



Ow'r Parish COMMUNITY

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



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."

JOHN 9:39

I See

Do we? Do we really see? Do we understand? There is so much that is simply misunderstood or unnoticed. Little about life is uncomplicated, and even that which is uncomplicated so often slips right by us. This is true about a life lived alone or with others. It is also true about our life with God.

The first reading is an example of this. God will choose one of the sons of Jesse to be king. Will it be the eldest, the rightful heir? If not him, perhaps it will be the brightest one or the most pious. All of these highly valued characteristics would certainly be necessary for one to be an effective king. However, Jesse and his sons did not see in the same way as God. Their youngest brother, the one tending the sheep, would be God's choice. He was the one God wanted, and so David was anointed in the presence of his family.

The Gospel tells another story about seeing. In it, Jesus restores a man's sight. What began as a story about physical blindness and sight then becomes a lesson about seeing and understanding the mystery of God's power as opposed to refusing to see and understand it. No one in the story could claim that the man had not really been blind. Then why did they refuse to acknowledge that God's power had done something marvelous in their presence? But they did refuse. We can, indeed, choose to be blind.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Does bias make you blind to the gifts of others?
- ★ Do you find it difficult to recognize the power of God as it unfolds before you? Why?

Dear Padre,

Why does the Church honor St. Joseph?

Saint Joseph was chosen by the Lord to be the spouse of Mary and a guardian of the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ. The little we know about Joseph is taken from the Gospels. In the Book of Matthew, we learn that Mary is betrothed to Joseph, “a righteous man” (Matthew 1:19). When Joseph learns



that Mary is already with child, he decides to dismiss her quietly so as not to disgrace her publicly. But an angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream and tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife and informs him that she will bear the child of the Holy Spirit, the one who will come to save people from their sins. Joseph obeys the angel without question.

Joseph heeds God’s call once again when instructed by an angel of the Lord to flee Bethlehem to escape the murderous Herod. Matthew tells us: “Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt” (Matthew 2:14).

It is this faithfulness, this steadfast and complete trust in God, that makes Joseph such a wonderful example for us, and for this, the Church honors him.

—Fr. Paul Coury, CSSR
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Calendar

Monday

MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17–21

Jn 4:43–54

Tuesday

MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1–9, 12

Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday

MARCH 25

The Annunciation
of the Lord

Is 7:10–14; 8:10

Heb 10:4–10

Lk 1:26–38

Thursday

MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

Ex 32:7–14

Jn 5:31–47

Friday

MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12–22

Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

Saturday

MARCH 28

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18–20

Jn 7:40–53

Sunday

MARCH 29

Fifth Sunday
of Lent

Ez 37:12–14

Rom 8:8–11

Jn 11:1–45 or

Jn 11:3–7, 17,

20–27, 33b–45



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? ...And those of us who do have a home, a roof over our heads, would also do well to ask: Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live?

—MEETING WITH THE HOMELESS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015