

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

Dear Parish Family,

In the Gospel reading from John on this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we hear the captivating story of Jesus healing the man born blind. John has a unique way of relating stories of Jesus that on the surface seems simple but at the same time conveys a deeper spiritual and mystical meaning. In today's Gospel, on the surface it is a story of a miracle of Jesus bringing sight to a man who was born blind. On deeper level, the story is not really about physical blindness, but rather, spiritual blindness. It is about the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees who were supposed to be the experts on the Jewish faith and law. In contrast, the blind man's spiritual eyes are wide open with faith in Jesus Christ. The Pharisees did not care about the poor blind man who suffered since birth. They were more concerned about Jesus and the blind man breaking the Sabbath law and accused them of being evil sinners.

On an even deeper level, the story speaks to us and our own spiritual blindness. This Gospel passage should cause us to reflect on who we are in the story. Are we the blind man willing and ready with deep faith to have our eyes opened by the Word and presence of Jesus Christ? Or are we like the Pharisees... calling ourselves faithful Catholic Christians but in our heart, we are blinded by our self-righteous opinions, prejudices, selfishness and reluctance to full commitment to Jesus and to the needs of others. If you are like me, the answer would be sometimes both.

I am...we all are...and indeed our society... is in need of the healing touch of Jesus Christ to open the darkness of our myopic spiritual vision. Lent is the time to take a hard look at what keeps us blind and in darkness. Let this Gospel story be on your hearts and mind this Fourth Week of Lent and pray for the healing touch of Jesus.

May this Lenten journey deepen our relationship with God and with each other in our parish family.



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