



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus,
serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church
serving a diverse community in a
safe and welcoming environment
where we care for all people
along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.
Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.
Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

Confessions

First Friday of month 12:00 noon
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Help Us See

Good and gracious God, you see our inner life, and bring light to the darkness. Thank you for shining your loving kindness on our desire to know your Son. Lift our hearts with joy today. Help us inhale the signs of spring coming to life around us. Cast your holy light on the shadows of our lives and heal our spiritual wounds. Gift us with the desire to see the world with the eyes of faith through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing Box

St Vincent's Blessing Box is a food sharing vessel located by the DePaul Center parking lot near the Stations of the Cross. It was made by parishioner Sam Galati as his Eagle Scout project and is a place for the hungry of the community to get food. St. Vincent Women's Council/Ugly Quilts ministry supplies the box with 10 sack lunches each Wednesday and they usually are gone within 24 hours.

You can help feed your neighbors! Ideas include, but are not limited to, granola bars, protein bars, fruit cups, applesauce cups, cheese or peanut butter crackers, small jars of peanut butter, peanut butter/jelly sandwiches, crackers, small cans of Vienna sausages, bottled water, Gatorades, tuna pouches, and bags of chips. Food that is non-perishable and requires little to no preparation is ideal. You can place in the box a few snack items or as much as sack lunches. No donation is too small and will be appreciated. Or you may prefer to donate to the Women's Council sack lunch ministry. For that you may drop donations at the parish office or Ugly Quilts room in the lower level of the DePaul Center. Thank you for helping to live out the mission of St Vincent!



*God is as really present in the consecrated Host
as He is in the glory of Heaven*

ST. PASCHAL BAYLON

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

• Mass Intentions •

Monday, March 20 St. Joseph

6:30 am Pearl Powderly ☩

Tuesday, March 21

6:30 am Ella Friese ☩

Wednesday, March 22

6:30 am Cecilia Hoelscher ☩

5:15 pm Bernice Baldwin ☩

Thursday, March 23

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

6:30 am Margaret Cobb ☩

8:00 am Jeanette Dohogne ☩

Friday, March 24

6:30 am John Loeffler ☩

8:00 am Greg and Carol Steiner (living)

Saturday, March 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

6:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Ben and Lucille LeGrand Family

5:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of the Stanley and Evelyn Clippard Family

Sunday, March 26 Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Peters and Schrock Families

9:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family

10:45 am Tom Wenciewicz ☩

3:00 pm Dorothy J. Gill ☩
(Bilingual)

• Prayer Requests •

Please remember **Susan Ayers**, the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.



**Congratulations to
LeRoy and Corena Berkbigler
as they celebrate their
35th Wedding Anniversary!**

?????????
GUESS WHO!

March 12 Answer: Father Rick Jones was ordained a priest on March 24, 1990. Happy Anniversary Father Rick!

Question: This deacon's favorite candy is a Crunch bar and he will celebrate his birthday on April 2. Who is he?

Answer: To find the answer, come to Holy Mass next weekend and pick up a bulletin!

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

SEMO Food Bank

The St. Vincent de Paul Council of Catholic Women will pack food boxes at the SEMO Food Bank in Miner, Missouri, on **Tuesday, March 21**. The volunteers will carpool from the JC Penney parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If interested, please call Carol Simon at 314-440-4467.

Reconciliation During Lent

"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel!" During Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at various times each week. Take advantage of these blessed encounters with the Forgiving Father!

- Every Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
On March 22, please welcome Father Laurent Okitakatshi.
- Every Friday from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Every Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

You may also make an appointment if these times are not good for you.



Lenten Fish Fry

The St. Vincent's Men's Association will sponsor a Catfish Dinner each Friday during Lent from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The meal includes fresh American pond raised catfish, "Todt cole slaw," "Koehler famous hush puppies," sides, dessert and drink. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children, and ages 7 and under eat free. Carryouts are available.

Each week during Lent, the Circle Leaders of the Women's Council will contact parishioners to donate desserts for the Friday Fish Dinner. If you have never been called and would like to bring a dessert on Friday, March 24, please contact one of the following: Pam Saucier (573-837-3703), Marie Todd (573-334-2329), Judy Roth (573-335-0270), Carol Drummond (573-579-4627), Kathy Berkbigler (573-587-5970), or Libby Rolwing (573-225-3647).

Stations of the Cross - A Beautiful Tradition

The Stations of the Cross are images of stories about the passion and death of Jesus Christ. Most of the stories which make up the Stations were drawn from Scripture, and others, such as Saint Veronica wiping the face of Jesus, were taken from tradition. The route traditionally held to have been taken by Jesus to his death at Calvary (Golgotha) in Jerusalem is called the Via Dolorosa or the Sorrowful Way. The Stations were erected in local churches as a way of bringing this prayerful experience to those who could not travel to Jerusalem.



Stations of the Cross are celebrated in the church every Friday during Lent at 5:00 in Spanish and at 6:15 p.m. in English. Stations are also celebrated by the school children on most Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Please join in this devotional prayer and make it a part of your Lenten journey.

Lenten Relic Display

You are invited to attend a special Lenten experience at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri. Relics displayed will include fragments from the True Cross and the Last Supper Table, Saint Paul of the Cross, and particles from Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, and Calvary.

The relics will be on display **March 25** (following 12:10 p.m. Mass - 4:00 p.m.), **March 26** (following 11:00 a.m. Mass - 4:00 p.m.), **April 1** (following 12:10 p.m. Mass - 4:00 p.m.), and **April 2** (2:00 - 5:00 p.m.).

You are also invited to attend a presentation by Michael O' Neill, "The Miracle Hunter," on April 2 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. For more info, call the Association of the Miraculous Medal at 1-800-264-6279 or go to www.amm.org.

See the beauty,
discover the joy

Lenten Parish Mission

with

Patty Schneier

March 27-29, 2023 • 6:30 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Monday, March 27

The Eucharist - the Source & Summit of Everything!

Tuesday, March 28

Unlock the Treasure

Wednesday, March 29

Onward - Without Fear!

Patty Schneier is a life-long Catholic, housewife, and mother of three from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. For the past 20 years, Patty has been speaking at parishes and Catholic conferences across the United States. Last year, she was the presenter at the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau Principals' Meeting, Teachers' Meetings, and St. Vincent's Advent by Candlelight.

Patty has been a guest on EWTN and various Catholic Radio shows. She currently hosts a weekly radio show to foster holy vocations called *The Pearl of Great Price* and a podcast called *The Daily Dose of Encouragement*, both of which are heard on Covenant Network.

Patty is the recipient of the Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Excellence in Communication Award from the Archdiocese of St. Louis.



• The Week Ahead •

Monday, March 20

Tuesday, March 21

9:30 am Communion Service
at Fountainbleau

6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Wednesday, March 22

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry
(8:00 - 11:00 am)

9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study

2:00 pm SVS Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

6:00 pm Parish School of Religion

6:00 pm RCIA

6:00 pm Reconciliation/Adoration

Thursday, March 23

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 11:00 am)

9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study

1:00 pm Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

5:00 pm School Board

5:30 pm Centering Prayer

7:00 pm "Presence" Small Group

Friday, March 24

12:00 pm Reconciliation

5:00 pm Lenten Fish Fry

5:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

6:15 pm Stations of the Cross (English)

6:30 pm Diocesan Youth Conference

7:00 pm Reconciliation

Saturday, March 25

9:00 am Diocesan Youth Conference

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 12:00 noon)

3:30 pm Reconciliation

Sunday, March 26

9:00 am Children's Liturgy

10:00 am Coffee and Christ

Readings - March 26, 2023

Ezekiel 37:12-14 • Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Collection - March 12, 2023

Collection	\$ 15,242.13
E-Tithing	\$ 39,294.67
Total	\$ 54,536.80
Weekly Budget	\$ 33,000.00
Difference (7-1-22 to 3-12-23)	\$ 81,928.17

**Thank you for being good
stewards of God's gifts!**

• Contact Information •

Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS
fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools /Diocesan Chancellor
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA
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Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University
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Tiffany Brey

Youth Ministry Coordinator
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Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance

coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667



Journey through Lent with Covenant Network Catholic radio as your daily companion. Excellence in broadcasting combined with the Holy Mass, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other devotions will help keep you focused on a fruitful Lenten season. There will be special Lenten programming throughout the season to help you on your Lenten journey. Tune in to 94.3 FM or listen anytime on our Covenant Network app or at OurCatholicRadio.org.

Attention: Catholic Men

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT

Men Meeting Jesus

Wednesday, March 29 • 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

St. Denis • Benton, Missouri

An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion
To plan for food, please RSVP to SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com,
or "SEMO Catholic Man Night" on Facebook or text 573-275-5214.

Notre Dame 2023 Spring Musical

Notre Dame Regional High School presents Disney's The Little Mermaid. Performances will be held on **March 30, March 31, April 1, and April 2**. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday shows will begin at 7:00 p.m., while the Sunday performance will be a family friendly matinee beginning at 3:00 p.m. Doors will open at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday for face painting. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.notredamehighschool.org/musical.



Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's The Little Mermaid will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl," and "Part of Your World."

Special Lenten Meditation and Evening for Women

You are invited to attend a Special Lenten Meditation and Evening for Women on Friday, **March 31, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Denis Catholic Church, Benton, Missouri. Pray the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Refreshments and a social gathering will be held after Stations in the parish center. Women of all faiths are invited.

Easter Baskets

Need ideas for Easter baskets???

If you are looking for **excellent** books that teach children about the Catholic faith, check out:

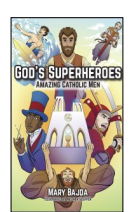
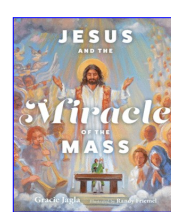
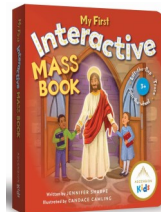
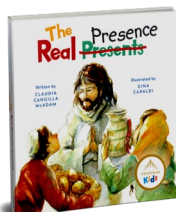
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and

<https://osvkids.com/books>

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Chrism Mass

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Annunciation

The **Mass of Chrism** is celebrated on Tuesday evening, **April 4, 2023**, at St. Mary Cathedral beginning at 7:00 p.m. During the Mass, the bishop and priests renew their commitment of service to God's people and olive oil is blessed for the sacramental celebrations of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Ordination. All are invited.

Beatitude Boxes / Bags

During the season of Lent, the parishioners of St. Vincent were invited to collect food and paper items for distribution to the needy. **Beatitude Boxes** are be filled with specific food items and **Beatitude Bags** are filled with specific paper products. **Please return the items to the designated boxes in the gathering area no later than Friday, April 7.**

Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked all parishes to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is also necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Please be generous!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-Friday.



Parish Easter Egg Hunt

To celebrate the season of Easter, an Egg Hunt will be held for parish children on **Easter Sunday, April 9**, between the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses (approximately 9:45 a.m.). The hunt will take place on the fields behind Church. For more information, contact the parish office.

Uncover the Secrets to a Lasting, Supportive, Transformational Marriage!

For more than 50 years, Worldwide Marriage Encounter has helped over 3.5 million couples in almost 100 countries unlock the power of their relationships with new ways to do the "I do." The Marriage Encounter experience helps you listen, share, and connect more deeply. There's no group discussion. It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be.

All married couples in the diocese are invited to attend the next retreat weekend being offered on **May 5-7, 2023**, at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Cape Girardeau! Register at <https://wwme.org/>.

• Holy Week Schedule •

Tuesday, April 4

Chrism Mass • 7:00 p.m.
Blessing of Oils and Priests'
Renewal of Commitment
St. Mary Cathedral

"Spy" Wednesday, April 5

Confessions "on the hour"
12:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Please note there will be no scheduled confession times during the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Holy Thursday, April 6

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Good Friday, April 7

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m.
Passion of the Lord • 12:00 p.m.
Passion of the Lord (Bilingual)
3:00 p.m.
Passion of the Lord • 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 8

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m.
Easter Vigil Mass • 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9

Easter Masses
6:30 a.m. • 8:30 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.
3:00 p.m. (Bilingual)



save the date

• **RESTORE** •

***A Day of Formation for
Those Called to Pray with Others
for Healing***

Saturday, April 29, 2023

When pain, suffering, and sickness are overwhelming, everyone needs help with being **Restored**. Come see how God, our Heavenly Father, can surround each person with the mercy and grace of healing power. Learn how to access the grace to pray for others with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Allow yourself to really believe Sacred Scripture when it says: "I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Now I am healing you." [2 Kings 20:5]

Please join the St. Raphael Prayer Ministry from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, in this daylong workshop on **Saturday, April 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** More information to follow.

"... if someone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him." Are you being called to do the deeds of Christ as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious? If so, contact Father Alex Sutachan at 573-335-7667 or email fatheralex@svparish.com.

Employment Opportunities

In-Home Care - A parishioner is in need of in-home care for evenings and some weekends. For more information, please call the St. Vincent Parish office at 573-335-7667.

Teaching Positions - St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Sikeston, is now accepting full and part-time teaching applications for the 2023-2024 school year. To request an application, including a detailed job description, please email Barb Tomaszewski at principal@stfxsikeston.org or call the school office at 573-471-0841.

Administrative Assistant - Notre Dame Regional High School is seeking applications for a main office Administrative Assistant. Applicants should have the ability to demonstrate computer proficiency, positive interpersonal skills, detail oriented, ability to multitask and meet deadlines. Notre Dame is a Roman Catholic school in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, so preference would be given to practicing Catholics. Interested candidates should send their resume, cover letter and list of references to paulunterreiner@notredamecape.org. Application deadline is March 24, 2023. Find a complete job listing online at: www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings.

Part Time Custodian - Notre Dame Regional High School is seeking a dedicated individual to join their custodial team. The custodian is responsible for daily routine maintenance. This part-time position is for afternoon and early evening hours. Salary is \$12/hour. To apply, please contact Scott Wilson at 573-335-6772, ext. 415. Find a complete job listing online at www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings.

Bus Driver - Notre Dame Regional High School is seeking a reliable and experienced high school bus driver to transport students, teachers and staff to and from various school events. The successful candidate will ensure the safety of passengers and adhere to all traffic laws and regulations. This is a part-time position with a flexible schedule based on event needs. Salary is \$15/hour. If you meet the qualifications and are interested in this opportunity, please submit your resume and cover letter for consideration to Jeff Graviett at jeffgraviett@notredamecape.org. Find a complete job listing online at www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings.

Youth and Family Director - Immaculate Conception Parish is currently accepting applications for a Youth and Family Director. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic. This position offers competitive pay and benefits. Interested applicants should contact Father Randy Tochtrop at 573-243-3182 or pastor@icjacksonmo.com.

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am new to Cape Girardeau. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. | <input type="checkbox"/> Please change my address to the one shown above. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion. | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to sign up for Faith Direct. |

This Week at Home

St. Joseph

Monday, March 20

Today we lift up Jesus' earthly father, St. Joseph, who embodied virtue as a father, dedicated worker, compassionate husband, and faithful listener. In fact, our sacred Scriptures recount his choices but never his words. Four times Joseph listens to the angel sent by God to guide his choices, and each time he courageously answers with quiet, trusting obedience. Make time today to emulate his prayer stance by quieting your heart and listening. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a.*

Holistic Healing

Tuesday, March 21

The healing power of Jesus is on full display in the Gospel story about the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. As with most healing stories attributed to Jesus, being "made well" is twofold. Jesus restores both physical health and implores those who are healed to seek spiritual health by avoiding sin. Lent offers us the path to wholeness. Healing comes in a variety of forms. Where do you need Jesus' healing touch today? *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16.*

The Lord is Near

Wednesday, March 22

The responsorial psalm today gets right to the hopeful theme of Lent: God desires to be close to us. The descriptions of the Lord as kind, merciful, slow to anger, gracious, kind, compassionate, faithful, attentive, just, and holy lead to the acclamation that "the Lord is near to all who call upon him" (Psalm 145:18). Place Psalm 145 on your bathroom mirror or over your kitchen sink where you will be reminded throughout each day of God's enduring desire to be in relationship with us. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30.*

Sent by God

Thursday, March 23

Jesus makes a bold claim to the Jewish community: "the Father has sent me." As he says this, Jesus implores them to heed his voice and trace his living presence to the promises made to Moses. They respond with blind resistance. We have the gift of a much longer view on this interchange between Jesus and the community. Do we respond with faith or skepticism? *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.*

Close to the Brokenhearted

Friday, March 24

Our responsorial psalm tenderly proclaims the promise that the Lord is "close to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:19). Part of the human condition is the experience of loss, disappointment, rejection, grief, and depression. Our faith offers us confident consolation that the Lord saves "those who are crushed in spirit" (34:19). Remember that we are never alone in our despair; the Lord never forgets us but especially leans in to be close when we are low. *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.*

Annunciation of the Lord

Saturday, March 25

The word *annunciation* means "announcement." In our faith story, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary changes the course of history. Lent reminds us that God is announcing good news to us in a variety of forms and through the most unexpected messengers. Attend to the angels in our midst, sent by God to inspire, encourage, challenge, and affirm us. The week began with Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday. Today's feast bookends our week of rejoicing. What good news is God offering us today? *Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38.*

Sunday, March 19

Spiritual Sight

Today's readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 6, 6 (1); Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday, a name inspired by the entrance antiphon, "Rejoice, O Jerusalem" (Isaiah 66:10). Today, we momentarily pause from some of the penitential observances of Lent. With joy, our eyes turn toward Easter. This spirit of rejoicing is reflected in our liturgies, which differ from the other Sundays of Lent. Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary. The priest may wear rose-colored vestments, ordinarily worn only on one other day of the liturgical year, the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday.

The Scripture readings also highlight reasons to rejoice. Jesus proclaims to his disciples, to a blind man on the side of the road, and ultimately to all of us, "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). Perceiving the deepest needs of the man's heart, Jesus performs a miraculous healing. He restores the man's physical sight to offer him spiritual sight. Through his subsequent encounters with Jesus, the healed man comes to see, believe, and follow him.

Today we are invited to wake up from our blindness. Jesus looks into our hearts and desires to illuminate our intrinsic goodness. He offers us the gift of spiritual sight to see God's essence radiating through all human reality. Shall we follow the blind man's lead and joyfully look at the world and all those we meet with the eyes of faith?

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