

## *“Seeing ourselves ... as God sees us.”*

How do we see ourselves? How do we see God? And most importantly, how does God see us? *“The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”* (1 Sam. 16) In these words from today's first reading, we are presented with the invitation and challenge to learn to see as God sees. And that means not remaining content with the level of outward appearances, but asking Jesus, the true light of the world, to “open the eyes of our hearts,” to give us the gift of a vision that pierces the surface and goes to the heart of the matter.

We also hear today the powerful story of the healing encounter between Jesus and a man born blind. His one desire: “Open my eyes, Lord: help me to see your face. Help me to see!” We **all** need to have our eyes opened. Lent is given to us each year so that we might see our reality with new eyes, new vision, a new perspective. And part of that perspective is the insight that all is gift. Every aspect of my life – yes, even the struggles and difficulties – is part of the way that God is present to me, pouring his life into me. Yet sometimes, there are realities that we do not want to face. Fear, shame, complacency, resistance to conversion – all of these can make us reluctant to embrace the shift required to look upon ourselves as God sees us – and to see others as God sees them.

As I hear this Gospel, with whom do I spontaneously identify? Am I the blind man: conscious of my defects, trusting in God's power to heal that which is incomplete and broken in me, recognizing Jesus as my healer, Lord and Saviour? Can I relate to the blind man in his experience of feeling labeled by society, misunderstood by family, unwelcome in his religious community? Or is there a bit of the Pharisee in me: reluctant to allow God to work outside the predetermined boxes that reflect **my** view of the world?

Wherever we find ourselves, we all stand in need of conversion, of healing, of renewed vision. We need this personally; we need to do it communally. There are many ways we might consider in response to this invitation: A day of fasting, prayer, and spiritual reading? Celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation? A visit to a sick relative or a lonely neighbor? A sacrificial gift in support of the work of the parish, or the Development and Peace Lenten campaign? Whatever we choose, let us ask Jesus to “open the eyes of our hearts,” to see as he sees.

### **DEVELOPMENT & PEACE - SHARE LENT**

#### **Week 4: March 26<sup>th</sup>**

This week, open your heart to the reality of women living in a country at war. Thanks to your support of this vital work, 280 Syrians will have access to an 11-week training course in sewing and psychosocial services! Next week is Solidarity Sunday and the Share Lent collection will take place. Please find the envelope in your collection box, or in your pew. Please, be generous!

### **SHARE LENT COLLECTION FOR DEVELOPMENT & PEACE**

### **WEEKEND OF APRIL 1 & 2 AT ALL THE SUNDAY MASSES**

#### **Week 5 Solidarity Sunday: April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Thank you for your generosity! Each donation is used to help our sisters and brothers all over the world — from Paraguay to Syria, to Indonesia and beyond! We conclude this Share Lent with the words of Pope Francis, offered on the occasion of the Jubilee of Mercy: “Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.” Thank you for helping us create a future filled with hope!

### **ST. MONICA'S PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CONSULT THE (PARISH'S BULLETIN BOARDS) FOR THE  
DATE AND TIME WHEN THE RECONCILIATION SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE**

## MASS INTENTIONS MAR. 25 TO APR. 9, 2017

### Saturday, March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord

4:00 Mary Campbell By Lawrence Campbell & Family  
Antonio Bei By wife Gabriella Bei & Family

### Sunday, March 26: Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 Deceased members Cinelli Family By Maria & Raffaele Cinelli  
Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family  
Fulvio Silvina By Rosa & Luigi Salvati

11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Desolina & Giambattista Onesi

### Monday, March 27: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

### Tuesday, March 28: Weekday Mass

8:00 Deceased members of Clarke & Deane Family By Cecilia Clarke

### Wednesday, March 29: Weekday Mass

8:00 Aniello D'Addio By Ernesta Ciampini

### Thursday, March 30: Weekday Mass

8:00 Concetta Santini By Olga Matta Santini  
Winifred Newman By her husband Michael Newman

### Friday, March 31: Weekday Mass

8:00 Valentina Cichino By Giuseppina & Family

### Saturday, April 1: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Special Intentions for all our Parishioners'  
Deceased Family Members and Friends

### Sunday, April 2: Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 Antonio Cavallaro By Cavallaro Family  
Francesco & Iolanda Servello By Piccolino Family  
Pietro Pierandozi By Giuseppina & Family

11:00 Agnesa, Martino & Antonio Gagliardi By the Family

### Monday, April 3: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

### Tuesday, April 4: St. Isidore

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

### Wednesday, April 5: St. Vincent Ferrer

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

### Thursday, April 6: Weekday Mass

8:00 Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family

### Friday, April 7: St. John Baptist de La Salle

8:00 Ursula Lafontaine By St. Monica's Pastoral Team  
Giuseppina & Assunta Scifo By Graziella Buscemi Spatola

### Saturday, April 8: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Italo & Anna Mariani and Italo Falcone By Luisa & Angelo Falcone  
Alessandro Palladini By his Wife & Family  
Nick Vietri By Ken & Josee-Nadine

### Sunday, April 9: Palm Sunday / Passion of the Lord

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti,  
Emma & Colombo Salavati, Fulvio Silina.

11:00 Giacomo Fiori By wife Berardina & Family  
Leonardo Ricciardi By his son Giovanni & Family

#### Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of March 18/19, 2017 totalled \$3,815.00.

## ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

### Discerning The Spirit At Work In Our Common History: A History of Christianity

Inspired by the BBC video series "A History of Christianity", our series continues this coming **Wednesday, April 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall. All are welcome!

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional info. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or call Anna at the office.

### PALM CROSS WORKSHOP

Our annual palm cross workshop will be held on **Friday, April 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the church hall. Everyone is welcome!!!



### PALM CROSS FUNDRAISER

On the weekend of April 8 & 9, we will have our annual Palm Cross Fundraiser in support of the Jason Fund. All donations welcome. The Jason Fund is a non-profit organization which was established in 2006 to help young adults battling cancer and promote the advancement of treatments for them.

### PASTORAL HOME CARE MEETING

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> AT**  
**8:30 A.M. IN THE**  
**RECTORY BASEMENT**