

March 27, 2022

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. 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.)

Stations of the Cross- During the Lenten Season we will offer the Ways of the Cross every Friday evening, except Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. please join us.

Mass and Healing Service-
On Wednesday April 6th at 7:30 p.m. come to St.

Ignatius Church located at 5222 North Bend Road in Monfort Heights for mass and a healing service sponsored by Lighthouse Renewal Center call 513.471.LITE for more information.



Cincinnati Right to Life is hosting the annual Hearbeats for Life 5K to support life in Greater Cincinnati will be held on April 9th at 8:30 a.m. at Lunken Field. This provides an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals and support the incredible work of Cincinnati Right to Life. Please visit CincinnatiRightToLife.org to purchase tickets and find out more!

GARDEN RENOVATION – We are welcoming native plants if anyone has some to divide or donate, as well as shrubs for along the back fence. We are looking for volunteers to help prep the garden, weed, plant flowers, clean, re-structure as well as maintain the area. If this is something that interest you please send an email to akleemanstleo@aol.com

DRIVEN BY A DREAM- Malnutrition is widespread in Rwanda, but Gloriose and her husband are doing everything they can to keep their children healthy and set them up for success. From learning to grow a kitchen garden to participating in a micro-savings group, they know it takes many resources to help their children thrive. How have you helped others access what they need this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

You can **read the Sunday bulletin** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can **read Fr. Jim's letter** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim

One way to help with Lenten Almsgiving is to Donate!! Our youth is looking for plastic Easter eggs, candy to fill them, and any small trinkets! You can see our latest needs on our Amazon Wish List Link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_s here. **We also have a request for an electric stove. Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**

Any high school senior looking for a scholarship? The Archbishop Alter Scholarship Fund was established to promote African American Catholic leadership. This is a four-year renewable grant. For more information or to apply go to: <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/african-american-pastoral-ministries> the deadline is April 22, 2022.