

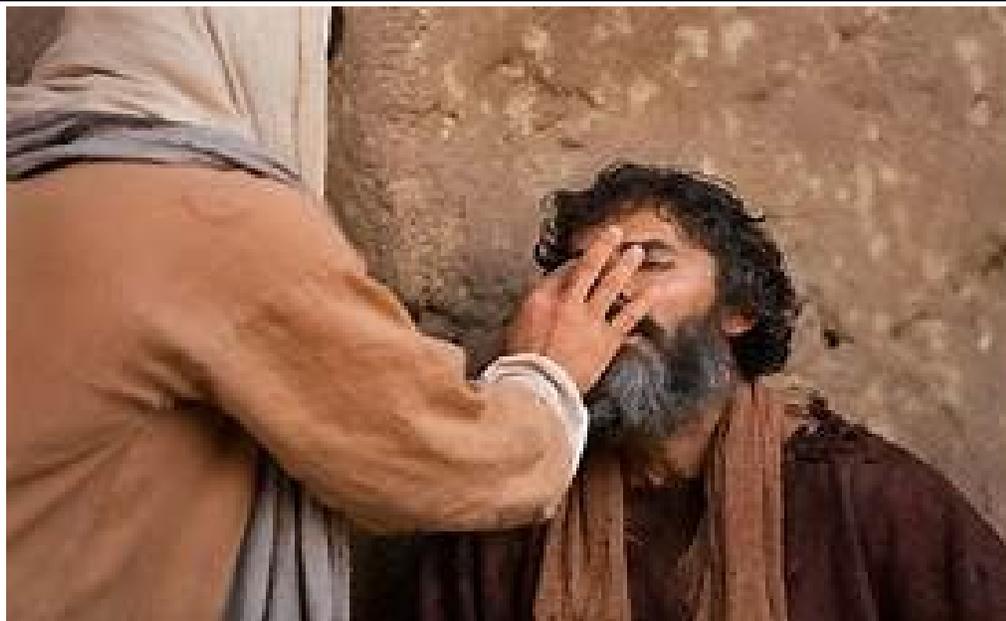
CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

TO TEACH, TO BUILD, TO SERVE, TO SANCTIFY

246 Dodd St. corner Midland Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey 07017

MARCH 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Served by:
Rev. Frederick A. Pfeifer
Pastor
Rev. Charles M. Kelly
Priest in Residence
Rev. Vincent Sebastine
Priest in Residence
Rev. Mr. Leo Woodruff
Deacon
George Henderson
Music Director
Marilyn Spesak
Parish Secretary/Safe Environment Coordinator

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATION of the EUCHARIST:

Saturday Evening: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Weekdays: 8:00 AM Monday through Saturday in the Chapel

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM:

Baptisms are scheduled on Sundays after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Parents must first register at the Rectory for confirmation of a date. Parents should be registered members of the church prior to making baptism arrangements. A copy of your child's birth certificate must be presented as well as sponsor certificates for the godparents, if they are not members of the parish.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every First Friday of the month, 7PM-12AM in Church.

SACRAMENT of MATRIMONY:

Couples planning to marry should make arrangements with the priest **1 year** in advance of the wedding date.

MINISTRY to the SICK and HOMEBOUND:

If you are hospitalized and would like to be visited by your parish priest, please notify the parish directly. If you are sick or homebound and would like to be visited by a priest, deacon or a Eucharistic Minister to bring you Holy Communion, please call the Rectory.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:

Saturday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: We invite new parishioners to register at the Rectory. If you are moving, or have an address or phone change, please notify the secretary.

Parish Website:

www.hnjeo.org

RECTORY AND PARISH CENTER: 184 MIDLAND AVENUE, EO, NJ 07017

Parish Center Hours - Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Rectory and Parish Center Phone: 973-675-4444

CCD Emergency Phone: 201- 953-5077

Protecting God's Children Victim Assistance Coordinator: 201-407-3256

E-mail (NEW!!!): info@hnjeo.org

Social Services: 1-800-227-7413

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN'T SEE?

If we walk in the light of Christ, then we are able to assess the world and all of reality from God's perspective, not just a material and functional one. Holding the flashlight of truth, we are able to see beyond mere appearance and look into the heart of things. This past [Ash Wednesday](#), Pope Francis said, "All around us, we see the dust of death. Lives reduced to ashes. Rubble, destruction, war. The lives of unwelcomed innocents, the lives of the excluded poor, the lives of the abandoned elderly. We continue to destroy ourselves, to return to ashes and dust. And how much dust there is in our relationships!" Pope Francis continued, "Look at our homes and families: Our quarrels, our inability to resolve conflicts, our unwillingness to apologize, to forgive, to start over, while at the same time insisting on our own freedom and our rights!" The same reality of existence is before Francis' eyes and ours. How we understand, interpret, and qualify it is where the challenge lies. We all see innocents, the poor, elderly, and other marginalized people. The adjectives we use to describe them, and the rest of human experience will determine whether we are people of darkness or people of light. Just because we choose to take up some kind of Lenten discipline does not mean that we are allowing God to change and convert our hearts. After forty days of empty sacrifice, the scales may still remain on our eyes.

Often what we perceive is colored by our presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, fears, and our needs. We judge things and people as if they are objects that are far removed from us rather than as living individuals and blessings with whom we share relationships. It is precisely this short sighted and myopic vision that leads to erroneous and hurtful judgments. But we are slow and reluctant to change. Our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. How wrong we are. We cannot resolve our conflicts because we move through life with lenses of ignorance rather than lenses of clarity.

Often, we are more concerned about whether we have a good connection to social media and current affairs, than a good connection to the Gospel. Words can easily become empty and we can find ourselves spreading falsehoods and rumors like wildfire. We can destroy a person's character in an instant and think nothing of it. We convince ourselves that ignorance, gossip, and protecting our interests is acceptable as we continue to travel the road of darkness blindly thinking we can see. And all the while the world continues to spin out of control and weep.

Shootings happen so often that they no longer impress us. School lockdowns and metal detectors are commonplace. Many are confused and struggle with their identities, many wonder whether the traditional moral voice has lost its relevance replaced by the morality of the "politically correct." We live with relativism. Sometimes it is easier to just accept this rather than standing up and "[exposing the fruitless works of darkness](#)." What does it mean to be fully and sacredly human and walk in the light of Christ?

Until we can pray, "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want," and really mean it, not too much will change. We need to stay in the desert for a while and get our heads, hearts, and souls straight so that we can see and live in the light. Being in the desert of Lent will allow us to really ask and answer the question, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" If we can answer that question with a resounding "yes!" and truly believe that the Lord is our shepherd, then we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God's children. There will no longer be a question of whether life is sacred. We will know from Whom it comes, to Whom it belongs and to Whom it returns.

There are no easy answers to life's staggering dilemmas. However, when we live as children of the light, as children who have been blessed with the gift of faith, we will produce every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. It certainly stands to reason that where there is goodness, righteousness and truth, there is God. As simple people of simple means let us ask ourselves a profound question: Where in our lives do we find goodness, righteousness, and truth? When we gain an answer, we would be wise to focus our energy there and pursue it. Doing so will lead us from blindness to sight.

Pope Francis is correct. There is dust everywhere! It is covering our relationships, our vision, our understanding, our minds, our hearts, our wills, and our souls. Many suffer from spiritual cataracts and are not even aware of it. In fact, they staunchly believe that they see just fine! Will we recognize that we do not see clearly and reach for the remedy, or will our stubbornness and fierce independence lead us to reject the light and become truly blind?

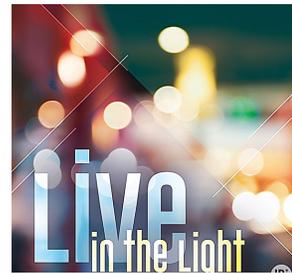
We all come to God by different paths. But in all our journeys is the need to be healed from blindness and brought into clear sight. We all struggle with cataracts that affect our spiritual vision in different ways. However blurred our vision may be, what is required is a huge dose of humility that allows us to understand and accept that we do not see as clearly as we may think. This may be regarding world social issues, personal and professional relationships, relationships with authority, or even the stranger we meet on the street. The adjectives we use to describe what we see can reveal just how blind we may be. We can never presume that we have clear sight and must always strive to gaze into the heart of people and things as God does. Lord Jesus, touch the eyes of my soul so that I may truly see!

Rev. Mark Suslenko

PRAYER

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff that give me courage.
You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.
Amen.



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

**Elizabeth Hegarty,
Delano Kimbrough,
Ellis Thomas, Fred
Watson, Kevin
Watson, Dorothy
Jackson, Helen
Hiner, Adrien Marc
Gilles, Mary Angela Kunst, Paula
Del Vento, Julia Daniel, Neil and
Mary Lou Boylan, Bob Simons,
Catherine Mazzie, Jim Landers,
Eileen Cremen, Elise Supchak,
Dominic and Marie Preta.**



Monday, March 23, 2020

Reading: Isaiah 65:17-21

Gospel: John 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-9,12

Gospel: John 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Annunciation of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10

Reading II: Hebrews 10:4-10

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Reading: Exodus 32 7-14

Gospel: John 5:31-47

Friday, March 27, 2020

Reading: Wisdom 21:1a, 12-22

Gospel: John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Gospel: John 7:40-53

What the Catechism of the Catholic Church Teaches...

Why is Jesus called “Christ”?

“Christ” in Greek, “Messiah” in Hebrew, means the “anointed one.” Jesus is the Christ because he is consecrated by God and anointed by the Holy Spirit for his redeeming mission. He is the Messiah awaited by Israel, sent into the world by the Father. Jesus accepted the title of Messiah but he made the meaning of the term clear: “come down from heaven” (John 3:13), crucified and then risen, he is the Suffering Servant who gives “his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). From the name Christ comes our name of *Christian*.

What is the meaning of the title “Lord”?

In the Bible this title regularly designates God as Sovereign. Jesus ascribed this title to himself and revealed his divine sovereignty by his power over nature, over demons, over sin and over death, above all by his own Resurrection. The first Christian creeds proclaimed that the power, the honor and the glory that are due to God the Father also belong to Jesus: God

“has given him the name which is above every other name” (Philippians 2:9). He is the Lord of the world and of history, the only One to whom we must completely submit our personal freedom.

(CCC 436-440, 453
446-451, 455)



COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY

March 15th, 2020

ONLINE GIVING - \$1,107.67

Thank You for Your Faithful Giving!

PARISH BUSINESS UPDATE

Until further notice, all Parish business will be conducted either by phone, email or internet.

PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE

If any of your information has changed (address, phone number, etc.), please call the office so we can update our records.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will be cancelled until further notice.

50/50 UPDATE

The 50/50 drawings will be suspended until May.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGIES

The Archdiocese will be honoring couples that are celebrating 5, 25 and 50 years of Christian marriage this year. The liturgies will be celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on the following dates: 5 and 25 years on April 19 at 3PM, and 50 years on May 3 at 3PM. Registration forms can be obtained at the office.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Just a reminder that there will be Eucharistic Adoration every weekday and Saturday morning from 7-9 AM and 9AM to Noon on Sunday.

NOW WE CAN SEE!

According to WebMD, "Babies are born with a full visual capacity to see objects and colors. However, newborns cannot see very far. Just after birth, a baby sees only in black and white, with shades of gray. As the months go by, he/she will slowly start to develop their color vision."

However, that was not the case with the man we meet in this Sunday's Gospel ([John 9:1-41](#)). We are told the man was "blind from birth." In his entire life, that man had never seen the face of his father or mother or even his own two hands. He had never watched little children playing with one another or a flock of sheep grazing in a meadow. He had never witnessed a morning sunrise or stars shining in the night sky. He had never seen the wonder of God's creation, a creation which God found to be "very good."

That man's blindness came to an end when Jesus smeared clay on his eyes and told him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" ... He went and washed, and came back able to see."

Can you imagine what that man experienced when the faces, the colors, the sights, the wonders he had never seen suddenly burst into view.

While thankfully, most people are not born physically blind, we are all born spiritually blind. No one is born being able to see the presence of Jesus in their lives. We only come to see Jesus when he removes our spiritual blindness.

That was true for the blind man, and it is true for us. In the Gospel reading, he is given physical sight and then he is given the vision to see and know the one who had touched his eyes.

First, he says he was cured by "the man called Jesus." Then he tells the Pharisees that Jesus is more than a mere man, "He is a prophet." When the Pharisees question him again, he says the one who opened his eyes is from God, for "if this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything."

Later Jesus comes to the man and reveals who he truly is. Jesus tells him that he is the "Son of Man." The man's eyes are now truly opened in every sense and he says, "I do believe, Lord, and he worshipped him."

That same process of gradually coming to see and know Jesus happens in our lives. Our spiritual vision began when we were baptized. There we were "enlightened by Christ" so that we might "walk always as a child of the light."

As we grew, we came to a deeper understanding of Jesus. We heard his words as the scriptures were proclaimed. We came to see him in the bread and wine of the Eucharist and in the celebration of the liturgies of the Church. Our spiritual vision increased as the Lord touched us during times of personal prayer and reflection and in unexpected moments of grace.

And unlike physical eyesight that can dim over time, our spiritual vision continually improves the more we spend time with Jesus, the light of the world.

The fact we are not spiritually blind is positive proof that the Lord who gave sight to the blind man, has touched our eyes as well. Like him, we can say, "One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." We can see the Jesus! We can see him as our Lord and God, our Savior, Brother and Friend.

