

## FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Gospel reading

John 9:1-41

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth.  
His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned,  
this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"  
Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned;  
it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.  
We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day.  
Night is coming when no one can work.  
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."  
When he had said this, 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.  
His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,  
"Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?"  
Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him."  
He said, "I am."  
So they said to him, "[So] how were your eyes opened?"  
He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me,  
'Go to Siloam and wash.'  
So I went there and washed and was able to see."  
And they said to him, "Where is he?"  
He said, "I don't know."  
They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.  
Now Jesus had made clay<sup>2</sup> and opened his eyes on a sabbath.  
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.  
He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."  
So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God,  
because he does not keep the sabbath."  
[But] others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?"  
And there was a division among them.  
So they said to the blind man again,  
"What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?"  
He said, "He is a prophet."  
Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight  
until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight.  
They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind?  
How does he now see?"

His parents answered and said,  
“We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.  
We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes.  
Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.”  
His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews,  
for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah,  
he would be expelled from the synagogue.  
For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; question him.”  
So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him,  
“Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner.”  
He replied, “If he is a sinner, I do not know.  
One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.”  
So they said to him, “What did he do to you?  
How did he open your eyes?”  
He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen.  
Why do you want to hear it again?  
Do you want to become his disciples, too?”  
They ridiculed him and said, “You are that man’s disciple; we are disciples of Moses!  
We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from.”  
The man answered and said to them, “This is what is so amazing,  
that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes.  
We know that God does not listen to sinners,  
but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him.  
It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind.  
If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.”  
They answered and said to him, “You were born totally in sin,  
and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.  
When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,  
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”  
He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”  
Jesus said to him, “You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he.”  
He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.  
Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment,  
so that those who do not see might see,  
and those who do see might become blind.”  
Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him,  
“Surely we are not also blind, are we?”  
Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin;  
but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

## Intercession

That, illuminated with the light of Christ, we may follow where He leads through our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

## Copy for bulletin announcement

Sight is easy to take for granted. For the Pharisees in today's Gospel, the possibility that they might be missing something, despite having sight, authority, and education bothers them: "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" (John 9:40)

When we walk through a house, we automatically look for the light switch if it's dark. It's difficult to do anything in the dark. "We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day," Jesus said in John 9:4. "Night is coming when no one can work."

The works of God cry out to be accomplished, including the ministries supported by our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. We must not delay. Christ is here. He is the daylight only by which we can work. We need him, and we need you. We ask him to guide our efforts throughout the Appeal. Please support our Appeal. We ask him to enlighten your discernment of how to do so. He will not let you walk in darkness when doing the works of God. He will be your light. God bless you abundantly for your gifts and prayers for our Appeal!

## Copy for pulpit announcement

Please support our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* so that we can facilitate our neighborhood encountering the light of Christ here, in our parish. After healing the blind man in today's Gospel, Jesus also revealed his nature to him as the Son of God, and the formerly blind man worshiped. Jesus hungers to guide all into true worship, worship that will make us all whole. Please help us make that happen!

## Social media post/content

Photo: A dark doorway, the door opening a crack, and a bright white bar of piercing white daylight pouring through the gap.

Header: "I am the light of the world." - John 9:5

Sub-header: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Copy: Please join our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* so that we may fulfill Jesus' command in today's Gospel to "do the works of God" (John 9:4). There is no higher work than liturgy. The word Liturgy means "work for the people." God's work works for us, too! Help our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, so we can keep doing them. God bless you for it.