



## 4th Sunday of Lent March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
**Parish Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Stephen Bourque  
**Fr. Henry Email:** frhenrys@gmail.com

**Office hours:** Monday to Friday  
from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm  
**Church email :** stambrosemail@gmail.com  
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**Tabitha Centre:** 902-742-8960

**Reconciliation/confession** is available every Thursday 11 am-noon at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral Parish office or by appointment.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Please note that all church meetings and programs are cancelled until further notice!

**EASTER FLOWERS:** Anyone who would like to make a donation towards St. Ambrose or Our Lady of Lourdes Easter flowers in memory of a loved one may do so by either putting your donation in an envelope with your number on it and placing it in the collection basket or you may make your donation at the parish office.



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined. Leave it all to him, let go of yourself.



**NUTURE LIFE, OPPOSE DEATH ON DEMAND!**  
**Contact Your Member of Parliament Today!** The federal government has tabled legislation to expand what they refer to as medical assistance in dying but is more accurately called euthanasia/assisted suicide. More than 13,000 Canadians have been euthanized since 2016. New legislation would make assisted death available to those without life-threatening illnesses including those with disabilities and those no longer capable of making decisions for themselves. Some

Canadians may even be euthanized on the same day they make the request. Visit [www.helptheliving.ca](http://www.helptheliving.ca) to send a letter (prepared for you) to your Member of Parliament expressing deep concern. The process takes less than 5 minutes. More information can also be found at: [www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia](http://www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia). We continue to pray and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

**KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS:** We have been getting a number of questions about why there has not been an Honor Guard at some recent funerals. The reason for this is that the Supreme Council of the K of C has instituted a new uniform for the 4th degree. The old uniforms are no longer allowed to be worn. The new uniforms are quite costly, creating a burden for many members. Our Assembly has been fund raising to help with the cost. We are hoping, by this summer, to have a small Honor Guard, which will continue to expand and enable us to fulfill these duties. Art McPhee, Faithful Navigator for the 4th degree, Assembly 1428.



**PLEASE NOTE the Knight's of Columbus building on Collins Street is now closed to the public. All meetings and gatherings are cancelled until further notice.**

**REFLECTION:** As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth...

He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So, he went and washed, and came back able to see. [John 9:1, 6-7](#)  
Who was this man? Interestingly, he does not have a name. He is only referred to as the "man blind from birth." This is significant in the Gospel of John because the lack of a name is also seen, for example, in the story of "the woman at the well." The fact that there is no name indicates that we should see ourselves in this story. "Blindness" is our inability to see the hand of God at work all around us. We struggle to see the daily miracles of God's grace alive in our lives and alive in the lives of others. So, the first thing we should do with this Scripture is strive to see our lack of sight. We should strive to realize that we so often

do not see God at work. This realization will inspire us to desire a spiritual healing. It will invite us to want to see God at work.

The good news is obviously that Jesus cured this man, as He willingly cures us. To restore sight is easy for Jesus. So, the first prayer we should pray as a result of this story is simply, "Lord, I want to see!" The humble realization of our blindness will invite God's grace to work. And if we do not humbly acknowledge our blindness, we will not be in a position to seek healing.

How He heals this man is also significant. He uses His own spit to make mud and smear it on this man's eyes, which is not immediately that appealing. But it does reveal something quite significant to us. Namely, it reveals the fact that Jesus can use something exceptionally ordinary as a source of His divine grace!

If we look at this in a symbolic way we can come to some profound conclusions. Too often we look for God's action in the extraordinary. But He so often is present to us in that which is ordinary. Perhaps we will be tempted to think that God only works His grace through heroic acts of love or sacrifice. Perhaps we are tempted to think that God is not able to use our daily ordinary activities to perform His miracles. But this is not true. It is precisely those ordinary actions of life where God is present. He is present while washing the dishes, doing chores, driving a child to school, playing a game with a family member, carrying on a casual conversation or offering a helping hand. In fact, the more ordinary the activity, the more we should strive to see God at work. And when we do "see" Him at work in the ordinary activities of life, we will be healed of our spiritual blindness.

Reflect, today, upon this act of Jesus and allow our Lord to smear His spit and dirt on your eyes. Allow Him to give you the gift of spiritual sight. And as you begin to see His presence in your life, you will be amazed at the beauty you behold.

*Lord, I want to see. Help me to be healed of my blindness. Help me to see You at work in every ordinary activity of my life. Help me to see Your divine grace in the smallest events of my day. And as I see You alive and active, fill my heart with gratitude for this vision. Jesus, I trust in You.*

*-My Catholic Life*

**WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FUNERALS:** The Bishop has told us that funerals will be done without mass for the time being. Only immediate family are allowed to attend. The rite of committal at the cemetery can take place as usual. A memorial mass can be done at a later date.

**SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH FINANCIALLY:** During this difficult time, I ask that you continue to support our Parish financially. If you want you can drop donations off at the office during office hours.

**PRAYER FOR THOSE SICK AND SUFFERING FROM THE COVID-19:** *O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.*

*We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.*

*You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.*

*We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:*

*He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

*We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.*

*Do not despise our pleas — we who are put to the test — and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

*- Pope Francis*



Please welcome into our Christian community  
Kolten Alexander DeViller, Oaklen Gail Jude  
DeViller and Molly Kathleen Muisse-Hickey who  
was baptised on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
Please keep Kolten, Oaklen, Molly and their  
families in your prayers.