

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 22, 2020



104 WEST FIRST STREET • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902
419.524.2572 | MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

Mass Schedule:

There will be no Masses offered at this time. Mass will be available on WMFD TV on Sunday at 10:00 A.M. and on the St. Peter's YouTube channel, website and Facebook page.

Spanish Mass:

Resurrection Parish, Lexington

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
Sunday Closed

Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572

*Hospital & Follow-up
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &
Prayer Pipeline*

Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694

Shut-ins/Homebound

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572 ext.2122

Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*

Fr. Austin Ammanniti, *Parochial Vicar*

Mr. Bill Johnson,

Director of Music & Liturgy

Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*

Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of*

Religious Ed. & Youth Minister

Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta

High School, Jr. High School

Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer

Elementary School and Montessori

Parish Business Manager:

Mr. Evan Mumea

Director of Development:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

March 16, 2020

For Immediate Release

For Information: Carolyn Jurkowitz, Executive Director
614-224-7147

RE: Catholic Bishops of Ohio Suspend All Publicly Celebrated Masses/Liturgies

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After serious consideration of the grave health risk involved in public gatherings and in order to curb the spread of the Coronavirus, the bishops of Ohio have decided, **effective immediately**, to suspend temporarily all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies, at least through the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. The bishops of Ohio dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in their respective dioceses and all other Catholics currently in Ohio from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass through Easter Sunday.

This decision is not taken lightly and, as your bishops, causes us great sadness. However, after consultation with the governor and health officials we are convinced that this is the most prudent and necessary action.

Science has proven that participation in public gatherings significantly increases the risk of contagion. This poses a serious danger to those especially most vulnerable.

As Catholics, in every Sunday Mass we celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. In this moment, we are experiencing in a unique way the passion of our Lord as this pandemic prevents us from gathering for the Sunday Eucharist. In this very difficult time, we encourage the faithful to turn to the Church's treasury of prayer. Sunday remains a holy day, and we encourage the faithful to pray using the rich resources of our faith, including praying as a family or individually the rosary, divine mercy chaplet, the Liturgy of the Hours, stations of the cross, etc. We also urge you to participate in prayer by way of radio broadcast or televised or live-streamed Mass and make a spiritual communion.

Please join us in praying for all who are suffering from illness or disease of any kind, for all health care workers, and for an easing of the anxiety and tension caused by this situation. Relying on the Motherly care of Our Lady, we unite our sufferings to those of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our healing and our hope.

Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr
Chairman
Catholic Conference of Ohio
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus

Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville

Most Rev. Joseph R. Binzer
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Most Rev. George V. Murry, S.J.
Bishop of Youngstown

Rev. Donald P. Oleksiak
Diocesan Administrator of Cleveland

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo



ST. PETER'S PARISH
MANSFIELD, OHIO



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL · JUNIOR HIGH · ELEMENTARY

.March 17, 2020

Following the directives of the Governor of Ohio and the Catholic Diocese of Toledo in recent days, Very Rev. Gregory R. Hite, Pastor & Local Superintendent of St. Peter's, has directed the following effective immediately out of an abundance of caution for the well-being of our parishioners, students, parents, and staff.

Masses

Sunday and weekday Masses are all canceled immediately and until at least April 12th to include no Masses for Holy Week or Easter Sunday. The Catholic faithful have been given dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass and their Easter Duty by the Bishop of Toledo.

One Mass at St. Peter's will be live-streamed on our website (mansfieldstpeters.org) and our Facebook pages starting this weekend. Mass (pre-recorded) at St. Peter's will also be broadcast at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning on WMFD-TV.

Easter Bake Sale Activities

We are canceling all other Easter Bake Sale prep events, and the sale scheduled for April 6 & 7th.

St. Peter's School

- All school-related extracurricular activities are canceled starting Friday, March 13 until at least April 3, 2020.
- Students will participate in remote learning during the extended break. Parents will receive additional information through their *Alma* notifications and *Spartan Alerts*.

Our school facilities will be closed to non-essential personnel starting at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16.

St. Peter's Parish

- All parish ministries and meetings are canceled as long as the school closures are in effect.
- The Parish School of Religion Classes has been canceled for the rest of the year.

Funeral Masses will be permitted. Following the recommendations of the Catholic Conference of Bishops of Ohio attendance at funerals should be limited to family as much as possible.

During the extended closure of the school, the Parish Center Office will be open only from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

If additional changes are mandated or needed, we will update our parishioners and parents through our website, social media channels and the local media.

Annunciation Radio

WNOC 89.7 FM in Toledo/Bowling Green | WFOT 89.5 FM in Mansfield/Lexington
WHRQ 88.1 FM in Sandusky/Port Clinton | WSHB 90.9 FM in Willard
WRRO 89.9 FM in Bryan

*Your Source for Prayer, News, Inspiration and **DAILY MASS***

Join Annunciation Radio on any of our FM stations, our website or our app to stay up to date on everything happening in the Diocese of Toledo during this difficult time. Listen to Morning Offering with Ron Finn and Dave Vacheresse weekday mornings beginning at 8am. Coming to you live from our studio in Toledo we will be sharing all of the latest news, announcements and updates pertaining to our diocesan faith community. We are also your source for Daily Mass. Join us Monday-Friday at 3:15pm as we broadcast the pre-recorded Mass from our own Holy Rosary Cathedral. If you would like to listen earlier simply go to the program section of our website or app and listen any time after 10AM. At 3pm each day we pray our Annunciation Radio Family Prayer. Join us as we recite the Live & Interactive Divine Mercy Chaplet right from our studio in Toledo. We include your personal intentions and pray specifically for all of us in the Diocese of Toledo. Now is the perfect time to turn to Annunciation Radio....your Partner in Prayer during these uncertain times.

www.annunciationradio.com

1-877-275-8098

info@annunciationradio.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH



Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, Sherry Studer, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Kim Rucker, Dorothy Trinter, Marti Selby, JoAnn Marbaugh, Baby Greyden Jack, Gwen Yockey, Mary Ann and Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Marilyn B. Williamson, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Charlie Henrich, Jill McMillen, Gary Caldwell, Jeffrey Davis, Willie "Frank" Williams, Catherine R. Liston, Pius Schell, Krista Marshall, Maggie Caldwell, Michael Davis, Michael Krempel, Marilyn Miller, Annette Togliatti, Clara Powell, Rose Saul, Charlene Arthur, Alan Gallaway, Cari Pennington.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

IN GOD'S ARMS...

Dennis Bush Paul Schopp
 Marie Aliene Parsons Clara Powell



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.

THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE OFFICE WILL NO LONGER BE OPEN ON SUNDAY. WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS WILL HAVE. THANK YOU!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020
 ST. PETER'S POURFEST**



An exciting new fundraising event (for 21 and older) at St. Peter's Franciscan Activity Center. St. Peter's PourFest will be a memorable evening of entertainment, food and tastings of some of the best beer, wine and seltzers.

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information!

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



We are fortunate that, for now, Deacon John Reef is permitted to continue entering Mansfield Correctional and Lynne Lukach Richland Correctional to provide religious services and pastoral care to our Catholic brothers in those facilities. Until further notice, **please do not drop off plastic bags or yarn at the Parish Center.** We are **not** collecting or taking these items into the prison during this time of uncertainty.

CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

As a precautionary measure, our parish has already implemented the following:

- a) We have temporarily suspended offering the chalice at Holy Communion until a date to be determined in the Easter Season; b) hand sanitizer is available at all exits; c) we intend to empty, clean, and refresh the Holy Water in the holy water fonts on a regular basis.

As Catholics, our faith reminds us that the whole Christ, that is, his Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, is present when the Host [only] is received (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 282).

We strongly encourage you: a) not to hold hands during the Lord's Prayer, a gesture that is not prescribed in the Roman Missal; b) refrain as much as possible from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace. We can express a sign of peace or charity to your neighbor with a smile, saying "Peace be with you!" Further, as stated in the bulletin a few weeks ago, c) do not be offended if someone does not wish to shake your hand *before or after Mass* – including the priests or deacon.

Generally speaking, this illness has forced us to become even more conscious of handwashing with soap and warm water, using hand sanitizer, and covering our mouth when coughing or sneezing. Common sense and proper hygiene is the best prevention at this time.

Finally, please stay at home when you are seriously ill. You are not obliged to attend Mass, and even out of charity you ought not to attend (refer - Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2181).

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

ALL ADULT FAITH CLASSES ARE ON HOLD UNTIL "NORMAL" PARISH CENTER HOURS AND OPERATIONS RESUME.

SUNDAY OFFERING



*Year to Date
 February 29, 2020*

Sunday and Holy Day Collections	
Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$568,042
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$569,034
Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$992)
School Collection	
Total School Collection To Date:	\$94,380
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$96,000
School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$1620)

St. Peter's Parish Pastoral Services

Anointing of the Sick – For the duration of this crisis, the priests of St. Peter's will continue to provide sacramental anointing for those in imminent danger of death or for those who are experiencing a genuine emergency (e.g., a heart attack or stroke, emergency surgery, a serious accident, etc.) For calls on behalf of someone in imminent danger of death or one of the cited examples, please call the Parish Center at 419-524-2572 and push "4." One of the priests will respond as soon as they possibly can in accordance with hospital visitation restrictions.

Confession/Sacrament of Reconciliation – St. Peter's will continue to offer sacramental reconciliation in confession on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. As a precaution, penitents are encouraged to make their confessions through the screen rather than face-to-face.

Mass – For as long as there is a danger of spreading the virus, all Masses at St. Peter's and everywhere else in the Province of Ohio are canceled.

- Our priests have been instructed by Bishop Thomas that they are to offer one Mass daily for the intention of all the souls in their care.
- Until further notice Sunday Mass will be pre-recorded and uploaded to our webpage (www.mansfieldstpeters.org) and to our pages on YouTube and Facebook.
- The pre-recorded Sunday Mass will also be broadcast on WMFD-TV at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Mass intentions. In the wake of all Masses being cancelled, all of our Mass intentions must be rescheduled. If you have a Mass intention scheduled through Easter, please call Kristi Reindl at 419.524.2572 ext. 2122 to reschedule your intention.



Dear Friends,

As I indicated in the previous letter I sent out, the situation in Central Ohio and thus, in OhioHealth care sites continues to evolve. I wanted to let you know that effective **Friday, March 20**, OhioHealth will move to a no visitor policy. We will make limited exceptions for:

- End-of-life patients
- Patients with disabilities who need assistance
- Patients under 18
- Maternity patients can have one support person for the duration of their stay

We know that when your congregants are in the hospital, spiritual support is essential for their healing. Even if you cannot visit your congregants in person, we encourage you (and patient families and friends) to continue reaching out through phone calls and video chats. Also, know that our chaplain staff continues to work and support patients in ways that are safe for both our patients and our chaplains.

As always, if I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Praying peace for you in the midst of the chaos,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin S. Langston".

Kristin
System Director of Community Faith Relations
FaithCommunityRelations@ohiohealth.com
<https://www.ohiohealth.com/about-us/health-ministry/>

Communion in Quarantine: A Way to Pray

By Alexander Elfreich

The coronavirus pandemic has made a “Mass impact,” so to speak, on our life of faith. The bishops of Ohio have announced the suspension of all public Masses and public liturgies through Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Even though the measures taken for our health and safety have altered our normal spiritual pattern of life, we are not left without spiritual resources to nourish us in the days ahead. I want to especially highlight the practice of making a “*spiritual communion*.”

A Prayer for Our Times

The exercise of making a “spiritual communion” is not only relevant to our situation but helps us live like the saints! This is not the first time in history when people were unable to go to Mass because of circumstances beyond their control. In the early days of Christianity, Saint Paul was imprisoned multiple times. We can bet that he wasn’t let out for Mass or allowed to receive Communion. And all the way up through the 20th century, war or disease or other factors prevented people from attending Mass. But they still wanted to do something to acknowledge the Lord’s Day. And thus developed the tradition of making a “spiritual communion.” When someone was unable to go to Mass and receive Communion sacramentally (in the consecrated host), they would offer up a special prayer to acknowledge their belief in the importance of Mass and Communion, and ask for the graces that come from being united to Jesus in the Eucharist.

In other words, making a spiritual communion is a way to be united to Jesus like we would if we were at Mass and received Communion in a state of grace.

What the Saints Say

How is this possible? Saint Thomas Aquinas gave some thought to this. Here’s the way he explains it. When it comes to receiving Communion, there’s a distinction between “sacramental eating” and “spiritual eating.” *Sacramental eating* refers to the physical act of eating the consecrated host. *Spiritual eating* means receiving all the graces from the act of receiving Communion. Normally you have both together. But can you have spiritual eating without the sacramental eating? Aquinas says yes, it can happen! He says if you’re unable to receive Communion because of circumstances beyond your control, *the sincere desire to receive it like you normally would can bring graces to you.*

God is very good to us and understands our circumstances. He also knows the desires of your heart. If you sincerely express to Him your desire to be united with Him in Communion, He will not ignore that. The saints understood this. Saint John Paul II said that spiritual communion “has been a wonderful part of Catholic life for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life.”

One of those saints was Teresa of Avila. There was no television back in her day, but her advice to her religious sisters applies perfectly to watching a televised Sunday Mass!

She says: “When you do not receive Communion, daughters, but hear Mass, you can make a spiritual communion.... If we prepare ourselves [as if we were] to receive Him, He never fails to give in many ways which we do not understand. It is like approaching a fire... If the soul is disposed (I

mean, if it wants to get warm), and if it remains there for a while, it will stay warm for many hours.”

A Practical Guide

At the bottom of this page, you will find a step-by-step process you can use for making a spiritual communion. Just remember to be attentive and focused when you pray it, like you would at Mass. If you are watching a taped Mass, you can say the Prayer for Spiritual Communion during Communion time.

You might also begin your spiritual communion by looking at the daily Mass readings. One way to find them is to Google “Daily Mass readings” and click on the link to

the USCCB website (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). I sometimes use an app on my phone called “Laudate” to look up the Daily Readings for Mass. You can read through the readings, take a few moments to reflect on anything that stuck out to you from them, and then continue with an Act of Faith.

Even though we’re unable to gather together physically as a community of faith, we remain united in our prayers for each other and for the world. God will continue to give us what we need. We need only ask! And as Saint Teresa of Avila encouraged her sisters, may you find warmth and peace in drawing near to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus in prayer.

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Making a Spiritual Communion

1. Make an Act of Faith (like the Apostle’s Creed) and express your belief in the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.
2. Tell Jesus your desire to receive Him in Communion, and to be united with Him in your heart.
3. Ask Jesus for the graces that come from receiving the Eucharist.
4. Pray the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Fourth Week of Lent

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord,
and sustain the weak;
give life by your unfailing light
to those who walk in the shadow of death,
and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil
to reach the highest good.
Through Christ our Lord.

(Prayer over the People, Sunday of the Fourth Week of Lent)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes,

and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.



CATHOLIC.BIBLE

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

So he went and washed, and came back able to see.
How can I be more attentive to God's presence in my life? How can I be more attentive to the needs of those around me?

And there was a division among them. How do my actions add to the divisiveness present in our culture? How can I be a force for unity?

He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.
How can I dedicate more time to prayer, worship, and service? How committed am I to learning more about my faith?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

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.

(From Psalm 23)

Living the Word This Week

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

Make plans to receive the Sacrament of Penance before Lent ends.

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MAGNIFICAT®

SPECIAL UPDATE

Please share this email with as many people as you can.

Dear MAGNIFICAT Family,

During these difficult times, we all continue to look for ways to remain close to Jesus, his Blessed Mother, and his Church.

In addition to its online edition, MAGNIFICAT is **now offering complimentary access to its iOS and Android Apps** throughout May. To register for **free access in English**, visit www.magnificat.com/free. For **free access in Spanish**, visit and register at www.magnificat.com/gratis.

We are also happy to make available **complimentary access to *MagnifiKid***. Visit www.magnifikid.com/free to view and download each weekly booklet of our colorful Sunday missalette for children ages 6 through 12. While so many children are missing formal religious instruction and are unable to attend Mass, *MagnifiKid!* can be their special guide, accompanying them through each week as they prepare to attend Mass or watch it at home.



It is our hope that everyone will take this opportunity to pray with MAGNIFICAT in union with the Church each Sunday and weekday.

Please pray with us for a speedy and safe end to this time of difficulty in our world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Romain Lizé
President

Below is a suggested prayer of spiritual Communion.

Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen.



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Yonkers, NY 10702

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March 22

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Prayer for the Morning

Awake, arise, sing praise!

Glory to the Father.... Amen.

HYMN

Meter: 664 66 64

This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Come, Thou Almighty King

God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

Savior, you came to give
Those who in darkness live
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inward blind:
Now to all humankind
Let there be light!

PSALM 36

6-13

Awake, O sleeper,/ and arise from the dead,/ and Christ will give you light. (cf. Eph 5:14)

At every hour are we called to awake from the darkness of spiritual sleep into the glorious light of Jesus Christ. We put our trust in the promise of that eternal day when all shall awaken, with the man born blind, in the Kingdom of light, where they shall drink from the stream of delight and see all things by the one true light.

Your love, Lord, reaches to heaven;
your truth to the skies.
Your justice is like God's mountain,
your judgments like the deep.

To both man and beast you give protection.
O Lord, how precious is your love.
My God, the sons of men
find refuge in the shelter of your wings.

They feast on the riches of your house;
they drink from the stream of your delight.
In you is the source of life
and in your light we see light.

Keep on loving those who know you,
doing justice for upright hearts.
Let the foot of the proud not crush me
nor the hand of the wicked cast me out.

See how the evil-doers fall!
Flung down, they shall never arise.

Glory to the Father....

Word of God

Revelation 21:2, 22, 25

I ALSO SAW the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. During the day its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there.

The LORD shall be your light forever. (Is 60:19)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (Jn 8:12)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness

and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

INTERCESSIONS

Washed in the baptismal waters, the blind see. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we pray once more for all those who seek God through full initiation into the Church at Easter, for those who accompany them on their journey, and for the communities that will receive them:

R. Open our eyes, O Lord, to the wonders of your love.

That God may dispel darkness
– and be the light that shines in all hearts. *R.*

That God may lead all to Christ,
– for he is the light of the world. *R.*

That all may see God
– for he is the source of light and truth. *R.*

That we may see God's light shining on the face of Christ,
– and that he may dim all lesser lights. *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O God, amid the dark chaos from which you brought forth the world, you spoke the liberating word: "Let there be light." Speak still this word into our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the rising of Jesus Christ, the Sun of Justice. In his name we ask. Amen.

March 22

Prayer for the Evening

Christ is our light: come, let us adore him.

Glory to the Father.... Amen.

HYMN

Meter: CM

**This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
*Amazing Grace***

The people that in darkness walked
Have seen a glorious light;
The light has shone on them who dwelt
In death's surrounding night.

To hail you, Sun of righteousness,
The gath'ring nations come:
Rejoicing as when reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home.

His pow'r increasing still shall spread,
His reign no end shall know:
Justice shall guard his throne above
And peace abound below.

PSALM 27

1-5, 7-9a, 13-14

Live as children of light. (Eph 5:8)

As the man born blind discovered, living by the light can draw down upon us the wrath of those who prefer to live in darkness. The most blinding of temptations can be to appease the powerful or please those we love rather than obey the will of God.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

When evil-doers draw near
to devour my flesh,
it is they, my enemies and foes,
who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me
my heart would not fear.
Though war break out against me
even then would I trust.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savor the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

For there he keeps me safe in his tent
in the day of evil.
He hides me in the shelter of his tent,
on a rock he sets me safe.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
“Seek his face.”

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

Glory to the Father....

Word of God

Romans 13:11-13

IT IS THE HOUR now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy.

*Light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth. (Eph 5:9)*

CANTICLE OF MARY

The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light. (Mt 6:22)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father...

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ is God from God, Light from Light. In light, we pray:

R. Light of Christ, light our way.

You have called us to take up our cross and follow
you: *R.*

You have called us to seek your Kingdom: *R.*

You have called us to see the least of our brothers and sisters as your body: *R.*

You have called us to face death with hope: *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father....

May we see the LORD's goodness/ in the land of the living. Amen. (cf. Ps 27:13)

MARIAN ANTIPHON

Antiphon in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows for Lent

O Ppréssit me do-lor, * et fá-ci- es me- a intú-
mu- it a fle-tu, et pálpebræ me- æ ca- li-gavé- runt.

Sorrow has overwhelmed me,
and my face has become swollen from weeping;
and my eyelids have grown dark.

Translated by James Monti

*Ave, Regina caelorum,
Ave, Domina angelorum,
Salve, radix, salve, porta,
Ex qua mundo lux est orta.*

*Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,
Super omnes speciosa;
Vale, O valde decora,
Et pro nobis Christum exora.*

Hail, O Queen of heaven enthroned.
Hail, by angels mistress owned.
Root of Jesse, Gate of morn
Whence the world's true light was born:

Glorious Virgin, joy to thee,
Loveliest whom in heaven they see;
Fairest thou, where all are fair,
Plead with Christ our souls to spare.

March 22

M E D I T A T I O N O F T H E D A Y

Healing Our Blindness

The Fathers see in this [healing] the direct continuation of the creation of Adam. In the beginning, they say, God formed a body from the earth and breathed the breath of life into it. Now, in the fullness of time, the Logos made man, the right hand of the Father and creator, comes to heal the man whom Satan's darkness has made blind. And, that there may be no doubt that here is nothing except the continuation of that initial work...Jesus takes a bit of "the earth's slime," makes clay of it, and puts it on the eye of the blind man. The incarnate God moistens the earth with his spittle. Things of heaven and things of earth, earth's matter and God's life, just come together to make man and to make him anew. But the third element, the real new creation, the purification from what is old, from the corruption of sin, the healing from the blindness of sin as it is given to us, is water, the image of baptism....

The water takes his sickness from man, his leprosy and blindness. The name of the pool points to the mystical character of this water. It is called *Missus*, the one sent. Christ himself, the Messiah whom the Father has sent, is the pool, as he is the living water which fills the well of his Church; his blood poured out on the cross is the healing water for man, made sick and blind through sin. The death of Christ is his baptism for the forgiveness of sin and the illumination of his mind. It gives health and light, purity from sin, and faith. "I went and washed and saw, and I found faith in God" is the joyful speech of the man born blind in the sin of Adam and now healed....

The Church could not express more immediately or spontaneously her deep belief in the presence of the saving action of the new creation, when she celebrates the Mass.... Christ is present, he holds the earth which heals in his hand: it is his sacred flesh, his human, earthly body. The mysterious pool of Siloe is represented by the chalice, with its precious water and blood from the wound in the side of the crucified. Everything is ready for healing and for illumination. And we who were born blind are there. Baptism has indeed given us sight.

SISTER AEMILIANA LÖHR, O.S.B.

Sister Aemiliana († 1972) was a German Benedictine nun who wrote about the liturgy. [From The Mass Through The Year: Advent to Palm Sunday, Vol. 1, I.T. Hale, Tr. Published 1958 by Longmans, Green & Co., London. All rights reserved.]

LIGHT

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light" (Ephesians 5:14). We are at the midpoint of our Lenten journey of conversion. As always, God never gives up on us, especially those who have "fallen asleep" along the road to conversion. The most powerful stories of conversion are proclaimed during these final weeks of Lent. They have the power to shake us out of our sleep. Today's Gospel story of the healing of the man born blind exposes the real blindness in the time of Christ—the blindness of the self-righteous religious leaders. In a few weeks, at the Easter Vigil, the Church will proclaim "Christ our Light" as the paschal candle is carried into darkened churches throughout the world. May the darkness of sin that still pervades our lives, communities, and world, be dispelled by the Christ who comes to bring sight to the blind and light to the world.

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SAINT TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO (1538-1606)

In times of crisis, God always surprises the Church with unlikely saints, through whom Christ's light radiates beyond their local communities to illumine the universal Church. Charles Borromeo was such a saint: appointed Archbishop of Milan at twenty-one by his papal uncle, epitomizing the corruption that the reformers condemned, Charles instead inspired a revival that reinvigorated a Church devastated by the Reformation. His less well-known contemporary, Turibius of Mogrovejo, was God's "saintly surprise" in the New World. Spanish-born lawyer, professor, head of the feared Inquisition, Turibius was still a layman when a grateful king appointed him Archbishop of far-off Lima. Once in Peru, however, Turibius was appalled at the abuse of indigenous peoples by the occupying *conquistadores*—his fellow countrymen—and by the complicity of the clergy. He became the natives' devoted advocate, building churches, schools, hospitals, and the first seminary in the Americas, publishing catechisms and prayer books in the native languages he painstakingly mastered. Four hundred years later, whenever Pope Benedict welcomed Latin American bishops to Rome, he always invoked "the shining example of San Toribio."

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David

(1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

Psalm — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8-14).

Gospel — The man who had been blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash

(John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]).

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10;

Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

[3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]