

# 4th Sunday of Lent

## HEALING FOR COMMUNITY

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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## SANACIÓN PARA LA COMUNIDAD

Es práctico observar que nuestro pasaje del Evangelio de Juan, la sanación del hombre ciego, es la primera parte de una historia más larga. Cuando las palabras de Jesús terminan en el capítulo 9 en el pasaje de hoy, él continúa hablando en el discurso del Buen Pastor en el capítulo 10. La sanación del hombre ciego no solamente es una demostración del poder de Dios, dándole la capacidad física de ver. Fue más que el despertar en el hombre su fe personal en Jesús. La imagen del Buen Pastor confirma que el hombre fue liberado del aislamiento social de su ceguera y llega a ser un miembro del rebaño de Jesús. Todas las acciones poderosas de sanación de Jesús tuvieron la intención de ser dones, no solamente para esas personas, sino para el desarrollo de la comunidad de fe.

## HUMILDAD Y ACCIÓN

"La mirada de Dios no es como la del hombre: el hombre ve la apariencia, pero el Señor ve el corazón." En nuestra primera lectura, Samuel saca conclusiones acerca de quién Dios elegirá como rey basada en sus asunciones de cómo será un rey apropiado. Pero Dios ve una realidad más profunda.

Que tan fácil es pasar por alto nuestra propia ceguera. Que tan frecuentemente estamos ignorantes de los errores de nuestras asunciones acerca de los demás y de nosotros mismos. A menudo necesitamos una humildad más profunda acerca de las limitaciones de nuestras percepciones y nuestras convicciones.

Sin embargo, como la carta a los efesios nos anima, hay veces que exponemos los "inútiles trabajos de la oscuridad" para hablar, especialmente cuando las personas o grupos están sufriendo a causa del abuso o la opresión. Estamos llamados a vivir con una tensión que estos pasajes de las Escrituras expresan. Vamos a buscar el consejo de Dios en la oración con una apertura genuina. Estamos, entonces, hablando y actuando enérgicamente en contra del pecado, incluso mientras tenemos humildad acerca de lo mucho que sabemos, o cual es la mejor acción a seguir. Estamos llamados para llevar a todos la sabiduría y misericordia de Dios.

Lecturas de hoy: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Sal 23 (22):1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Ef 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

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### Please Pray for the Sick

#### Prayer List Updates

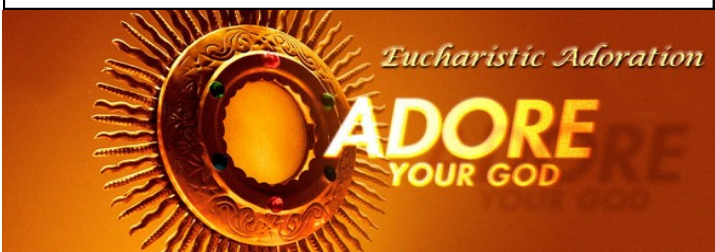


- |                            |                        |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Danny Rae Schexnayder, Sr. | Paul Muñoz, Sr.        | Baby Sophia            |
| Sandra Jean Guerra         | Joe Espinoza           | Antonio Mendoza        |
| Kayla Scott                | Virginia & Jose Ponce  | Sophie Alonzo          |
| Maria Langley              | Victoria Orosco        | Helen Lloyd            |
| Irma Urias                 | Henry Vidal            | Odilion G. Flores      |
| Mary S. Martinez           | Hope Esquivel          | JoAnn Almaguer         |
| Frances Lozano             | Victor Cruz            | Diana Calderon         |
| Mary Escalera              | Tomas Johnson          | Janie Ramirez          |
| Maximus James Tobar        | Deacon Jesus Rodriguez | Liz                    |
| Suzanne Gutierrez          | Rosalinda Esparza      | Ana Garcia             |
| Terry Moreno               | Daniel Rodriguez       | Gina                   |
| Sarah Contreras            | Rosie Flores           | Pedro Maldonado, Sr.   |
| Jose Flores                | John Ruiz              | Leonor Maldonado       |
| Frances Ramirez            | Jessica Diaz           | Sandra Garza           |
| Marty Carrera Tobias       | Robert Campos          | Elena Gonzales         |
| Jesse R. Diaz              | Gloria Martinez        | Roxanne Joseph         |
| Celina Herrera             | Carlos Guardiola, III  | For All Afflicted with |
| Kevin Ryan Martinez        | Joe R. Martinez        | Coronavirus            |
| David Santoyo              |                        |                        |

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE MARCH 8-15 2020

Tithing \$1,365.00  
Mail In \$ 402.00  
TOTAL \$1,767.00



Monday—Friday 9:00 A.M. - 5 P.M.

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



### Saturday, March 21

12:00 pm For Our Parish Community

### Sunday, March 22

**10 a.m. Only** For Our Parish Community  
**Live Stream** † Mr. Guadalupe Trevino—Family  
† Ryan Sanchez—Family  
† Daniel Arzola—Familia  
† Gloria Lloyd—Children  
† Paul Salinas—Grace Salinas  
Health for Sophie Alonzo—Aunt Connie

### Monday, March 23—St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

### Tuesday, March 24

12:00 p.m. † Jimmy Casillas

### Wednesday, March 25

12:00 p.m. † Ryan Sanchez

### Thursday, March 26

12:00 p.m. Health for Sophie Alonzo

### Friday, March 27

12:00 p.m. SJB School, Students, Teachers, Admin and Parents

### Saturday, March 28 No Mass

### Sunday March 29th

**10 a.m.**  
**Live Stream** † George Hernandez—Wife & Family  
† Mr. Guadalupe Trevino—Nora Trevino  
† Ryan Sanchez—Family  
† Daniel Arzola—Familia  
† Paul Salinas—Grace Salinas  
† Ralph Moreno—Wife Margaret Moreno  
Daughter Erica



**Daily Rosary**  
**6 p.m.**  
**Live Stream**

## *In Loving Memory*

We pray for the souls of our dearly departed who have passed from our parish community:

† Jimmy Casillas

## Sanctuary Light

**For the Health of  
The World**



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As your Pastor, it is my obligation to be your spiritual leader as well as your shepherd at all times. As you may well know, the United States and the entire world are living a pandemic regarding COVID-19. Our Archbishop Gustavo GarciaSiller in accordance with national state and local directives regarding our safety has decreed that effective immediately the Sunday Mass obligation are hereby dispensed for all Catholics.

All non-essential gatherings at parishes for the rest of March are cancelled, or postponed, pending further notice.

I encourage very young, aged and those with underlying health issues to view and participate in the daily and Sunday masses via CTSA, other televisions outlets or through archdiocesan electronics media.

Our Stations of Cross scheduled for Friday will still be celebrated.

We will continue to pray the rosary as many times as we can to implore the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

I invite you to join me in praying for the victims, families and health professionals during this pandemic COVID-19.

Please continue to watch the news and adhere to the CDC recommendations.

As you may well know, Saint John Berchmans continues to function as a parish, fulfilling daily obligations on behalf of our parishioners. We, as a parish, subsist wholly on the weekly donations of our faithful parishioners. If these donations cease, our parish will also suffer for lack of money. Please bring your weekly donations to the parish office or place it in the mail slot at the entrance. Other payment options are : PayPal: administrator@stjohnberchmans.com Cash App: \$StJohnBerchmans Or by credit card by contacting the parish office. Thank you for your consideration and for fulfilling your responsibilities. Let us remain calm and vigilant as we face this pandemic COVID-19.

With our daily prayer, rosary, faith and vigilance we will overcome this challenge and return to normalcy.

May God bless you always,

Father Fidèle Okitembo Dikete,  
Pastor

fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com