

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Rev. David J. Farrell, Pastor

Bulletin for Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a)

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons." As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Gospel (Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

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.

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."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay 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."

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.

LIGHT

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light” (Ephesians 5:14). We are at the midpoint of our Lenten journey of conversion. As always, God never gives up on us, especially those who have “fallen asleep” along the road to conversion. The most powerful stories of conversion are proclaimed during these final weeks of Lent. They have the power to shake us out of our sleep. Today’s Gospel story of the healing of the man born blind exposes the real blindness in the time of Christ—the blindness of the self-righteous religious leaders. In a few weeks, at the Easter Vigil, the Church will proclaim “Christ our Light” as the paschal candle is carried into darkened churches throughout the world. May the darkness of sin that still pervades our lives, communities, and world, be dispelled by the Christ who comes to bring sight to the blind and light to the world. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

A Note from the Pastor:

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters,

This week, I adapted the entryway of the Church to be a new place of prayer where I offer the Mass each day for the sake of our community and our world. It is a new place of prayer for me, and yet old. The wooden altar dates to the 18th century. As I consecrate the bread and wine there each day, I imagine I’m not the first pastor to pray for his people during a pandemic from that very wooden table. And as I look at the names of the dozens of saints whose relics are there enshrined, I am certain that the saints themselves are practiced and familiar in the art of interceding for those in need.

My dear Church, we have been here before, and we need not be afraid. We need prayer. God never lets us endure anything that isn’t ultimately for our good. This challenge is bringing out the best in people. As I encounter people in the grocery store or on the street, I sense very positive energy. People want to stop and tell each other the latest relevant information. People want to know who is in need and how to help. People want to be prepared to overcome this. There is renewed energy for patience and kindness.

Governor Beshear spoke on Wednesday, “This is our duty. This is the challenge that we face in our lifetimes. None of us have seen anything like this before, but I believe we are up to it. I believe we can do this, but we can only do this when we all do it together. This is a test of the type of neighbors that we are willing to be and I know we are going to get past it.”

I agree wholeheartedly with Governor Beshear. This is an opportunity to be the people God is calling us to be. God is inviting us to watch less basketball and movies, and instead read scripture with our families. He is inviting us to pause and take time for something we don’t ordinarily do—perhaps something we’ve wanted to do for a long time and haven’t had time for. And most of all, he’s asking us to make ourselves aware of who is in need of a phone call, a kind word, or a little help.

As this situation continues, people will eventually need more than a little help. People may need a lot of help. I don’t know what that looks like yet. And so, I’m asking each of us to prepare for radical patience and charity to the neighbor who might be in need. Talk to Jesus and ask Him for insight, patience, wisdom, goodwill and generosity. We are going to need His Holy Spirit as we rise to the challenges ahead. But do not be afraid, Jesus is with us always, even until the end of the age. And he is with us now, helping us to be the best version of ourselves in the face of a challenge that is already bringing us closer together—not farther apart. Peace in Christ, Fr David

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, U.S. Military, Unborn & Elderly, Addictions, Joseph E. Kurtz, Louise Medley, Wassie Parrott, Jane Rudd Volz, Brenda Mackin, Roberta Williams, Jared Mudd, Jerry Craig, Ann Cieslik, Larry Smith, Olivia Montgomery, Margaret Faye Martin, Charlotte Disponett, Carolyn Greene, Marian & Wade Elliott, Sue Carter, Michael & Jennifer Jarboe, Debbie Hamilton, Buddy & Charlotte Smith, Wheatley Hamilton, Frank Peters, Lisa Hill (of Loretto), John Arnold, Jenna T. Wheat, Corbin Noel, Geraldine Spalding, Dorothy Mattingly, Colin Walker, Cassie Robinson, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church’s prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic.

***Fr. David will offer Masses privately in the coming weeks, on his own time, and with no congregation.**

Sunday Mass Intentions will be offered in one Mass.

Mass Intentions for March 23-29, 2020 are as follows:

Monday: Chester Clements

Tuesday: Charlie, Christine & Phil Hamilton

Wednesday: Ned Borders

Thursday: Casey Jones

Friday: NO MASS

Saturday: Gerald, Robert, Charles, Leo & John Essex

Sunday: Gerald & Barbara Fogle, For the Parish, Presider’s Intention

Misc.

~Sunday Contributions from last week (may also include contributions during the week &/or ACH): \$21,654.93