

4th Sunday of Lent: Reflection

(1Samuel 16.6-7,10-13; Ephesians 5.8.14; John 9.1-41)

Once a retired teacher shared a story about a blind girl in her school. One day after the gym class, the girls were getting ready, all of a sudden the light went off in the locker room and all the girls in the locker room started screaming. The blind girl asked the girl standing next to her, "What happened?" The friend told her that the lights had gone out and they could not get out. The blind girl calmly turned to her friend and said, "Don't worry, take my hand, I will lead you out." Of course they had all learned a lesson that-she may be blind but she is not 'disabled,' she just sees in different ways.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as "*Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday," expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. This weekend's scriptures remind us that it is God who gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul. It also invites us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness as well as the powers of darkness.

Jesus and his disciples came across a man born blind. The disciples asked who sinned for this man to be blind. Jesus replied that it is not about sin but for the purpose of glorifying God. *(John 9.1-41)* One of the important messages I want to share with you today especially in this present trying situation is that: what the Man Born Blind experienced as he grew in faith, the opposition he received, is the same as what we experience as we grow in faith. We will always be confronted with those who do not have faith and who want to convince us to give up our faith. Perhaps, you have already received some of this opposition.

Have you ever noticed that when we slip in morality, or, perhaps, sadly, take a major tumble, we begin to question our faith? That is evidence of the work of the devil. He will do everything; use every trick he has, to return us to a state of blindness. The devil is, after all, the prince of darkness. *(2Corinthians 4.4)* However, we are not blind. We can see. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." *(Matthew 5.14.)* We know how happy we are when we are with our Lord. Jesus gives us the assurance: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." *(Matt. 18.20)* Therefore, in this trying time, though it is hard for all of us to be together to celebrate the Holy Mass in our Church, know that Our Lord is with you. So don't give up hope, gather as a family, especially on Sunday, the day of the Lord, light a candle, open up your Bible and read the Sunday scriptures and reflect and do your prayers and receive the Most Holy Communion in Spirit. We pray today that we might allow the Light of Christ to grow within us and glow from us. For it is only our union with Christ that will dispel the darkness of the world. May our Lord Bless you all. *Fr. Joy Abraham*

Receiving Holy Communion in Spirit.

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.

Know that we are here for you!

Though all the Masses are cancelled on the weekends and the weekdays until further notice, the church and office still remain open. We will keep you posted through parish website and through emails. So, stay tuned.

The church remains open from Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for parishioners to come and pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament and light candles. On Sunday, the church remains open from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mass intentions: All Masses will be celebrated privately by our priests, therefore, any Mass intentions will be fulfilled.

How will this affect my Sunday Mass obligation?

Under these circumstances the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday has been dispensed and the faithful are encouraged to spend some time on Sunday reading the Scriptures of the day or watching Mass on TV or over the internet.

How will I offer my Donation?

Due to the cancellation of Masses especially on the weakened we face a serious shortfall in revenue without our regular collections. The next few weeks will be tough for our parishioners but you can be assured of the support of your parish through our prayers and commitment to serving the community. We ask that you consider continuing your financial support as our fixed expenses continue at the same level (approximately \$15,000/month).

We invite you to consider sending your contribution in the following ways:

- **Mail or drop off your contribution at the parish office at the address below.**
- **Send in a one-time extraordinary donation.**
- **Sign up for automatic withdrawal by completing the form found on the website and returning it with a void cheque.**

Mailing address: Holy Name of Jesus, 899 Boul. Chomedey, Laval H7V 2X1

With our sincere gratitude for your past contributions and future support.
Fr. Joy Abraham and the wardens.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mar. 23	<i>Isaiah 65.17-21</i>	<i>John 4.43-54</i>
Mar. 24	<i>Ezekiel 47.1-9, 12</i>	<i>John 5.1-16</i>
Mar. 25	<i>Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d</i>	<i>Luke 1.26-38</i>
Mar. 26	<i>Exodus 32.7-14</i>	<i>John 5.18,31-47</i>
Mar. 27	<i>Wisdom 2.1a, 12-22</i>	<i>John 7.1-2, 10, 25-30</i>
Mar. 28	<i>Jeremiah 11.18-20</i>	<i>John 7.40-53</i>



Sanctuary Lamp: Alessandro Vinci by friends

Saturday, March 21

5:00 Albertina Tognarini by the Tambanillo & Larocque families
Alessandro Vinci by the family

Sunday, March 22 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

8:30 Ann Caluori Izzo by the family
11:00 Parishioners

Monday, March 23

9:00 Maurice Galley by Diane Galley
7:30 Wael Fatouhi by the Hanna family
Louisa Azzuolo by the family

Tuesday, March 24

9:00 Serge Vadnais by Diane & Régis

Wednesday, March 25 (The Annunciation of the Lord)

9:00 John Dore by Deirdre Rochefort
5:00 Albert Takach by his mother Elfrieda

Thursday, March 26

9:00 Arthur Ansel by Mary & James Foster

Friday, March 27

9:00 Ann Lamontagne by her husband
Elizabeth Gnanapragasam by the family
5:00 Fernande Tait by Anita & Joe Oliveri

Saturday, March 28

12:00 Andrew Wilson by Regina & family
5:00 Agostinho Paixao by the family
Antonina Rossi by John Rossi

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.***

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March

Evangelization: *Catholics in China* – We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Let us remain united to one another and to our Lord of the Resurrection and pray: By the Infinite Merits and Power in the NAME OF JESUS, let the coronavirus be weakened in our country and in the world. Amen.