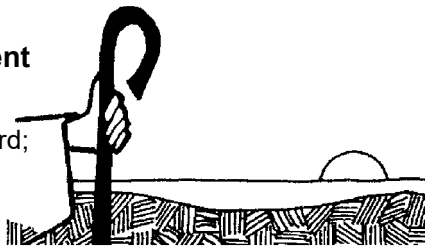


**Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020**

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

— Psalm 23:1



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.

--J. S. Paluch Co.

**SAINT TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO (1538-1606)
March 23**

In times of crisis, God always surprises the Church with unlikely saints, through whom Christ’s light radiates beyond their local communities to illumine the universal Church. Charles Borromeo was such a saint: appointed Archbishop of Milan at twenty-one by his papal uncle, epitomizing the corruption that the reformers condemned, Charles instead inspired a revival that reinvigorated a Church devastated by the Reformation. His less well-known contemporary, Turibius of Mongrovejo, was God’s “saintly surprise” in the New World. Spanish-born lawyer, professor, head of the feared Inquisition, Turibius was still a layman when a grateful king appointed him Archbishop of far-off Lima. Once in Peru, however, Turibius was appalled at the abuse of indigenous peoples by the occupying *conquistadores*—his fellow countrymen—and by the complicity of the clergy. He became the natives’ devoted advocate, building churches, schools, hospitals, and the first seminary in the Americas, publishing catechisms and prayerbooks in the native languages he painstakingly mastered. Four hundred years later, whenever Pope Benedict welcomed Latin American bishops to Rome, he always invoked “the shining example of San Toribio.”

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

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

Prayer Requests: Leave message at 707-408-2650.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen., Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H., Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo [Ed] Arnold, Castellini family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry Smith, Shirley Skeen, Gail Fitzgerald, and all dealing with the coronavirus, we pray



Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **March** offerings: PLEASE mail to our parish at P.O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465 or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card.

3/15: 1st [only] Collection: \$1071.
 3/22: Catholic Relief Ser./Camp. Human Dev. 3/29: Rural Food.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: Wed., 4/15/20, at 10AM in Hall
Finance Council [FC]: TBA

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: cancelled
Coffee & Goodies: cancelled

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon: cancelled



✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Any Mass Intentions originally set for 3/21-3/29 will be rescheduled for a later date when our churches reopen.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES


Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent
 Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo
 Tuesday: World Day for Truth Concerning Human Rights Violations
 Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord
 Friday: Abstinence

FILL US

Open wide the windows of our spirits and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain Thee with all our powers of adoration.

—Christina Rossetti

saint snippets



Those who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless.

St. Oscar Romero
 Outspoken Archbishop of San Salvador martyred while celebrating Mass. He was canonized in October of 2018.
 Copyright © 2019, Michael Thimons

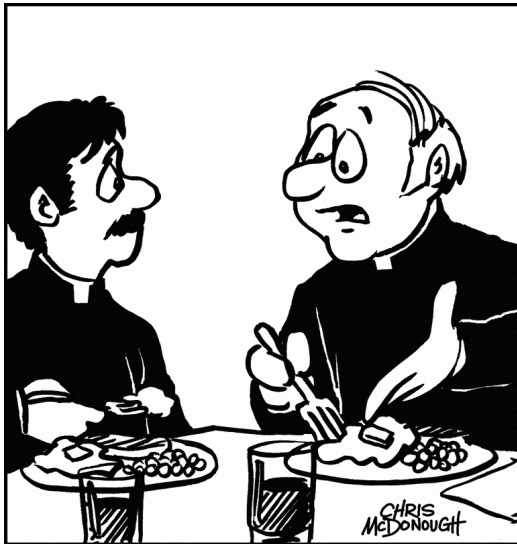
March 24

Pope Francis Quote

“Human self-understanding changes with time, and so also human consciousness deepens.”

Request from the Chancery: That we all take 15 minutes of the day to pray for the end of the Corona Virus crisis, begging Our Lady's help as she has asked us to do countless times! [option: say after the Rosary]

CATHOLIC TV MASS: Each Sunday a Catholic TV Mass is aired on a number of TV channels throughout the Bay Area Dioceses, offered by Monsignor Harry Schlitt and Father Dave Ghorso. This Catholic TV Mass focuses on our Catholic community for those who are homebound, residing in assisted living, hospitalized, or imprisoned, and unable to attend Mass at their parish church. You may find these Masses in the San Francisco Area each liturgical Sunday on **KTSF at 6:00 AM -or- KOFY at 6:00 AM or online any time at "FatherHarry.org"**.



"I like modern ideas... and collections do take a long time. But install EZ Pass at the door? No, thanks."

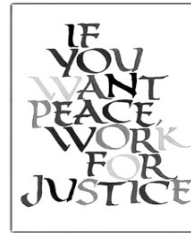
RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MARCH 2020

Our client and volunteer health and safety is very important to our ongoing efforts of providing nutritional support. On March 10 we welcomed 102 families: 122 adults, 49 children and 40 seniors for a total of 211 people. Due to the current corona virus outbreak we changed our distribution process. Each volunteer and client was required to use hand sanitizer before entering the distribution area. Each volunteer was also required to wear gloves during the distribution and we all practiced "social distancing" throughout. We will continue this practice for the next few months. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

Your used, clean, egg cartons and handled grocery bags are needed until we reach our goal of having only reusable cloth bags by the end of 2020. Thanks for dropping them off in the hall.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, April 11, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
Monday, April 13, from 10:00 – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall
Tuesday, April 14, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and to assist clients.



Third Theme of Catholic Social Teaching: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES [Part Two]

The inviolability of the person which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and fundamental expression in the inviolability of human life.

Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture— is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination. (*St. John Paul II, On the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful [Christifideles Laici...], no. 38*)

We must speak of man's rights. Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and, finally, the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own he is deprived of the means of livelihood. (*St. John XXIII, Peace on Earth [Pacem in Terris...], no. 11*)

In human society one man's natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty in other men; the duty, that is, of recognizing and respecting that right. Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to it its respective duty. Hence, to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other. (*St. John XXIII, Peace on Earth [Pacem in Terris...], no. 30*)

As for the State . . . It has also the duty to protect the rights of all its people, and particularly of its weaker members, the workers, women and children. It can never be right for the State to shirk its obligation of working actively for the betterment of the condition of the workingman. (*St. John XXIII, Christianity and Social Progress [Mater et Magistra...], no. 20*).

Next week: Fourth Theme of Catholic Social Teaching
OPTON FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Per Ella and others: For other Masses during our shelter at home time we have additional online options:

1. Bishop Vasa will live stream Mass this Sunday at 10:00 am on the Diocesan Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfSantaRosa/>
2. For Pope Francis' and other masses in English and Spanish visit: <http://www.catholicstv.org/shows/papal-programming>
3. For EWTN masses visit: <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/weekly-grid>
4. For Bishop Barron chapel: <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

Scripture Reflection: Each week Pat Griffith of our parish reflects on the scriptures of the next Sunday's liturgy. His objectives are to expand on the specific meaning of the readings and to use them to address current issues and practical matters in living the Christian life. The regular postings usually appear between Wednesday evening and Friday morning. Occasionally he posts an additional reflection during the week. The reflections can be found at <http://thesoulprospers.blogspot.com>. If you would like to be on his email distribution, please send him an email at Patrick@fairhill.com

Lent: related to the lengthening of days in Spring; the ascent of light over darkness

If you read today's Gospel narrative about the cure of a man born blind, you may not notice, given the extraordinary change wrought in the man who begins to see for the first time in his life - that it's not the miracle that upsets the religious leaders (known as Pharisees) but the fact that Jesus cured the man *on the Sabbath!* Jesus broke the law. Note their reaction as they complain: *This man (Jesus) is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.* According to Jewish Law the Sabbath had to be a day of absolute rest – a holy day of obligation.

Consequently they want to reverse the event, erase such scandalous behavior from the clock. They begin to deny that the cure ever happened: "The man wasn't blind to begin with; it's not the blind beggar that now can see but some other already sighted fellow who looks like him." But they run into opposition from others who confirm that the newly sighted fellow was indeed the man who had been blind from birth – and it did happen, Sabbath or no Sabbath.

Then begins the inquisition. The worry of these Pharisees seems to be: if you change one thing, you may eradicate our whole way of life. Also: this Jesus, by breaking the Sabbath, is a sinner; sinners can't work miracles. The parents are questioned: "Was your son really born blind?" They then ask the man himself: "What did Jesus do? How did he do it?" The young man replies: "How do I know? All I know is that I can see a world I never saw before!" Frustrated, the Pharisees excommunicate the fellow – physically. It says: *they threw him out* – literally.

Just prior to this story the Gospel of John describes Jesus saying: *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness.* Today's reading serves to illustrate that declaration – and it speaks of more than physical vision. As I look back over the years I can say, metaphorically, that I was born blind – and so were you. What did you know? What did I know? Education helped me see much about myself, my world, about the history of my world. But it was never enough – for the older I get the more I find out things that come as a surprise – as if I were learning to see for the first time – and indeed to see even my past for the first time, as through a rear view mirror. Especially fresh insights regarding the guidance of my life!

But granted that my religious heritage addresses the meaning of our lives in rich and various ways (even as the religion of the Pharisees did), sedimentation also settles in so that an occasional earthquake of insight is

needed (like the cure of this man born blind) to wake us up to even more of the ever unfolding awareness of who we are and what entices us to want to live forever – beyond such "facts" as death and the myopia of this media driven age.

If you read this Sunday's Gospel simply as proof that Jesus is divine – because he can work miracles – and base your faith in him on that score alone – you need to go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam as Jesus advised the man born blind – and wash away the mud from your eyes. And learn that Jesus is about so much more than just miracles.
--Geoff Wood, 3/22/2020

Memo from office: Please be patient with us all as we try to work under these new local and global parameters. Two quotes come to mind at this moment: "Be nice. Everyone is hiking uphill." (*Life's Little Instruction Book*) and always remember to "Be kind. Be kind. Be kind." (quote from Principal Carole Ellis to graduating class). Onward & upward!

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born,
and a time to die;
a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up what is
planted;
a time to kill,
and a time to heal;
a time to break down,
and a time to build up;
a time to weep,



and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn,
and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace,
and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek,
and a time to lose;
a time to keep,
and a time to throw away;
a time to tear,
and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence,
and a time to speak;
a time to love,
and a time to hate;
a time for war,
and a time for peace.

--Ecclesiastes 3:1-18; NRSV