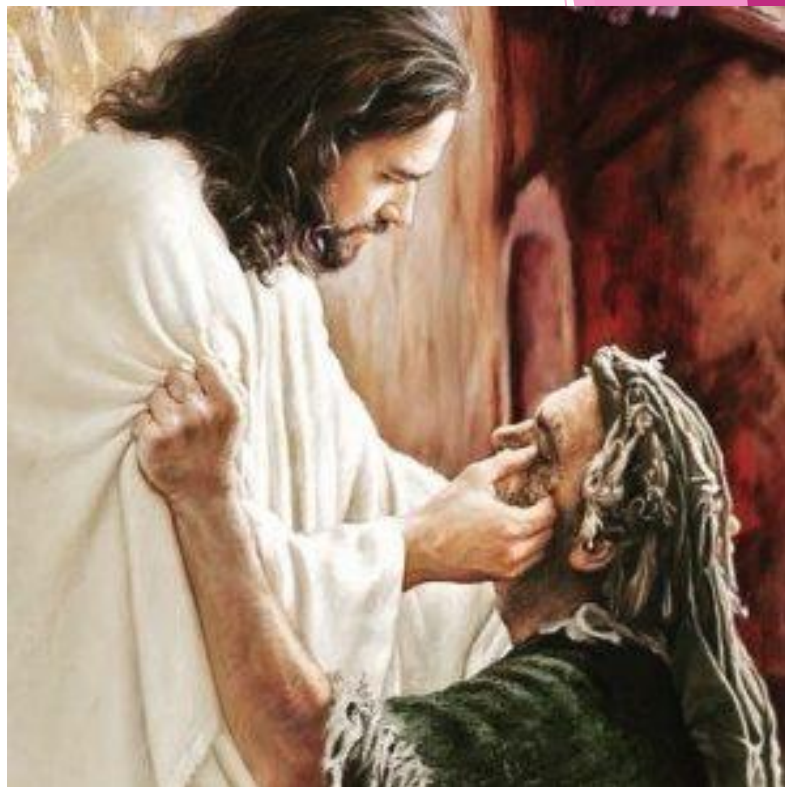


# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Lent



## PARISH INFORMATION

18211 S Henrici RD  
Oregon City OR 97045  
PHONE: 503-631-2882  
FAX: 503-631-7443

EMAIL:  
stphilipbenizi\_redland@archdpdx.org

**Pastor:** Fr. Paschal Ezurike

Email: pezurike@archdpdx.org

**Parish Staff**

**Business Manager:** Mary Pattyn

503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdpdx.org

**Secretary:** Sherrie Havens

503-631-2882

shavens@archdpdx.org

**RE Director:** Melissa Payne

503-631-2882

mbear@archdpdx.org

**Music Director:** Debbie Schaffer

(C) 503-887-7701

**Youth Minister:** Katy Schnoor

(C) 503-314-8907

**Pastoral Council President:**

Matt Anderson

**Administrative Council Chair:**

Dan Sweeney

**Adoration:** Janet Tankersley

(C) 503-545-2229

**Minister Volunteer Coordinators**

**Altar Servers:** Don Payne

(H) 503-632-4370

**Prayer Requests:** Peggy St Andre

503-631-3531

**Email Prayer Chain:** Heather Hannam

hahannam@juno.com

## **MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm Mass

Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am Mass

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri - 8am Mass

Tuesday - 6:30pm Mass

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturdays – 4:00-5:00pm or by Appointment

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**

Thursdays – 8:30am-10pm (*ends with Benediction*)

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

If you or someone you know is homebound, wants to receive Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the parish office, 503-631-2882.

**Baptisms:** Call the Parish Office.

**Funerals:** Call the Parish Office.

**Weddings:** Call Fr. Paschal at least 6 months in advance of the planned date.

**St. Philip Benizi Website:** [www.philipbenizi.com](http://www.philipbenizi.com)

**God is good! All the time! All the time, God is good.**

**Dear friends in Christ, in last Sunday's gospel, Jesus the Living Water completely transformed the life of the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob. The Only Begotten Son of God ultimately fulfilled her search for the truth. The Messiah is with us to transform and to save us. No one who sincerely encounters the Savior remains the same. Also, in last Sunday's first reading, the people of Israel had enough water to quench their ineffable thirst because Moses, with God's grace, provided for them. From the two readings, it is evident that God did not create us to handle the troubles of this life journey on our own but to cast our burdens upon Him and allow him to care for us.**

**As we continue the Lenten journey, today's liturgical readings focus on the eternal light. The living Light of Christ should illumine us to see what we should see to make the proper judgment. In the first reading (1 Samuel:16), God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons. Jesse presents his seven sons before Samuel, and Samuel thinks Eliab is the one. But the Lord reminds Samuel that lofty stature is not God's measure of success, for 'the Lord looks into the heart' rather than at the exterior appearance. When none of the seven proved to be the chosen one, Samuel queried, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep."**

**According to man's judgment, the young shepherd, David, regarded as the most unlikely candidate, was tending the sheep. When David appears, the Lord pronounces: "This is the one." Immediately, Samuel anoints David in the presence of his family to establish that David is filled with the spirit of the Lord. At David's anointing, the first reading tells us, "The spirit of the Lord rushed upon David." Indicating, henceforth, for all to know that David's power and authority came from God. In this reading, we recognize God's manifestation by choosing the lowly to confound the mighty.**

**St. Paul, in the second reading, writes to the Ephesians and the entire Christian world. He encourages Christ's followers who initially denied the Light of faith but are now enlightened through their baptism, to live boldly like the Children of Light. Such people should avoid the darkness of sin. Indeed, it is clear that what they do in daylight is more easily seen and esteemed. The reading says, "Brothers and sisters: You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as Children of Light, for Light produces every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth."**

**In today's gospel, it will be tough for those blessed with eyesight to understand how it is with people that are blind, like the long story of the blind man that we read today in John 9:1-41. It is very disheartening that even amid the challenging situation he finds himself in, he is being blamed all his life for his blindness. Think about what the world is like for him and his feelings.**

**In the gospel passage, a man born blind regains his sight after encountering Jesus, the true and eternal Light of the world. Jesus makes it known to all that the blindness is not because of his sins or that of his parents; instead, "it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."**

**Jesus said, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." With this declaration, Jesus conveys that no shadow of darkness should envelop the world since he is the world's Light. Therefore, if one with solid faith completely accepts that Jesus is the Light of the world and stays with trust within Jesus' perimeter as the blind man did, that person's life is transformed for the better. The blind man stood firm with conviction, and his strong responses to his opponents showed he was ready to approach Jesus.**

**During the encounter, he called Jesus a prophet whose power came from God. When asked a second time, his clear response was, "I told you already, and you did not listen," placing him among Jesus' disciples. In his final encounter with Jesus, the erstwhile blind man assents to faith with the words, "I do believe, Lord."**

*Continued on page 7*

# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 3/19/2023

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners  
10:30am Mass: +Edelmira Ayala (Karla Vazques)

## Monday, 3/20/2023 Solemnity of St. Joseph

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +John B. Marshall & Velma V. Marshall (Joseph Marshall)

## Tuesday, 3/21/2023

6:30pm Mass: +Steven Schutt (Veronica Kohler)  
7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

## Wednesday, 3/22/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +All Souls (Alexander Family)

## Thursday, 3/23/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +David McCullan Sr. (Erin McCullan)

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

8:30am-10:00pm:

Eucharistic Adoration



## Friday, 3/24/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Mr. & Mrs. Walter Butler  
6:00pm: Soup Supper/Hall  
7:00pm: Stations of the Cross

## Saturday, 3/25/2023 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
5:30pm Mass: +Jerry Russick (Becky Wooten)

## Sunday, 3/26/2023

8:00am Mass: +William Pattyn (Claire & Grace Pattyn)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

### **Easter Flower envelopes are in the pews.**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>:** Catholic Relief Services Collection

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** Soup supper at 6:00 hosted by the Pastoral Council & Liturgy group. Followed by stations of the cross at 7pm.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>:** No Religious Education classes



## Travel with Fr. Paschal Ezurike, on our Pilgrimage to Ireland and England

Where: Galway, Our Lady of Knock, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Dingle Peninsula, Dublin, Downpatrick, City of Belfast  
Trip Dates: August 11-August 21, 2023 Cost: \$4,999.00 To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com).

This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to **reveal Christ's love** to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

**40 Cans for Lent.** Helping Hands is in need of donations for the Easter baskets, deadline for items is Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>. Food items in need are: flour, sugar, pancake mix, oil, syrup, canned fruit, jam/jelly, soups, ham, turkeys, laundry soap, shampoo and conditioner. Also Easter grass, plastic eggs, candy, small basket gifts, and \$10 gift cards to McDonalds, Wendy's or Taco Bell. Thank you for your generous contributions!

### Lenten Confession Schedules

St. Philip Benizi: Tues. 7-8pm, Sat. 4-5pm  
Our Lady of LaVang: Mon.-Sat. 7:30am-finished & 6-7:00pm  
Christ the King: Sun. 7:45-8:45am, Tues. 5-5:45pm, Thurs. 5-5:45pm, Sat. 3pm-5pm  
St. John the Baptist: Thurs. 6-7:30pm, Sat. 2:30-3:30  
St. John the Apostle: Friday 5pm-finished, Sat. 3:30-4:30, Sun. 11:30-finished, 1:30-finished (Spanish)

### Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 3/12/2023 Actual	Budget
Donors 58	\$5,245 (online: \$1,305)	\$5,165
Fiscal Year	\$179,398	\$176,185

### Next Weeks Assignments

#### Ushers

3/25~5:30am: Matt Anderson

3/26~8:00am: Jim Charriere

3/26~10:30am: Kevin Horace

#### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam

John Buxman

Dan Sweeney

#### Extraordinary

Becky Wooten

Kristine Bible

Helen Sweeney

**March Church Cleaners:** Janet Tankersly (503-545-2229)

**March Altar Linens:** Michelle Harrington (971-409-5664)



3/26 9:00am: Team Mary Lou

11:30am: James and Kathie





## Coming of Age, Coming of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**I**t is said we never become a believer before age thirty-five. I don't think there is anything magical about that age. Some in their seventies still have not yet come to be people of faith, and there are those who, at a very young age, seem to have entrusted their lives to God. What the age of thirty-five does say, however, is that most people need to have lived a while and experienced a few ups and downs to recognize there is a power in their lives greater than themselves.

This week's Gospel story of the man born blind encapsulates a lifelong journey of coming to see who Jesus is, compressed into a few days. When asked who cured him of blindness, the man first says the man Jesus did it. Brought to testify before the Pharisees, he says that Jesus must be a prophet. Confronted by the

Pharisees a second time, he testifies that Jesus must be of God. Finally, when he sees Jesus again, he calls him Lord, a name for God. The story is a parable of sorts about how we come to have faith, to see with new and different eyes.

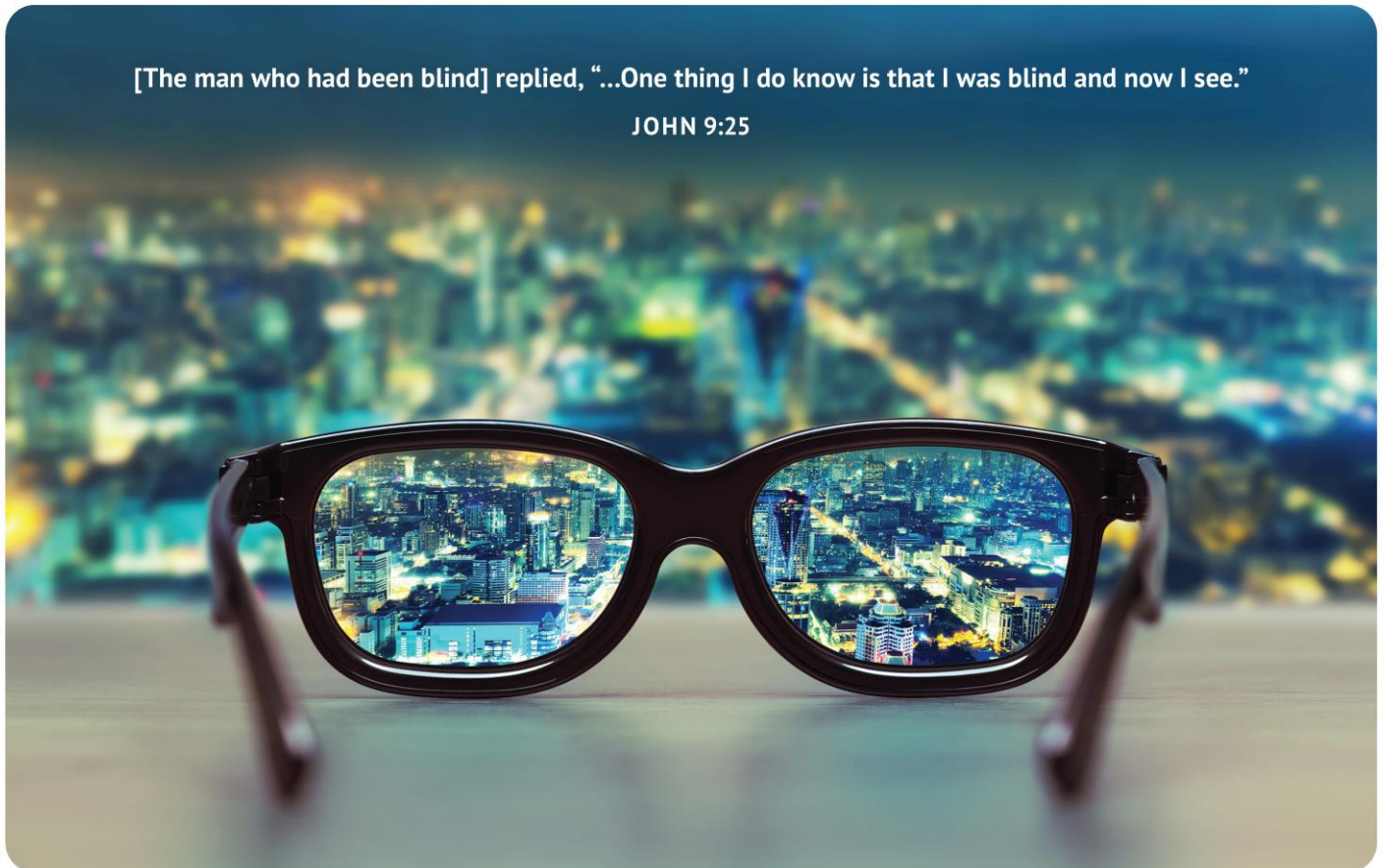
Faith involves trusting, sometimes trusting an unseen Power who feels absent at times; about surrendering control over our lives to God, as we come to see in an entirely new way. It can take a lifetime to begin seeing in such a way. ●

### Reflect

*Where am I on the journey of faith?  
How open are my eyes?*

[The man who had been blind] replied, "...One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

JOHN 9:25



# Dear Padre,

***Why should I bother to be more religious? I'm a good person. Isn't that enough to get me into heaven?***

When asked for advice about how people should decide on a vocation, St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, said they should do an imagination exercise. "Imagine that you are on your deathbed," he said. "From that point of view what would you wish you had done in your life?" That is still good advice.

Here's another exercise: Imagine you have a grandmother who is completely generous and caring toward you. Throughout your childhood, she was always there for you. But as a teen you belittled her and, in effect, told her that all she had offered is worthless to you. In a saner moment, won't you feel terrible about how you treated her?

Our life with God is much the same. God has given us absolutely everything, from our existence to every breath we take. God has also given us a way to know him through his Son, Jesus (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 73). And one way we know Jesus is through the Church and the celebration of the sacraments (CCC 1085). To refuse these gifts, to say, "I am already a good person. I don't need these gifts from God" is a bit presumptuous, don't you think?

To be "religious" is not just an outward show of piety. It's the way we have been given to learn God's language: the language of forgiveness, of faith, hope, and love. ●



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

**Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26
<i>St. Joseph</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16	Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30	Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47	Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a						



### **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***We complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves....Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. If we are blind, we cannot claim to be guides and teachers for others: indeed, a blind person cannot lead another blind person....***

**ANGELUS, FEBRUARY 27, 2022**

**ON KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY HOLY****“Shabbat”: the Creator’s joyful rest**

12. In the Creator’s plan, there is both a distinction and a close link between the order of creation and the order of salvation. This is emphasized in the Old Testament, when it links the “shabbat” commandment not only with God’s mysterious “rest” after the days of creation (cf. Ex 20:8-11), but also with the salvation which he offers to Israel in the liberation from the slavery of Egypt (cf. Dt 5:12-15). The God who rests on the seventh day, rejoicing in his creation, is the same God who reveals his glory in liberating his children from Pharaoh’s oppression. Adopting an image dear to the Prophets, one could say that in both cases God reveals himself as the bridegroom before the bride (cf. Hos 2:16-24; Jer 2:2; Is 54:4-8).

As certain elements of the same Jewish tradition suggest, to reach the heart of the “shabbat”, of God’s “rest”, we need to recognize in both the Old and the New Testament the nuptial intensity which marks the relationship between God and his people. Hosea, for instance, puts it thus in this marvelous passage: “I will make for you a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord” (2:18-20).

**“God blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (Gn 2:3)**

13. The Sabbath precept, which in the first Covenant prepares for the Sunday of the new and eternal Covenant, is therefore rooted in the depths of God’s plan. This is why, unlike many other precepts, it is set not within the context of strictly cultic stipulations but within the Decalogue, the “ten words” which represent the very pillars of the moral life inscribed on the human heart. In setting this commandment within the context of the basic structure of ethics, Israel and then the Church declare that they consider it not just a matter of community religious discipline but a defining and indelible expression of our relationship with God, announced and expounded by biblical revelation. This is the perspective within which Christians need to rediscover this precept today. Although the precept may merge naturally with the human need for rest, it is faith alone which gives access to its deeper meaning and ensures that it will not become banal and trivialized.

**(POPE ST. JOHN PAUL 11, Apostolic letter on Dies Domini, July 30, 1998).**

**REFLECTION OF THE WEEK**

"It is imperative for all to listen, obey and follow Jesus, the Eternal Light. Therefore, as the Eternal Light commands, let's wash in the pool of Siloam. With humility and courage, in this season of grace, let us approach the healing pool of the sacrament of reconciliation, confess our sins, and receive healing of the blindness that obstructs us from beholding Jesus, the Eternal Light of the world, and all the marvelous and incredible things he offers." --- Fr. Paschal Ezurike.

**St. Philip Benizi Mission Statement**

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church being part of the universal church shares in its mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ who came to the world to fulfill His father’s will; by proclaiming the kingdom of God, building up the parish community as a witness to God’s love and care for the world, helping one another to become what God has called us to be. We are therefore encouraged to work toward God’s purpose of “wanting all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:4).

### "The keys of the kingdom"

From the beginning of his public life Jesus chose certain men, twelve in number, to be with him and to participate in his mission. He gives the Twelve a share in his authority and "sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal." They remain associated for ever with Christ's kingdom, for through them he directs the Church:

As my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. CCC 551

Simon Peter holds the first place in the college of the Twelve; Jesus entrusted a unique mission to him. Through a revelation from the Father, Peter had confessed: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Our Lord then declared to him: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." Christ, the "living Stone", thus assures his Church, built on Peter, of victory over the powers of death. Because of the faith he confessed Peter will remain the unshakeable rock of the Church. His mission will be to keep this faith from every lapse and to strengthen his brothers in it. CCC 552

Jesus entrusted a specific authority to Peter: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." The "power of the keys" designates authority to govern the house of God, which is the Church. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, confirmed this mandate after his Resurrection: "Feed my sheep." The power to "bind and loose" connotes the authority to absolve sins, to pronounce doctrinal judgements, and to make disciplinary decisions in the Church. Jesus entrusted this authority to the Church through the ministry of the apostles and in particular through the ministry of Peter, the only one to whom he specifically entrusted the keys of the kingdom. CCC 553

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*Continued from Page 2*

**John wanted to address a community dispute between the disciples of Moses and Jesus. One group thought Jesus was a sinner, and the other maintained that he was from God. When asked to take a side, the blind man initially ignored the theological dispute: "One thing I do know is that I was blind, and now I see." When pushed further, he said, "we know that God does not listen to sinners." It is a statement of courage that puts the blind man at odds with the authorities of his faith community. Now he sees. His trust filled him with the courage to speak the truth. A vital question is: do we have the same degree of courage?**

**Beloved in Christ, on this fourth Sunday of Lent, let us resolve to listen, obey, and follow the Light of the world. Similarly, let us heed the command of the master to 'wash in the pool of Siloam.' In our context, the healing pool of the sacrament of Reconciliation. May we approach the mercy seat of God without fear; instead, with reverence to confess our sins to be cured of the blindness that obstructs us from seeing the true and eternal Light of the World and other beautiful and worthy things we are meant to see.**

**Finally, we pray that when confronted by agents of darkness and intimidated or surrounded by the enemies of the true Light of the world, with the Light shining brightly in us, we have the courage and audacity to face them and rise to defend the truth, the faith and what we profess and believe. Like the blind man, may we boldly say, "I do believe, Lord."**

**Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.**

***Blessings,***

***Your servant in Christ,***

***Fr. Paschal Ezurike***



Fall Sharathon: October 10-14, 2022

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