

Living the Gospel



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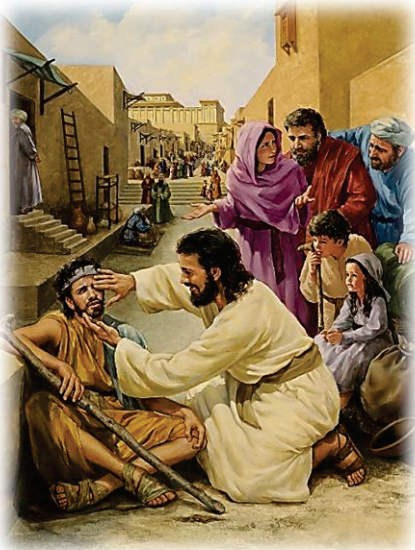
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True Recovery of Sight Jesus Heals a Blind Man John 9.1-41

In today's Gospel we encounter Jesus healing a man who was born blind. In all of the Bible, this is the only



healing of a man blind since birth, whereas other healings were of temporary blindness. The uniqueness of this great mystery offers us the ability to richly reflect on what it means to be good stewards of Christ.

Firstly, while the man was healed of his physical sight, the more remarkable miracle was his ability to grasp

Jesus' true identity. When Jesus reveals to him that He is the Son of Man, the blind man boldly responds, "Lord, I believe." The blind man did not come to this realization on his own, but it was the Lord's working in his life that led him to this change of heart.

So too in all of us, it is the Lord and His grace that brings about our interior conversion. We must never fall into the temptation that our faith and charity is the result of our own strength or abilities. After the blind man's encounter, it says "he worshipped Him." As good stewards we should seek to imitate his example, falling down in thanksgiving and adoration for all of the grace and gifts the Lord has poured into our lives. Let us take a moment today to praise God most especially for the gifts of our Catholic faith and the Church.

Summary

In the Gospel Jesus performs a two-fold miracle of healing a man of his physical blindness and his spiritual blindness. So too in all of us, it is the Lord and His grace that brings about the miracle of our interior conversion. Let us imitate the cured blind man and fall at the feet of Jesus and thank Him for the gifts and graces He has poured into our lives.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



For 2023, all offertory envelopes box numbers will be **reassigned**. Please contact the parish office to pick up your NEW box of envelopes. Thank you for supporting the parish!

Mass Intentions for the week

Mon.	Mar. 20	12:05 pm	St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary For the Gonsalves grandchildren's success in their careers & safe travelling, requested by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gonsalves
Tue.	Mar. 21	12:05 pm	† Kenneth [Eson] Alfred Joseph, requested by Sheryl Ambrose & family
Wed.	Mar. 22	12:05 pm	
Thur.	Mar. 23	12:05 pm	Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop † Paterno Catedrilla on his death anniversary, requested by Gubuan family
Fri.	Mar. 24	12:05 pm 6:00 pm [Mass & Stations of the Cross]	† Elfren Gubuan, requested by Gubuan family
Sat.	Mar. 25	9:00 am 5:00 pm	The Annunciation of the Lord † Russell Briones on his birthday remembrance, requested by the Briones & Patacsil families
Sun.	Mar. 26	9:00 am 11:00 am	5th Sunday of Lent In thanksgiving & intentions of Allison Nilo on her birthday, requested by her parents, Eric & Maricel Nilo For the People of the Parish

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH



Please join us **this coming Monday March 20th for Mass at 12:05pm**, followed by a light luncheon in the hall to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, the Principal Patron of Canada and the Patron of the Universal Church.

Let's celebrate
this special feast day together!
St. Joseph, pray for us!



Speaker: Rev. Michael Corpus

Vice-Rector, St. Augustine's Seminary

Dates: Monday, March 20th to Friday, March 24th

Time: 11:30 am followed by Mass @ 12:05 pm

All are welcome!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Every Friday throughout Lent, there will be **Mass & Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm. Join us!**

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

NOV. 26 - DEC 4 2023



If you're interested or need more information, you are invited to an orientation on Thursday, March 30th @ 7 pm in the parish hall.

SECURITIES AS A CHARITABLE GIFT OPTION

One of the most financially sound ways to support the Archdiocese of Toronto is with the gift of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds). When you donate stocks, mutual funds and other securities to a registered charity, you pay no capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full amount of the gift. It means a great tax break for you and support of your Parish and various archdiocesan charities such as ShareLife, St. Augustine's Seminary, The Shepherds' Trust, and many others.

For further information, contact the development office at 416-934-3400 Ext. 519 [or](mailto:development@archtoronto.org) email to development@archtoronto.org.

WHY CONFESSION?

Q. Why do we have confession? If God knows everything, why can't we just tell him that we're sorry when we do something wrong?

A. Confession may be one of the most difficult parts of our faith for some. But for others, Confession is something they deeply look forward to.

It's very true that "God knows everything". We call that omniscience. So, yes, He knows everything you've done and He knows whether you are sorry for that or not. But there is a big difference between God "knowing" what you did and His act of forgiveness.

For example, if you sinned against a friend with whom you were very close and then you felt sorry for that, it's possible that your friend would realize, just by knowing you, that you were truly sorry. But that doesn't mean that you can just presume on your friend's goodness and forgiveness. The best thing to do, in this situation, is to actually sit down and tell your friend you are sorry and to have your friend tell you that you are forgiven. This very human exchange brings about reconciliation.

So it is with God. God is all merciful and wants to forgive us all our sins. But for true reconciliation to take place, God wants you to actually say those words and then to hear the words, spoken by the priest, that you are forgiven. So Confessions is not only about God forgiving us, it is also about reconciliation with God on a human level.

What's important to understand is that God offers us forgiveness in His way. He forgives us through a human being. **Who is that human being?** It's the Father's Son who became one of us. Jesus is the one who offers the forgiveness of God and Jesus is both fully God and human. **But how does Jesus do that now that He has ascended back into Heaven?** Well, before He ascended He gave His divine power of forgiveness to His first priests, the apostles. They, in turn, passed that power onto others who passed it on to others down through the ages all the way to our present age. Priests, despite the fact that they are imperfect themselves, have the spiritual power of Jesus to actually speak His words of forgiveness to others. Therefore, when a priest says, "I absolve you", we must hear Jesus Himself, as the human face of God, saying to us those same words.

[<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-question-and-answer/q-why-confession/>]

DAYS OF CONFESSION FOR LENT

Our parish Days of Confessions will be held on **Friday, March 24th** at the following times:

- ◆ 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- ◆ 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
- ◆ 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- ◆ 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm



"Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." ~ St. John Paul II~

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