

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

In today's gospel, Jesus met and cured a man born blind. If I am going to ask you, how many blind men are in our gospel today. I am sure that your answer would be one because there is only one identified as blind person. But I would rather say that it is more than one if we go deeper with our reflection. I think there are four of them. The first group of blind is the apostles. They are blind because they asked Jesus: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind? Instead of asking the most important question: How can we help this blind man? The Jewish people believed that sickness and even more would be a punishment for the sins of the parents. Jesus rejects both opinions. It is the same with us. We are surrounded with so many injustices, poverty, exploitation and even suppression but we just say: "They are poor because they are lazy."

The second group of blind is his parents, relatives and neighbors. Even though they witnessed that it was Jesus who cured the blind man, they refused to say it. It is because of their fear of being expelled from the synagogue by the Pharisees. They are afraid to say that this man was cured by Jesus Himself whom this blind man considered as the prophet. They are like those Catholics who don't have backbones. Their personal interests, cowardice and fear blind them.

The third group of blind is the Pharisees. They refuse to acknowledge that Jesus had performed the miracle of restoring sight to the blind man. They suspended their belief because of their prejudices and biases against Him. Instead they call Jesus a sinner because He violated the law of the Sabbath. So, they are blind to the truth already in their eyes.

The fourth blind is blind man himself who was cured by Jesus because of his faith and trust in Him. Though he was blind physically, he could see with his heart. The other three could see with their eyes but not with their hearts as fear, cowardice, prejudices, biases and their own selfish interests blinded them.

If we are these four types of blind, we can have two different kinds of blindness: physical blindness as represented by the blind man himself and spiritual blindness as represented by the other three groups.

Spiritual blindness could be that we could not see with our own hearts. Lenten season is a season of light that one can cure his/her blindness through this season. I don't see any blind person here, but I am sure you are blind like the apostles, Pharisees,

relatives, parents and neighbors of blind man who was cured. If you are, then, recognize and ask the Lord: "Lord, I want to see."

Fr. Saju Oreethaparambil

Mass for the Intentions Week

Monday, March 23

Denis Keane.	req Denis
Nucci Armanto	req Carmelina Sottile
Michelle Sottile	req Carmelina Sottile

Tuesday, March 24

Francis Mascarenhas	req Jessy and Jonathan de Braganca
Anna Phan	req Kim Anh Phan

Wednesday, March 25

Nancy Laing	req Rita Molinaro
John the Baptist Phan	req Kim Anh Phan

Thursday, March 26

John Phan	req Kim Anh Phan
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Friday, March 27

Soul of Lydia Montecillo	req Yaying and family
In memory of Arnolfo Pinero	
Imelda Rosos	req Mercy Hernandez
Amelia Chow	req Mercy Hernandez

Saturday, March 28

Theresa Williams	req Williams Family
Joseph Nguyen and Mary Vu	req Kim Anh Phan
Zenaida Altura	req Frank and Fe Barrientos
Jaime Sumalague	req Flora and Jay Barrientos

Sunday, March 29

St. Charles Garnier Parish Community

Please Note: Fr. Saju will continue to pray for all intentions during this outbreak of the COVID-19.

Please visit our website at www.stcharlesgarnier.com for more information and announcement.



**OUR SANCTUARY LAMP
BURNS THIS WEEK FOR
HEALING
NORA DIMAUNAHAN
REQUESTED BY
SACRED HEART DIVINE
MERCY**

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns continually in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in our Church. You may dedicate our Sanctuary Lamp for a special prayer intention of yours or for a deceased loved one. We will publish the **Sanctuary Lamp Intentions** in the bulletin each week. Suggested donation for the Sanctuary Lamp is as follows:

One Week - \$25
One Month - \$100

Please call or see Flo in the parish office to request an intention or for more information.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it."

John 1:5



**PARISH
SUPPORT**

For March 8/9, 2020

Total Collection \$2,255.00

Thank you for your continued financial and spiritual support to St. Charles Garnier Parish



COME, LORD JESUS! Bible Study

If interested, contact Fr. Saju. by [email-soreethap@gmail.com](mailto:soreethap@gmail.com)

HOLY WEEK EXPENSES & EASTER FLOWERS

As we prepare to decorate the Church for the Easter Season, we are accepting donations from parishioners. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please put your donation in the envelopes with your name, envelope number. Thank you for your help.

ST. CHARLES PRAYER GROUP

Fr. Saju likes to meet with all those who want to support the extended hours of adoration and form a prayer group ministry in our parish.. A meeting will be scheduled at a future date. "The prayer of a righteous man pierce the heavens." (James 5:16)

PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

*They cried to the Lord in their trouble,
And he saved them from their distress;
He sent out his word and healed them,
And delivered them from destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
For his wonderful works to humankind.
Psalm 107:19-21*

Prayer of the Faithful: March 22 - 4th Sunday of Lent

1. For God's protection for all of God's children, for the health and safety of everyone during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we pray to the Lord.
2. For continuous coordinated efforts among individuals, nations and societies as we all work together to prevent further spread of the coronavirus, we pray to the Lord.
3. For healthcare workers and all who are on the front-lines, especially those in positions of vulnerability as they work to serve their neighbors, we pray to the Lord.
4. That in addition to following all the recommendations of the healthcare professionals, we also remember to appeal to God in prayer, we pray to the Lord.
5. For those who are sick and suffering, especially for those who are isolated and without help, for their healing, we pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died, for eternal rest for their souls, and for peace and comfort for those they left behind, we pray to the Lord.