

March 14th - Fourth Sunday of Lent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 13

9:00am

4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*

Sunday, March 14

8:00am

10:00am † *John C. Brennan*

12:00pm † *Pedro Evelio Alvarado*

Monday, March 15

9:00am † *Henry & Teresa Thrane*

Tuesday, March 16

9:00am

Wednesday, March 17

9:00am † *Rodrigo Tarantan*

Thursday, March 18

9:00am

Friday, March 19

9:00am *Solemnity of St. Joseph*

Saturday, March 20

9:00am

4:30pm † *Aura Josefina Zamora*

SAINT JOSEPH

Pray For Us



**STATIONS
OF THE
CROSS**

"Stations of the Cross and Via Crucis" will be live video streamed and linked to the parish website: www.stjohnnevangelist.org

A schedule of events will be posted on this website. More information will follow as we come closer to the events.

Today's second collection is for the **2020 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal**.

Parish Assessment \$ 33,576.00

YTD we paid: \$ 2,209.00

Balance we owe: \$ 31,367.00

Kindly consider helping meet our goal. Thank you for your continued generous support.

Jesus and the
Blind Man



From the Desk of the Pastor

The Book of Chronicles gives us a brief history of the people of Israel. The first reading today tells us about the people who lived in sin, mocking God's messengers and ignoring the Lord's warnings. They turned their backs on God. They disowned God. Their pride and egotism put themselves in vulnerable religious and political situations. Finally, their enemies destroyed Jerusalem. The people were taken captive resulting into a national disaster.

However, God does not abandon them. It is again God's mercy that delivers them from slavery and misery.

John 3:16 is one of the most well-known sentences from the lips of Jesus in the whole of the New Testament: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life".

The entire reading is the discourse between Jesus and Nicodemus, helping one to reflect on the testimony of God's love for the salvation of all. St. Paul reminds us that it is by his grace that we have been saved.

It is always the power of God that saves and promises to hope even in moments of doubt and despair. He says that we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared.

Thus we are God's creation, gifted by God's grace, and from this will flow the good works with which we thank God and contribute to the well-being of the Church, society and the world.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday masses are celebrated at 10am in English and 12noon en espanol

Additionally, the Sunday Mass is video streamed and made available on YouTube. It is posted on the Parish website every weekend. You may access and pray the mass at <https://www.saintjohnnevangelist.org/>

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615, who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled to take place in our church on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 10am. The confirmandis (candidates who are enrolled and prepared to receive this sacrament) must keep in touch with their respective directors. Those registered at the Parish Religious Education Program need to be in contact with Mr. Rodrigo Castillo; those students registered at St. John's School need to be in contact with Ms. Alexandra Iwaszewicz.

Please keep our students in your prayers.

St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians that we are saved through grace: God's actions of sending his Son to die for us, and raising Jesus from the dead show the love God has for us. It comes entirely from God. We can't add up our good deeds like reward points for heaven. He also means that we can't brag about our faith because we can recite the creed or answer an altar call. So if being saved is not a matter of saying the right things, or doing good deeds, what is it? The answer comes from the gospel. Jesus tells us that he will be lifted up, or crucified, so that we can believe in him and have eternal life. When we "believe in" someone, we put our love and trust in that person. We know that we are loved and so respond by giving love. Our response of love inspires us to stop being selfish and start noticing that others need our help.

In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.