishbeck
March 12 – Margaret Hanslik
– Rosemary Klekar

Lenten Day of Reflection and Adoration

March 19, St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's
For more information call 361-293-1300.

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

Rejoice Sunday

With this week we begin the second part of Lent. This Sunday is traditionally called *Laetare* Sunday, (Rejoice Sunday) the midpoint 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.

The covering of statues and art with purple for Lent is an old custom. Before 1970, crosses and other images in Catholic churches were traditionally covered with purple veils during the final two weeks of Lent for what was called Passiontide. When the missal was published in 1970 the option was given to Bishops Conferences to observe the custom or not. Although the U.S. Bishops, as a body have not taken up the particular question of covering images during the last two weeks of Lent, the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy stated in 2006 that parishes may carry on this tradition if they wish.

The cross on which Christ was crucified would be veiled during the penitential season. One of the purposes of the Lenten veiling is the joyful restoration of the Cross as a sign of victory during the Triduum, the three-day celebration.

Second Collection Today – Rice Bowl

Be generous.



Easter Flowers: To make a donation in memory of your loved ones, drop your Easter Flower envelope in the collection basket or mail. Extra envelopes available at the entrance to church.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Food Drive: Leave your canned goods for the needy at the back of Church.

Insert: Lenten Penance Service, Triduum/Easter Schedule.

LENTEN FISH FRY – FRIDAYS OF LENT

St. Joseph's Church, Moulton

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$8.00 Per Plate
Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

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

*All proceeds go to charities.



MARCH 13, 2016