

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22
2020

THE POOL
OF SILOAM
JERUSALEM

I was blind and now I see.
JOHN 9:25

It is helpful to observe that our Gospel passage from John, the healing of the blind man, is the first part of a longer episode. When Jesus' words end Chapter 9 in today's passage, he goes on speaking in the discourse on the Good Shepherd in Chapter 10. The healing of the blind man was not only a demonstration of God's power, giving him the physical capacity of sight. It was even more than the awakening of the man's personal faith in Jesus. The image of the Good Shepherd confirms that the man was liberated from the social isolation of his blindness and became a member of Jesus' flock. All of Jesus' powerful actions of healing were intended as gifts, not only to individuals, but for the building up of the community of faith.

HUMILITY AND ACTION

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the LORD looks into the heart." In our first reading, Samuel draws conclusions about who God will choose as king based on his assumptions of what a proper king looks like. But God sees a deeper reality.

How easy it is to miss our own blindness. How frequently we are unaware of our own flawed assumptions about others and about ourselves. We often need a deeper humility about the limitations of our perceptions and our convictions.

Yet, as the letter to the Ephesians encourages, there are times to expose the "fruitless works of darkness", to speak out, especially when persons or groups are suffering from abuse or oppression. We are called to live within a tension that these scripture passages convey. We are to seek God's guidance in prayer with genuine openness. We are then to speak and act forcefully against wrongdoing, even as we maintain humility about how much we know, or what is the best action to take. We are called to bring God's wisdom and mercy to all.

Today's Readings: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:
Rev. Mr. Leonard "Len" Sanchez

Reconciliation:
Saturday & Sunday: 45
minutes before Mass

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM
Tues, Thurs & Fri: 9:00 AM
Wednesday: 5:00 PM

Marriage or Baptism:
Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home." Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

1612 S. FM 2869
Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765
Church Phone: 903-769-3235

Fr. Mike Snider
Cell Phone: 903-490-3883
www.holyspirithollylake.com
holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Dear Holy Spirit Parishioners,

On March 17th, Bishop Strickland made the difficult but necessary decision to suspend the public celebration of Mass in the Diocese of Tyler. God's love demands that we take every reasonable step to protect human life, and this is what must be done now as Catholics and as faithful citizens for the common good.

When we will be able to resume our communal worship depends on when it is safe to do so, following the guidance of our civil leaders and health experts. For now, please know that the Fr. Mike will offer his private Masses for you, our parishioners, as well as for our nation and our world during these days.

Although we cannot gather for our sacred, sacrificial banquet, the Eucharist, we must keep Sunday, the Lord's Day, holy through prayer. You are especially invited to reflect on the daily Mass scriptures (<http://uscgb.org/>), make a spiritual communion (see below), and even consider watching Mass which will be available on our diocesan web site and EWTN.

We will also provide regular messages and updates from Holy Spirit via this e-mail list and on our church answering machine so please share with other parishioners.

Fr. Mike will have confessions every Saturday 4:00 – 5:00pm; Sunday 8:00-9:00am; Tuesday 10:00am – 12:00 noon and Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00pm. During this time, you may come and pray individually in church and you can utilize our beautiful outdoor Meditation Garden anytime. Please observe the recommended handwashing, six feet social distance and other hygiene standards. Obedient to the bishop's directive and following guidance from health experts, group gatherings are not appropriate currently.

Due to the suspended public masses amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), collections will be posted on a weekly basis.

Our expenses are continuing while all these decisions with the COVID-19 Virus is impacting significantly our financial situation. Please remember to support our Parish financially by mailing in your contributions. Now, might be the time to set up automatic bill pay with your bank on a weekly/monthly basis.

Let us continue to pray for one another, united in God's love.

Rev. Fr. Michael Snider

Decree from Bishop Strickland:

<https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/en/news/diocesan-news/decree-suspending-the-public-celebration-of-mass-and-enacting-other-measures>

Letter from Bishop Strickland:

<https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/en/news/diocesan-news/letter-from-bishop-strickland-to-the-diocese-regarding-coronavirus>

An Act of 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.

Prayer to Our Lady:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Patricia Guy. Jacob Stephens. Randy Burris. Albert Hernandez. Lucy Munoz. Karina Hawkins. Mike Fleming. Frankie Durst. Susie Strickland. Doug Lawson. Dana Moffatt. Emily Walker. Eva Corrigan. Francis Young. Mike Brown. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Diane Stanley. Chase Larsson. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Rose Kennedy. Judy Fazio. Marsha & Marty Blahitka. Carolyn Edwards. Joshua Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda Stephens. Wanda Thompson. Kathryn Allen. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jemigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Airman First Class Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Ensign Gary Buchanan; 2ndLt. Blake Gaughan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). E-3R James Morgan (Son in Law of Kathy & Dale Boman) Paul Moreno USCG (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Emma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (brother of Jeff & Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

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.

POPE'S UNIVERSAL INTENTION FOR MARCH

Catholics in China.

That the cries Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Fr. Mike's Private Mass—Intentions

- Sat 3/21** For all the caregivers
- Sun 3/22** Parishioners
- Tue 3/24** First Responders
- Wed 3/25** COVID-19 Challenges
- Thurs 3/26** Neighbors
- Fri. 3/27** Medical & Public Health Professionals
- Sat 3/28** All civic leaders

NOTICE: Confessions & Visiting the Church

**Sat., 4:00-5:00pm; Sun., 8:00-9:00am; Tues., 10:00am—12:00Noon and Wed., 5:00—6:00pm
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

PARISH SUPPORT

Required Weekly Funds	\$ 3,962	Sat.	Sun.
Offerings 3/14 & 3/15	\$ 1,788	66	38

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving

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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]).

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]

EVENTS AND NEWS

March 2020 Second Collections: 22nd "Catholic Relief Services".
29th: "Special Collection for Puerto Rico (Dominican Sisters of Fatima and Diocese of Mayaguez)".

The Franciscan University Lacrosse team and coaches want to thank Holy Spirit Church for giving them a warm welcome to E. Texas last weekend. They loved our church and community.

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Our expenses are continuing while all these decisions with the COVID-19 Virus is impacting significantly our financial situation. Please remember to support our Parish financially by mailing in your contributions. Now, might be the time to set up automatic bill pay with your bank on a weekly/monthly basis.

Have you forgotten we have our beautiful outdoors Meditation Garden that you may visit, pray and say the stations of the cross anytime.

If you have an emergency or would like to set up an appointment for Fr. Mike to here your confession call him on his cell # 903-490-3883.



MARCH EVENTS & NEWS **ALL PUBLIC MASSES SUSPENDED UNTIL** **FURTHER NOTICE BY** **ORDER OF BISHOP STRICKLAND**

Sat., Mar., 21st: Confession & Individual Prayers 4:00-5:00pm. *Please be mindful of the 6 feet social distance.*

Sun., Mar., 22nd: Confession & Individual Prayers 8:00-9:00am. *Please be mindful of the 6 feet social distance.*

Tues., Mar., 24th: Confession & Individual Prayers 10:00am—12:00 Noon. *Please be mindful of the 6 feet social distance.*

Wed., Mar., 25th: Confessions from 5:00pm—6:00pm
Please be mindful of the 6 feet social distance.

Thurs., Mar. 26th: Suspended Lenten Confession

Fri., Mar. 27th: Suspended Vespers (evening prayers) beginning at 4:00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross. Soup Supper in the parish hall suspended.

Sat., Mar. 28th: Confession & Individual Prayers 4:00-5:00pm. *Please be mindful of the 6 feet social distance.*

Sun., Mar., 29th: Confession & Individual Prayers 8:00-

Please be mindful of the 6 feet social distance.

APRIL EVENTS & NEWS

April 1st Bishop Strickland will provide an update.

10th Annual Casino Dinner

Due to current circumstances, our April 25th Casino Dinner is being postponed until it is safe to reschedule. We will draw winners of the raffle at the rescheduled date.

Raffle Tickets
\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00
Raffle Prizes FOUR each \$500.00
Visa Gift Cards

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