

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 19, 2023

“Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.”

Isaiah 66:10-11

SEEING THE LIGHT

Our Lenten journey continues this Sunday as we hear of Jesus healing a blind man in the Gospel of John. Jesus proclaims himself the light of the world, a light that overcomes darkness and enables a new capacity to see. The man, blind from birth, was able to begin his path to sight by first acknowledging his blindness. We are reminded of God’s ongoing invitation to us to journey from blindness to sight. We begin by acknowledging our own capacity for “blind spots,” and so open ourselves to uncomfortable truths and to God’s healing. We are invited to see beyond appearances, as the reading from Samuel indicates, and to look into the heart of things. We are invited to “live as children of light” as the letter to the Ephesians teaches. Like the man healed from blindness, we may gradually learn to see fully and to follow Jesus.

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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 — My shepherd is the Lord; I shall not want (Psalm 23).

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

Gospel — The man who was blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash. When I washed, I was able to see!

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here.”

A few years ago, I attended a Retreat in Ohio. The guest speaker, Fr. Bill Casey, CPM, spoke of the “Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist” as well as how God’s love and mercy has the ability to embrace one’s life in a divine, eternal way. He alluded to the fact that God doesn’t change, we change.

Lent has always been a tough journey for us. Every Lent challenges us to grow closer to the Lord, become more intimate with Him, which of course means trust, repentance and changes in our lifestyle, changes in our prayer life, changes in our ability to fight and many times battles, and brutal temptations and changes in how we might grow in holiness.

The people of Nineveh made it their primary goal to trust in Jonah’s message, trust in God’s love and mercy, repent and change their lifestyle. God’s love and mercy rewarded them. Let us plan to trust in God’s love and mercy, plan to repent, plan to grow closer to the Lord, plan to humble yourself, plan to grow in holiness, and plan to make this Lenten journey one that welcomes and accepts God’s love and mercy for you.

God our Father, good and gracious, we come before you with a humble and contrite heart. Expand our heart for You, O Lord, make it Your sanctuary of grace, Your home for the repentant sinner, Your place of peace and joy, Your light of eternal love, mercy and trust. Amen.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week’s Collection	\$2,924.00	\$2,527.00
Number of Families contributing	75	81
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (10 Weeks)	\$34,726.00	\$32,140.00
Received to Date	\$29,515.00	\$20,952.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$5,211.00	\$11,188.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$122.00	\$2,214.00

Eighteen ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$60.00	\$22,553.00

Two people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$1,826.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$121.00.

8 **CHILDREN** contributed \$37.00.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Paris in thanks for Creed on his 11th Birthday;
2. The Rouks in loving memory of Mary Francis on the 4th Anniversary of her death and Pete Rouk on the 54th Anniversary of his death;
3. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. CHERIAN

Saturday March 18th is Fr. Cherian’s Birthday.

St. Edward Parish Family would like to wish

Fr. Cherian a very, very, very

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH will be celebrated this Monday, March 20th at 10:00 A.M. Mass. The Youth Group will take care of the Feast.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE.

MORNING PRAYER	Monday thru Friday	9:30 a.m.
EVENING PRAYER	Monday thru Thursday	3:30 p.m.
	Friday	6:30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent, will be held every Friday after 7:00 p.m. Mass. The Stations of the Cross will be led on Friday:
Mar. 24: Youth Group & Young Girls Org.
Mar. 31: Society of Mary Immaculate
Apr. 7: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE will be held this this Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:30 P.M. Five priests will be available to hear confessions. Please be in the Church by 6:15 P.M.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for *Catholic Relief Services*. Please be generous.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite; and also, to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Anthony for something found.

JOKE OF THE WEEK **A Jewish couple has a mischievous son. He's kicked out of every school they put him in. Finally the father goes to the Rabbi for advice and the Rabbi says put him in the Catholic school. So, the father takes him to a school run by nuns.**

At lunch time the son comes in and says, "Good afternoon Papa, good afternoon Mama," then goes to the table and starts his homework. The father is amazed and finally asked why he stayed in school all day and why he is behaving so well. His son looks up and says, "Papa when you left, the Mother Superior told me that they did not allow rowdy boys, then she took me to my classroom. Papa they mean business. They've got a Jew nailed on a cross in every room!"

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** St. Joseph; Spring begins
- Thursday:** St. Toribius of Mogrovejo
- Friday:** Abstinence
- Saturday:** The Annunciation of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For Eddie Michael Sherlock on his Birthday and Pete Gerard Riley on his Birthday.
- Tuesday:** For Tommy McGuire on his 20th Birthday.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory; and for the repose of the soul of Jimmy F. on the 1st Anniversary of his death.
- Thursday:** For the repose of the souls of Patsy Butts on the Anniversary of his death.
- Friday:** For the repose of the soul of Cannon and for the repose of the soul of Kaiser's Lily on the 8th Anniversary of her death.

A LENTEN POEM

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling on hem.
Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives; Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety; feast on faith.

READERS

- Sat. Mar. 18th, 4:00 P.M.** Dayna & Leah
- Sat. Mar. 18th, 7:00 PM.** Dominique & Bridgette Anna
- Sun. Mar. 19th, 10:00 A.M.** Lauren Ashley & Taniel
- Sat. Mar. 25th, 4:00 P.M.** Natalie & Mary Martha
- Sat. Mar. 25th, 7:00 PM.** Christina & Bridgette Anna
- Sun. Mar. 26th, 10:00 A.M.** Lauren Ashley & Taniel

READERS – WEEKDAYS

- Monday** - Kara
- Tuesday** - Mary Martha
- Wednesday** - Katsyn
- Thursday** - Paris
- Friday** - Julie Ann

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

- Monday** - Theresa Hun
- Tuesday** - Jack's Mary Rita
- Wednesday** - Julie Ann
- Thursday** - Betty Jo
- Friday** - Ned's Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- Saturday 4:00 P.M.** **March 18th**
- Right** Winnie Ann
- Left** Bridget Rita
- Saturday 7:00 P.M.**
- March** Mary Rita & Johnny Gerard
- Sunday 10:00 A.M.**
- March 19th** **March 26th**
- Ned's Rose Marie Nora

REDIRECTION

When God gives us "NO" for an answer, keep in mind that there is a much greater "YES" behind it. His "NO" is not a "REJECTION," but a "REDIRECTION".

PATIENCE

PATIENCE* with family is *LOVE.
PATIENCE* with others is *RESPECT.
PATIENCE* with self is *CONFIDENCE.
and PATIENCE* with God is *FAITH.

CLEANING THE MIRROR

WE ALWAYS FEEL THAT WE ARE PERFECT AND OTHERS SHOULD BE CORRECTED. IT IS LIKE CLEANING THE MIRROR INSTEAD OF CLEANING OUR FACE.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

**RENEW US O LORD**

**Lord, Jesus, grant this day, to direct and sanctify, to rule and govern our hearts and bodies, so that all our thoughts, words and deeds, may be according to Your Father's law and thus may we be saved and protected through Your mighty help. Amen.**