



THE POOL
OF SILOAM
JERUSALEM

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

MARCH 22
2020

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

St. Rita Catholic Parish

A Faith Community Since 1908

MARCH 22, 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS: Sat. 5:30 pm (Vigil), 7:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon

WEEKDAYS: Mon., Tues., Fri., and Sat. 8 am
(Wed. & Thurs. 8 am Communion Service)

HOLY DAYS: (eve of) 5:30 pm; (day of) 8 am & 6:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Confession) Saturdays 4 – 5 pm or by appointment

DEVOTIONS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Saturday 7:50 am

ADORATION

First Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm, Rectory Oratory

Rev. Thomas Baker — Pastor

Deacon Manuel Valencia • Deacon Chuck McDaniels

318 North Baldwin Avenue, Sierra Madre

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Fr. Chris Thiel, OFM Cap., *Weekend Supply Priest*

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St. Rita Guild
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St. Rita Men's Club
 Allen Boyle mens.club@st-rita.org

Ushers & Greeters
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Volunteer Coordinator
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SACRAMENTS**Baptisms**

First Sunday of the month after the Noon Mass. Registration and Catechesis are prerequisites. Please contact the Parish Office.

Marriages

Contact the Parish Office upon engagement; at least six months is needed for preparation of this joyous sacrament!

Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Preparation for children who have attained the age of reason (usually during 2nd grade) is arranged either through the Religious Education Program or St. Rita Elementary School.

Confirmation

A two-year program for freshman/sophomore age teens. Please apply through the Youth Ministry Program.

Communion for the Sick and Homebound

St. Rita Eucharistic Ministers provide Communion home visits. Contact the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick and Funeral Liturgies

Please notify us for the Anointing of the Sick, the sacrament intended for the seriously ill or dying which brings Our Lord's special presence and companionship in serious time of need. If someone should die without anointing, remember that the desire to receive is sufficient.

If your loved one has passed, we will assist in making arrangements with your chosen funeral director; refer you to our Bereavement Ministry and Music Ministry; and offer you helpful guidelines that will aid in the selection of readings for a Mass or Memorial Service. We know this can be a tough time and we want you to know that your parish is here for you. Please understand we only have one resident priest; sometimes arrangements for another priest may be needed.



Don't Be Blinded by Appearances or Assumptions

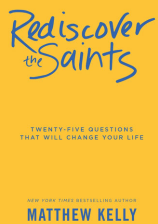
Dear Parishioners and Visitors:

Two Buddhist monks on their way to the monastery came upon an exceedingly beautiful woman at the river bank. Like them, she wished to cross the river but the water was too high. So one of the monks lifted her on his back and carried her across. The other monk was thoroughly scandalized. For two hours he scolded the monk on his negligence of keeping the holy rule. Had he forgotten that he was a monk? How dare he touch a woman – and more, actually carry her on his back. And what would people say? And on and on he went. Finally, the other monk broke in and said to his scolding brother, “I dropped that woman at the river. Are you still carrying her?”

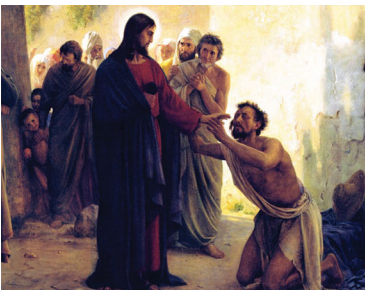
If we judge by appearances we may be like the blind man in today's gospel. The monk in the story was making a judgment on appearances. He was blind to the kind act because of the appearance. It's not difficult to see how wrong he was. Maybe we need to look at ourselves to make sure we are not judging by appearance. Are we arriving at conclusions without trying to get a fuller picture? Are we making assumptions? Jesus is the light of the world and we need to walk as children of the light. May we hear the call of Jesus to be his disciple and not be blinded by appearances or assumptions. Peace.

—Fr. Tom

REFLECTION QUESTION



Each week I will include a reflection question based on a chapter from the Matthew Kelly book: “Rediscover the Saints.” Please use this question for reflection and discussion with family, friends and parishioners. **St. John Vianney's vocation to the priesthood faced many challenges. What do you believe is your primary vocation and what secondary vocations have been placed in your life? How can you pursue some of those secondary vocations? Have you ever seen God in a moment of rejection?**



Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”

John 9:39

Keep these intentions in your heart as you make your spiritual communion while Mass restrictions are in place.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 AM Sally Smith RIP
5:30 PM Jeff Taillac RIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

7:30 AM Jesus Banuelos INT
10:00 AM For all parishioners
12 NOON Tom Robinson RIP

MONDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 AM Gordon Caldwell INT

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

8:00 AM Kobe Bryant RIP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

8:00 AM Communion Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

8:00 AM Communion Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

8:00 AM Adam Navarro INT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

8:00 AM Genaro Tan-Torres, Jr. RIP
5:30 PM For all parishioners

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

7:30 AM Robert Campbell INT
10:00 AM Walter B. Johnson RIP
12 NOON Mark Stone INT

FEAST DAYS & OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord

TODAY'S SUNDAY 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]*).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO REQUEST OUR PRAYERS:



Joe Hernandez, Michael Joseph Parada, Joan Juenemann, Charles Humphrey, Mark Stone, Joseph & Josephine Gruppie, Eleanor Raleigh, Margaux Viera, Patti Huber, Marsha Joy, Kellie Loera, Charles Baker, Michaelyn Fidone, Gilbert Gonzalez, Genise Tully, Mary Kiss, Lisa Bowman, Susan Devin, Sawtell John, Inez Ybarra, Francesca DiFranco, Charlotte Meyer, Richard Forcione, Mary Kathryn Genzlinger, Toni Baiunco, Jacquie Marshall Martin, Teresa D'Agostaro, Carmen Ruiz, Maria Blust, Daisy Walters, Salvatore Termini, Mary Rodriguez, Pete & Daisy Olson, Margaret Fala, Hannah Waken, Clare Greteman, Lalo Arriaga, Jim Crilly, Trini Marti, Joann Little, Luz Arriaga, Doug Peterson, Sandra Osborne, Evelyn Tres, Gerald Dreaan, Toni Navarro, Tonyja Blakeslee, Edith Olah, Fred Mycroft, Joseph Moore.

Please note: names on the Sick List are published for thirty days unless otherwise requested. To add or remove a name, please contact the Parish Office or email:

bulletin@st-rita.org



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

All Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence for all those over the age of 14. Abstinence means you may not eat meat, including chicken or other poultry. Seafood is permitted. In addition, *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday* are days of fasting and abstinence. That means that in addition to abstaining from meat one these two days, one must fast. The minimum Church requirement for fasting is three meals which equal two and no snacking between meals.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

Written by:

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Cincinnati

Five Ways to “Keep Being Church”

Support your church leaders. They have to make the really hard decisions about whether and how to gather in times of uncertainty. Trust that the folks who ultimately make the call spent some time in prayer, discernment, and very difficult conversations. Know that they heavily weighed consequences and ultimately did what they thought was the best thing for the wellbeing of the community.

Send in your weekly donation. This may seem like a small thing in the grand scheme right now, but it truly matters that you continue to get your offering in, as long as you are fiscally able. This is a great time to reexamine online giving options, or sign up for automatic withdrawal. Even the healthiest congregations can find themselves in the hole, and quick, after just a few Sundays of missed offerings. If you can't give online, mail in a check or have your bank send one. Even when the building is empty, bills and salaries need to be paid; what's more, you're helping your church maintain mission commitments to the community in a time when that commitment is more important than ever.

Check on your neighbors. Your older neighbors, your neighbor on chemo, your neighbor whose kid relies on free school lunch, your neighbor who still has to go to work and could use help with childcare... Any time you help someone in your proximity, you are living out the values of your faith community. You are embodying what the living the gospel is about, which takes church out of the building and brings it to life for others.

Pray for your church family. Send notes. Make phone calls. All the things that we do for shut-ins, do for each other now that we are all shut-ins, so to speak. We are one Family Body of Christ, even when that body is not together in the flesh.

Keep the Sabbath. For some, this shutdown of life as we know it is going to cause significant economic hardship. In the meantime, discern if your own discomfort is just inconvenience, and keep that perspective. Recognize that downtime can be a gift—an imposed sabbath of time to sit still and be with your family, without the usual rush of places to be and things to accomplish. Read together; prepare meals together; talk about your blessings and what you can learn from this season; play a game; listen to music. Any of these things can be worshipful in their own way, if by ‘worship’ we mean rest and renewal by way of connecting with God and others.

—Rev. Erin Wathen via Patheos.com



ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF MASSES

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced on March 16 the suspension of ALL Masses amid the current health threat due to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

As such, St. Rita Parish (Church and Office) will be CLOSED, and all Parish activities and liturgical gatherings including Mass, Penance Services, Stations of the Cross, etc., are cancelled until further notice. We will keep you apprised of any changes or updates as we receive them.

Please read and review Archbishop José H. Gomez's formal advisement below:

“I deeply regret that we are forced to temporarily suspend public celebration of the Mass in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles,” said Archbishop José H. Gomez in a statement to the faithful of the Archdiocese. “What we do in the Church, we do out of love for God and love for our brothers and sisters. We are taking this extraordinary step today out of love and concern for those in our families and communities who are most vulnerable to this deadly coronavirus.”

Archbishop Gomez stressed that the decision was “not made lightly,” and that it was made after “much prayer and reflection” and in consultation with the Archdiocese’s auxiliary bishops, Council of Priests, lay advisors, and government and public health officials.

“I ask your continued prayers for all those who are afflicted with this virus and those who are afraid and vulnerable. I also ask you to pray and reach out to help the many families who are facing difficulties as a result of this emergency. We also need to keep in our prayers all the doctors, nurses, caregivers, and public health and civil authorities working to contain the outbreak of this virus and treat those who are sick,” stated the Archbishop.

Catholics are encouraged to continue to pray at home with their families and join to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an act of spiritual communion. They are also encouraged to participate in the Holy Mass via the Internet. The Archdiocese will provide a livestream of non-public Masses celebrated by the priests from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels daily and on Sunday via Facebook, @lacatholics, ([facebook.com/lacatholics/](https://www.facebook.com/lacatholics/)) or visit lacatholics.org/emergency/. The daily weekday Mass in English at 12:10 p.m. and the Sunday Masses in English at 10 a.m. and in Spanish at 12:30 p.m. will be livestreamed.

The Archdiocese is in communication with local health officials and will provide updates as they become available. Please visit the Archdiocese’s emergency preparedness webpage, lacatholics.org/emergency, for the most updated information and resources on how to limit the impact of the coronavirus. To receive ongoing text updates from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on this and other matters of importance to our local Church, please register online at: <https://archla.flocknote.com/ADLAUpdates>, or text “ADLA” to “84576.”