

Sacrament of Baptism
Usually during or after a Sunday Liturgy. Call the office to arrange a date and time.

Sacrament of Matrimony
Must participate in Diocesan Preparation Program. Call the office six months before setting date. One of the parties must be a registered practicing Catholic member of this parish.

Sacrament of the Sick
Please keep us informed of the sick and shut-ins especially when there is serious illness.

Moving Parishioners
Please notify office of any change in address.

Religious Ed. Classes
St. John Bosco
Classes are from 9:00—10:15 am Sunday from Sept. through Apr.
Immaculate Conception
Immediately following the 8:30 am Sunday Liturgy from Sept.—Apr.

Rosary Society
St. John Bosco
2nd Tuesday—6:30 pm
Immaculate Conception
3rd Tuesday—6:30 pm

Holy Name Society
2nd Sunday — 6:30 pm

Prayer Line
Call Parish Office
693-9578

Homebound Communion:
At Ege: Call Jeryl Marshall at 693-6365.
At St. John's: Call Scott Raber at 403-2624

SVDP FOOD PANTRY:
Wed. 3:30-5:00 pm

EGE CEMETERY:
John Konger—693-3790
Ryan Konger—693-0694

St. John & Immaculate Bosco Conception Catholic Church

Churubusco, Indiana

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:00 & 10:30 am

Weekday

Monday & Friday 8:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm
1st Saturday 8:00 am

Holydays

Eve 7:00 pm
Day 8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sat. 4:15-4:45 pm; after Friday am Mass

Parish Ministry Team

Religious Education

Director, Joan Norden.....609-3950
Assistant, Deb Humphries.....693-9609

Music Director, Steve Palmer.....438-8710

SVDP Food Pantry

.....693-9578

Marriage Preparation

Darrin & Kelly Geiger.....615-0978

Custodian

Toni Folds416-2244

Ege, Indiana

Mass Schedule

Saturday..... 7:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am

Weekday

Tuesday.....8:00 am & Thursday..... 7:00 pm

Holydays

Evening 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 8:15 am; after Thursday am Mass

Parish Ministry Team

Religious Education Coordinator

Judy Egolf..... 705-4577

Email: judylegolf@yahoo.com

Music Director

Beth Konger.....693-2724

SVDP Food Pantry

Francis Bianski.....693-3937

Youth Group Leaders of Both Parishes:

Niki Kiester.....615-4272

Email: niki@46graphics.com

Janean Vernon.....705-0859

Email: janeanv@embarqmail.com

(EGE) Paul Sade.....609-5607

Email: sadep@sgcs.k12.in.us

Rectory & Office

216 North Main Street • Churubusco, Indiana 46723

Phone: 693-9578 • Email Address: saintjohn.bosco@gmail.com

Pastor • Rev. Francis Chukwuma • Secretary • Diana Muehlfield
(Mon., Wed., Fri. 10-5) 260-693-9578 (Home No.—260-691-3435)

PARISH WEBSITES: stjohnboscochurubusco.org & iccege.org



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT • MARCH 22, 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Fellow pilgrims, as we journey together during these challenging times, let us take a moment to reflect on this Sunday's reading and liturgy. I figured I will make it a long reading of two pages since we have a lot of free time on our hands at present. Now, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is also known as *Laetare* Sunday, since its readings and liturgy remind us of the joys of the season, in spite of its penitential nature. Providentially, this seems like the message we need to hear at this period, not only because of the challenging Lenten disciplines we have taken up, but also because of the challenging coronavirus pandemic that is ravaging the world currently. This joyous note then is a message of hope for us, beckoning us to do what is humanly possible to help contain the spread of the virus, while at the same time also trusting on the perpetual loving and caring presence of our loving Savior, who heals and restores all things to life, just as he healed the man born blind. Like Jesus, we need also to be sources of this hope and joy to our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ and in the community through our reaching out to them with calls, emails, etc., especially as churches are closed and opportunities of gathering and meeting are reduced. In this way, we look out for one another, assist anyone that might need some help, and thus live out practical Christianity that enriches, restores, renews, heals and evangelizes. The Parish Council members of both our parishes will be checking up on you in this regard at this time.

As we know, the Latin word *Laetare* can mean 'rejoice,' and it is from the opening word of the Introit (Is 66:10). So, as the Sunday is called *Laetare* because of the note of joy that is integral to the suffering accompanying the Lenten and Easter mysteries, our sincere acts of mercy and kindness to others, especially at this challenging time, will also bring satisfying comfort and deep delight in the midst of people's suffering (Is 66:11). Actually, this is the joy that also subsists in all Christian sufferings, as expressed in this Sunday's story of the man born blind (Jn 9:1-41).

The story is very interesting especially in its reference to unexplained human suffering, asking the question, whether it was the man or the parents that sinned (Jn 9:2-3). Sometimes these problems come uninvited and from sources we cannot explain, just as the current COVID-19 has not been authentically identified with regards to its origin and its spreading. Equally, the issue of suffering expressed in the readings also pointed to the reason why we consciously take up some sacrifices as mortification and self-denial, as the Lenten season demands of us (Jn 9:3). Suffering is a mystery and cannot be fully understood. But one good thing is that Christian suffering is redemptive since it is joined to the salvific suffering of Jesus and thus our sufferings become efficacious and for the glory of God. And the same conclusion can be advanced also for each of the three hallmarks of the Lenten season. Take for instance fasting, which is one of them.

Basically, when we talk of fasting, it does not always mean fasting from food. It could be fasting from internet surfing, fasting from much talking, fasting from constant quarrel, etc. However, it is instructive that the first area of Jesus' temptation was on food (Mtt 4:3). So, fasting from food has a prominent place in the order of fasting for that reason. Now St. Peter Chrysologus, after stating that prayer, fasting and mercy is a unit and that fasting is the soul of prayer while mercy is the life of fasting, said: "*Let us seek by fasting what we have lost by our contempt. Let us immolate our souls by fasting, because we can offer nothing better to God. Offer your soul to God: offer the oblation of fasting. Do this to make your soul a pure victim, a holy sacrifice, a living*

(From the Pastor's Desk continued)

victim, which remains yours while it is given to God. The man who fails to offer this gift to God will have no excuse, for he who will give himself is unable to suffer want. But to make those gifts acceptable, follow them up with mercy. Fasting does not germinate unless watered by mercy... The man who is fasting may prepare his heart, cleanse his flesh, weed out his vices, and sow virtues. Nevertheless, if he does not sprinkle his plants with streams of mercy, he does not gather his harvest..." (Sermon 43); thus, the call to fast as in Joel 1:14 and Isaiah 58:3-9.

Another point to consider is that as the Samaritan woman in last Sunday's gospel gradually progressed in knowing Jesus (Jn 4:4-42), the man born blind also grew gradually in his spiritual insight; growing from the vague perception of the savior as the man called Jesus (Jn 9:11) to the proclamation of Jesus as a prophet and finally as the Lord whom we worship (Jn 9:35-38). Like Samuel in the first reading (1 Sam 16:6-7), our spiritual eyes also gradually come to be opened to see as God sees, when we begin to live as children of light, avoiding sins and darkness, and allowing Christ to shine on us (Eph 5:8-14).

Apart from the foregoing, we can also consider another interesting perspective here, with regards to Samuel's vision. We may have noticed that sometimes we make judgment about a person based solely from our distant perspective and sighting. Such was Samuel's undoing when he saw the handsome and manly-imposing son of Jesse, Eliab. He was quick to say that surely he would be the Lord's anointed (1 Sam 16:6-7). But we know how the story ended, for it was the young and weak-looking David who the Lord had selected to be king (1 Sam 16:11-12). We know how we have made such mistakes with regards to a newcomer in our community, our parish, our school, our company; a poorly-looking housekeeper, cleaner, hostess, gardener, unskilled worker, etc. They could be the person who will help us or our children or family in an unforeseeable situation, if we get to know them. Thus, this is a lesson for us on getting closer to know somebody in order to have the true insight about that person. This is what the dialogue between the Samaritan woman and Jesus in last Sunday's reading, also enabled her to know that the man she met at the well was Jesus the Messiah (Jn 4:25), just as the Samaritan people that came to Jesus declared that he was the savior after coming closer to hear and encounter him (Jn 4:40-42). Equally, this was what the dialogue between the man born blind and Jesus in this Sunday's gospel enabled him to eventually know that the man who cured him was Jesus.

Finally, as we are staying home without the option of weekend and weekday Masses, be reminded that there are a lot of free reflections on the scripture readings one can use on a daily basis online. For instance, the *Magnificat* is offering their reflection online free for this whole period. Also, be reminded that our diocese will be streaming or televising TV Masses at www.diocesefwsb.org/TV-Mass and will keep giving us updates with regards to COVID-19 at www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19. Thanks everyone and may God be our strength and safety at this time! Be safe!

Fr. Francis

WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE

4th Sunday of Lent/March 22, 2020
4º Domingo de la Cuaresma/22 de marzo de 2020

SUNDAY’S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

“Not as man sees does God see,
 because man sees the appearance
 but the Lord looks into the heart.” (1 Sm 16:7b)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

Second Reading:

“Awake, O sleeper,
 and arise from the dead,
 and Christ will give you light.” (Eph 5:14b)

Gospel:

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
 he found him and said,
 “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (Jn 9:35)

Mass Intentions
 Please note that any Mass Intentions that are on my calendar that are not said due to the suspension of services will be rescheduled once we get back to normal. If you had scheduled one for a special date and want to request a new date, please call the parish office at 693-9578; otherwise they will be scheduled as best I can.

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the week of March 22, 2020

- Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/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 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Observances for the week of March 22, 2020

- Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent
- Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Weekly Collection

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