

Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
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4th Sunday of Lent with Benediction to the Blessed Sacrament

11:00 am

April 3, 2011

Intention: +Frank Fidura

Requested by Pat and Steve Zalewski

Healing Intentions:	Michelle Mallory	Lu Luch
	Martha Shuman	Diane Spina
	Lois Bogacki	Bill Moran
	Father John Fetcho	Jean Horan
	Erika Zalewski	Jeanne Klix
	Jon Hall	Josephine Wicks

and all those in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

I Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel: *"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 he!"* Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

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

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; 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.

Reading II

Ephesians 5: 8-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

There was a time when you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Well, then, live as children of light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth. Be correct in your judgment of what pleases the Lord. Take no part in vain deeds done in darkness; rather, condemn them. It is shameful even to mention the things these people do in secret; but when such deeds are condemned, they are seen in the light of day and all that then appears is light. That is why we read:

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

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel

John 9: 1-41

A reading of the holy gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, was it his sin or his parents' that caused him to be born blind?" "*Neither,*" answered Jesus:

"It was no sin, either of this man or of his parents. Rather, it was to let God's works show forth in him. We must do the deeds of him who sent me while it is day. The night comes when no one can work. While I am in the world I am the light of the world."

With that Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva, and smeared the man's eyes with the mud. Then he told him, "*Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.*" (This name means "one who is sent.") So the man went off and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and the people who had been accustomed to see him begging began to ask, "Isn't this the fellow who used to sit and beg?" Some were claiming it was he; others maintained it was not but someone who looked like him. The man himself said, "I'm the one, all right." They said to him then, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered: "That man they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, telling me to go to Siloam and wash. When I did go and wash, I was able to see." "Where is he?" they asked. He replied, "I have no idea."

Next, they took the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. (Note that it was on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened his eyes.) The Pharisees, in turn, began to inquire how he had recovered his sight. He told them, "He put mud on my eyes. I washed it off and now I can see." This prompted some of the Pharisees to assert, "This man cannot be from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others objected, "If a man is a sinner, how can he perform signs like these?" They were sharply divided over him. Then they addressed the blind man again: "Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about him?" "He is a prophet," he replied.

The Jews refused to believe that he had really been born blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents of this man who now could see. "Is this your son?" they asked, "and if so, do you attest that he was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that he now can see?" His parents answered, "We know this is our son, and we know he was blind at birth. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we have no idea. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." (His parents answered in this fashion because they were afraid of the Jews, who had already agreed among themselves, that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That is why his parents said, "He is of age – ask him.")

A second time they summoned the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God! First of all, we know this man is a sinner." "I would not know whether he is a sinner or not," he answered. "I know this much: I was blind before; now I can see." They persisted: "Just what did he do for you? How did he open your eyes?" "I have told you once, but you would not listen to me," he answered them. "Why do you want to hear it all over again? Do not tell me you want to become his disciples too?" They retorted scornfully, "You are the one who is that man's disciple. We are disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man comes from." He came back at them: "Well, this is news! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners, but that if someone is devout and obeys his will he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If this man were not from God, he could never have done such a thing." "What!" they exclaimed, "You are steeped in sin from your birth, and you are giving us lectures?" With that they threw him out bodily.

When Jesus heard of his expulsion, he sought him out and asked him, "*Do you believe in the Son of Man?*" He answered, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" "*You have seen him,*" Jesus replied, "*He is speaking to you now.*" ["I do believe, Lord," he said, and bowed down to worship him. Then Jesus said:]

"I came into this world to divide it, to make the sightless see and the seeing blind."

Some of the Pharisees around him picked this up, saying, "You are not counting us in with the blind, are you?" To which Jesus replied:

"If you were blind there would be no sin in that. 'But we see,' you say, and your sins remain."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts from the Pulpit Christ, the Light of the World

The Gospel today proclaims two wonderful realities: Christ is the Light to the world, and Christ is the generous Giver of the gift of sight, so the receiver, whoever the lucky person might be, could be able to "see" that Light.

There is a frightening amount of darkness in the world today. There are also a frightening number of blind people in the world today.

We want to be in tune with these wonderful words of Jesus Christ: "I am the light of the world," and realize how much we need His light for our own lives and for the world.

At Baptism, the person receives the Light of Christ, and the baptismal candle symbolizes it. At Baptism the person is invited to carry that Light and to use the gift of sight. From Baptism, a person has a new and different look at things, not just to look at mere images and outward appearances, but at the heart of things. (1st Reading)

The Lord who is the Light and Salvation invites us baptized people, equipped with the radically different vision, to use his gift of light and sight. Never mind about appearances, never mind about the cleverly designed public relations image. Baptized Christians should use the gift of sight and "see" the heart of things. God looks at the heart. The blind world looks at appearances and images.

Jesus, help us to walk in the light of faith,
Jesus, help us to walk in the light of hope,
Jesus, help us to walk in the light of love.

The light of faith will find you the way through the chaos, confusion, and darkness of the modern world.

The light of hope will furnish you with strength and perseverance.

The light of love will pour into your heart the happiness and true meaning of life.

Amen!

Announcements

Please join us this morning for the YMS of R Breakfast. At **12:30**, we will adjourn to the sanctuary for the **annual congregational meeting**.

All Sunday breakfasts (sponsored by the YMS of R or SPOJNIA) will now be charging \$5.00 per breakfast, effective immediately.

This week we wish a happy birthday to Paul Zalewski (April 4). STO LAT!!

This Saturday, April 9 is our **Community French Toast breakfast**. Please invite your family and friends to join us for a delicious start to their day.

A mass of Thanksgiving and Reception honoring the Most Reverend Robert Nemkovitch will be held on Sunday, May 1 beginning at 4:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, please see the information posted on the sanctuary door. Thank you.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, April 4

Happy birthday to Paul Zalewski! STO LAT!!!

Wednesday, April 6

4:00 pm Choir practice 

Thursday, April 7

5:00 Polish language class @ Solvay Youth Center,
Woods Road, Solvay

Friday, April 8



Saturday, April 9

8:30 – noon Community French Toast Breakfast

Sunday, April 10

**Passion Sunday – 5th Sunday of Lent
with General Confession**

10:30

Youth Bible Study

11:00

Holy Mass with General Confession

12:00

SPOJNIA Breakfast

12:30

Adult Bible Study

**Community French Toast Breakfast
Saturday, April 9**

**Community Polish Dinner
Saturday, April 30**

Financial Corner

Week of	Weekly Income	Weekly Income Needed	Balance
March 6	\$821	\$677	\$144
March 13	\$654	\$677	-\$23
March 20	\$398	\$677	-\$279
March 27	\$1280	\$677	\$603
TOTAL	\$3153	\$2708	\$445