

Living the Gospel



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Welcome home to St. Andrew

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year A

The Holy Drama of Grace

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. John 9:35-38

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of Exodus 20:5-6 in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

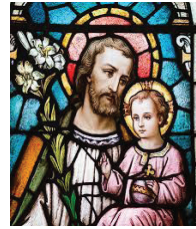
After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.

Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate

the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

"mycatholic.life"



FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

St. Andrew Parish invites you. Join us to the Feast celebration on Monday, March 20th at 7:00 pm.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH
HOLY WEEK
2023 SCHEDULE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:15 PM FOLLOWED BY MASS

HOLY THURSDAY (APRIL 6)
8:00 AM - MORNING PRAYER (LITURGY OF THE HOURS)
7:30PM - MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (FOLLOWED BY ADORATION)

GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 7)
11AM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS
3PM - THE LORD'S PASSION (ENGLISH)
5PM - THE LORD'S PASSION (ENGLISH)
7PM - LA PASSIONE DEL SIGNORE (ITALIAN)

EASTER VIGIL (APRIL 8)
9:00 AM - MORNING PRAYERS (LITURGY OF THE HOURS)
9:30AM - ROSARY
9:00 PM - EASTER VIGIL MASS

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 9)
AS SUNDAY SCHEDULE

EASTER MONDAY (APRIL 10)
8AM MASS (PARISH OFFICE CLOSED) NO MASS AT 7PM

SUPPORT OUR LENTEN SHARELIFE APPEAL



First ShareLife Sunday is March 26 in this time of Lent, please reflect on the great needs of our brothers and sisters who are helped through your kind support of ShareLife. Last year, ShareLife supporters like you enabled 1,900 young parents and their children to access programming, along with diapers, food and clothing. Your support provides hope and support as they create better lives for the families. Please give generously once again this year either here at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, or online at www.sharelife.org/donate.

DAY OF CONFESSIONS FOR LENT

St. Andrew Parish is having the Day of Confessions for Lent on Thursday, March 30th from 9 am to 12 pm, and from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Welcome Fr. Timothy Kinyua, IMC

St. Andrew's Community warmly welcome our new Associate Pastor Fr. Timothy Kinyua. Thank you for coming to minister to our communities and we hope you will be very happy here. We are glad to have you as a part of our Church. May God enrich our lives together as we serve and worship Him.

WEEKLY LITURGY ~ MASS INTENTIONS

† = For the soul of ♥ = Special Intention

Saturday, Mar 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8:30 am - Thankgiving for Manny Rabino and Gemma Charles on their birthday, by family
5:30pm - † For the soul of Marie Lorraine Chan, by Chan family

Sunday, Mar 19 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8 am - Thanksgiving to St. Joseph, by Alex family
9:30 am - (Ital Mass) † Joe Marello and in honour of St. Joseph, by family
11 am - For the people of the Parish
12:30pm - † Antonio Concepcion, by Consolacion Concepcion
2 pm - (Twi Ghana)
5:30 pm - (Spanish Mass)

Monday, Mar 20 – St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8 am - † Hudson Joseph, by family
10:15 am - Revera Westside Mass
7 pm - Feast of St. Joseph

Tuesday, Mar 21

8 am - † Giuseppe Galati, by Anna Galati
7 pm - † Roberto, Cesare and Carolina Lisi, by Anna Lisi

Wednesday, Mar 22

8 am - Thanksgiving for Lilian Cuaresma's life on her birthday, by family
7 pm - † Zenaida C. Fernandes, by family

Thursday, Mar 23 - St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

8 am - (No Intention)
7 pm - (No Intention)

Friday, Mar 24

8 am - Thanksgiving for Linda dela Rosa's life on her birthday, by Lilian, Arthur & family
7 pm - (No Intention)

Saturday, Mar 25 - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

8:30 am - † Claudio Depellegrin, by family
5:30pm - Thanksgiving for Claudia and Mateo, by family

Sunday, Mar 26 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8 am - Thanksgiving for Carvalho and Soriano families, by Anthony and Laura
9:30 am - (Ital Mass)
11 am - For the people of the Parish
12:30pm - † Guillermo Regala, by Regala family
2 pm - (Twi Ghana)
5:30 pm - (Spanish Mass) † Lucy Villada (1er aniversario de su muerte), ofrece familia Villada Gutierrez



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Masses will be celebrated on **Saturday, April 22, 2023**. Please see the details below to locate your child's mass times. More details are to follow in the coming weeks.

- Mass at 10am

Schools: St. Andrew, St. Dorothy and St. John Vianney

Students must be dropped off and registered at 9am: location to be announced in the upcoming weeks

- Mass at 2pm:

Schools: Msgr. John Corrigan, St. Angela and Alternate Schools

Students must be dropped off and registered at 1pm: location to be announced in the upcoming weeks

CONFIRMATION CEREMONY will be on **Saturday, June 17, 2023**. There will be two Masses for Confirmation celebrated by His Eminence Bishop Ivan Camilleri.

- Mass at 10:00am

Schools: St. Andrew, St. Dorothy and Msgr. John Corrigan

- Mass at 12:00pm

Schools: St. Angela, St. John Vianney and Alternate Schools

More information regarding time of arrival and dress code will be sent out closer to the date. If you have any questions or concerns - please do not hesitate to reach out to us by email on Flocknote.

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