

March 14, 2021

From Fr. Jim . . .

**This Week's Scrutiny:** Those who are the Elect for the Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil this year celebrate the Second Scrutiny. As part of their preparation, they celebrate with their parish community at Sunday mass, the Rite of Scrutiny on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. Although we don't have any adults who are the Elect for this year, we pray with and for all the Elect throughout the world and we examine our lives with them on these Sundays of Lent against the Gospels as we prepare to renew our Baptismal Promises at Easter.

The Second Scrutiny is based on a Gospel passage from the Gospel of John about the Man Born Blind. In this Gospel, those with physical sight are the ones who are blind spiritually. They have trouble seeing that Jesus is the Messiah and they have great difficulty in believing in him as their Lord and Savior. On the other hand, the man who was born blind and has no physical eyesight can see because of his faith. His spiritual seeing is perfect 20/20 vision. He has little difficulty in allowing the Lord to use his physical weakness to show that Jesus is the Light of the world and he is very willing to be a disciple of the one who has given him both physical and spiritual sight. He was able to give good testimony and witness to his cure to the ones who questioned him and eventually rejected him.

Again this is a story about conversion. It shows that although sin does not make us physically blind it does blind us from seeing spiritually sometimes. It also tempts us into pretending that we can see when we really can't see at all.

Under the light of this great Gospel, how well do we see? Where might we just be pretending to see when we really can't see at all? For what do we need healing? How will the Lord use our blindness to show us and others that he truly is the light of the world? Can we pray for a deeper conversion of faith and a more active faith life? Is our Lenten fasting, prayer and acts of charity improving our spiritual vision?

Lord God, open our eyes that we might see your face in the faces of all people and those who may be known as enemies to us. Help us see our way to your peace and be the light by which we can see. Amen.

**Another reflection:** In light of our Lenten journey, can you name any fear in your life that may be keeping you from living your faith more deeply? Is there any despair that may be keeping you from the Hope that the promises of God offer? What selfishness prevents us from receiving and giving God's unconditional love? Can we bring these to the Light of God's love and grace? And so we pray, Change our hearts, O Lord, change our hearts!

**Lenten Prayer:** Steadfast God, we stand before you as people ready to change. Take the fear that holds us captive, and give us faith enough to risk being vulnerable. Take the despair that weighs down our soul, and replace it with hope that lifts our spirits. Take the self-centeredness that limits our vision and efforts, and fill us with your love so that we may love ourselves and others. We ask for hearts that will change into sanctuaries for your presence in our lives. Amen. (Written by Mary Cummins-Wlodarski.)

Timor-Leste has the highest rate of child malnutrition in Asia, and many children suffer from stunting, which makes a big impact on a child's growth and future. Home gardens and fishponds are helping families provide better nutrition for their children. What can you do to ensure children have enough food to thrive? Visit [CRSRICEBOWL.org](http://CRSRICEBOWL.org)



Sunday Mass: 10:30am, limited seating available, or join Fr. Jim as he livestreams Sunday Mass at 10:30am at: RCC St. Leo Church Cincinnati  
[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH_BOX)

You can read the Sunday bulletin at: [www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin](http://www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin)  
You can read Fr. Jim's letter at:  
[www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim](http://www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim)

Please consider donating Plastic Easter Eggs, and Easter Candy to fill the eggs. Toddler size (1 year, 2T, and 3T) bibs for the Sacrament of Baptism. We also are in need of gift cards to help with our everyday needs, please consider Staples, Amazon, Kroger, or Home Depot when donating. You can see our latest needs on our Amazon Wish List Link  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_share). Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.

**We HOPE you can Join Us for Healing the Racial Divide TODAY!!**  
**March 14th from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00p.m.** We will hear from two individuals about their experience with racism. This special Zoom Listening session is hosted by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Anti-Racism Task Force and our covenant partner parish Our Lady of the Visitation. To Register follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/SL-OLV-Listening-Session>

**Catholic Sisters Week-** Fifty-two weeks a year women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, fight injustice, share spirituality, empower women, offer Hope... But for one week, we shine the Spotlight on women religious and encourage a wide range of campaigns and events that invite all who follow Jesus to: expand and support their gospel witness, share their spirituality, encourage young women to consider a vocation to religious life. Please consider how you might shine a light on Catholic sisters, for more information please email Maria Reinagel, [mreinagel@CatholicAOC.org](mailto:mreinagel@CatholicAOC.org).