Saint Paul Parish Iglesia San Pablo

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. - Jn 3:20-21

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Sharing the Gospel

When the Hebrews sinned in the desert, snakes came to bite them. Moses lifted up a metal snake in the desert. If God's people looked at the metal snake, their painful snake bites would be healed. Instead of dying from their snake bites, they would live. Our sins are a lot like those snake bites. Sins turn us away from God, hurt us, and hurt other people. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, he washed our sins away. Jesus gave us healing and forgiveness. We don't need to die from our sins. We can believe in Jesus, follow God with our whole hearts, and live forever.

Prayer: God, thank you for sending Jesus to wash away my sins.

Something to Draw: Draw a picture of Jesus on the cross. Around the cross, write down your sins in pencil, then erase them. This will show that Jesus has washed all of your sins away.

Mission for the Week: Help your parents wash dishes. As you take dirty dishes and wash them clean, talk about how Jesus washed our sins away on the cross.

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Fourth Sunday of Lent

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin. ©LPi

Cuarto Domingo de la Cuaresma

"Despierta, tú que duermes, levántate de entre los muertos y la luz de Cristo brillará sobre ti" (Efesios 5:14). Este domingo nos invita a pasar de inmediato de la ceguera a la luz. De la falta de fe a creer. "Mientras estoy en el mundo, soy la luz del mundo" (Juan 9:5). Jesús vino al mundo para que los ciegos puedan ver la luz que es su camino. Ojalá, que abramos nuestros ojos a los acontecimientos que estamos viviendo y veamos las cosas como el Señor las ve. Lo cierto es que solo Dios nos ayuda a ver la realidad cotidiana. Tanta cosa pasa y seguimos de cabeza, duros de creer. Necesitamos la humildad del ciego, quien ante la pregunta de Jesús sobre si creía en el Hijo del Hombre, contestó sin titubear: "Creo, Señor, se arrodilló ante el" (Juan 9:38).

Arrodillarnos en familia y comunidad en este 2121, para agradecer a Dios todos sus beneficios. Hemos sufrido mucho durante esta pandemia; pero no hemos estado solos, Dios nos ha acompañado en el proceso de sanación. El Papa Francisco en su homilía de marzo de 2017 hizo estas preguntas: "¿Creéis que Jesús es el Hijo de Dios? ¿Creéis que puede cambiaros el corazón? ¿Creéis que puede hacer ver la realidad como la ve Él, no como la vemos nosotros? ¿Creéis que Él es la luz, nos da la verdadera luz?" ¿Qué responderíais? Que cada uno responda en su corazón. Durante la semana, reflexionemos sobre estas preguntas que el Papa Francisco recomienda para vivir en la luz de Cristo. ©LPi

Readings for the week of March 14, 2021

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 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 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Awake, O Sleeper!

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Daylight Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You're still half-lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you're ready to give.

I've said it, and I'm sure you've said it, too. "Just five more minutes." You hit the "snooze" button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window.

So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness.

Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him.

Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there's no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad.

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we're getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the "snooze" button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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Counseling Services

Bloom Township offers counseling services in their office at 425 S Halsted, Chicago Heights, IL 60411, please call at 708-709-7286.

Misas de la Semana † Masses for the Week

Saturday/sabado March/marzo 13, 2021

6:30	+Maricela Álvarez
	+Ma. De Jesús Vázquez Muñoz
	+Salvador Muñoz
	+Martin Villegas

Sunday / domingo March 14, 2021

8:00	+Guadalupe Méndez
	+Jesús de la Paz
	+Ma. De la Luz Muñoz Muñiz
	+Angelita Salinas
10:00	+Ryan Edward Ochoa
	+Basilia Duarte
	+Shirley Burbage
12:00	En Acción de Gracias Familia Ramírez Guzmán
	+Maurilio Rodríguez
	+Ma. Concepción Valadez
	+Federico Sahagún
2:00	Por las Animas del Purgatorio
	+Ma. Dolores Navarro Sánchez
	+Vicente Horta Rodríguez

Pastor/Párroco
Rev. Orlando Flores

Associate Pastor/Vicario
Rev. Misabet Garcia Gil

Deacon/Diácono
Martin Horta

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Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent, at **7:00 PM** in the Church.

Vía Crucis

(en Español)

Los viernes de Cuaresma a las **7:00 PM** en la Iglesia

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