

St. Francis Xavier Parish

912 SEVENTH STREET, MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. 26041
304-845-1593
sfxmoundsville@comcast.net



THE POOL
OF SILOAM
JERUSALEM

I was blind and now I see.
JOHN 9:25

MARCH 22
2020

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

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It is helpful to observe that our Gospel passage from John, the healing of the blind man, is the first part of a longer episode. When Jesus' words end Chapter 9 in today's passage, he goes on speaking in the discourse on the Good Shepherd in Chapter 10. The healing of the blind man was not only a demonstration of God's power, giving him the physical capacity of sight. It was even more than the awakening of the man's personal faith in Jesus. The image of the Good Shepherd confirms that the man was liberated from the social isolation of his blindness and became a member of Jesus' flock. All of Jesus' powerful actions of healing were intended as gifts, not only to individuals, but for the building up of the community of faith.

HUMILITY AND ACTION

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the LORD looks into the heart." In our first reading, Samuel draws conclusions about who God will choose as king based on his assumptions of what a proper king looks like. But God sees a deeper reality.

How easy it is to miss our own blindness. How frequently we are unaware of our own flawed assumptions about others and about ourselves. We often need a deeper humility about the limitations of our perceptions and our convictions.

Yet, as the letter to the Ephesians encourages, there are times to expose the "fruitless works of darkness", to speak out, especially when persons or groups are suffering from abuse or oppression. We are called to live within a tension that these scripture passages convey. We are to seek God's guidance in prayer with genuine openness. We are then to speak and act forcefully against wrongdoing, even as we maintain humility about how much we know, or what is the best action to take. We are called to bring God's wisdom and mercy to all.

Today's Readings: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

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There are no requested masses at this time. If you want your mass to be said on your requested date, you must contact Father That Son. He is permitted to say masses by himself.
Otherwise, the Mass will be rescheduled.
 Father That Son cell: (408)-858-7467

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Bishop Brannon has suspended all parish activities until further notice. This includes all weekend and weekday Masses, Parish School of Religion, Bingo, Fish Fry, and meetings.

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER
OF ST. ALPHONSUS**

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

OFFERTORY

COLLECTION: March 8, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 3870.00
Loose Offering	\$ 775.75
Building Repairs	\$ 890.00
Xavier Hall	\$ 60.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 170.00
Priest Retirement	\$ 70.00
Memorial Offerings	\$ 110.00
Pennies for God	\$ 13.01

Attendance - 293

Please remember that your financial stewardship to the parish is greatly needed as we still have bills to pay.

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING:

If you want the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** or **Anointing of the Sick**, please contact Father That Son to make arrangements.

The Diocese issued this clarification about **Funerals**:
 “Since all public celebrations of the Mass in the diocese have been suspended, a funeral Mass may NOT be celebrated at this time. Priests or deacons may celebrate the Rites of Interment/Entombment at the grave or mausoleum as they are able and provided that appropriate social distancing is maintained. We encourage families to schedule a Memorial Mass at a later time once all of the suspensions have been lifted.”

We have already ordered Palms and they cannot be canceled. Father will bless them and they will be available outside the side door of the Church on the handicap ramp on Saturday, **Palm Sunday**, and Monday. (April 4th, 5th and 6th)

We don't know yet about **Holy Week**. In the event that it is canceled, our Memorial Flower Fund will be moved to the Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day celebrations. These flowers have been ordered and cannot be canceled.

PARISH DIRECTORY

As we are following the practice of social distancing, the appointments for photographs will have to be rescheduled. We do not know when this will be, so keep checking our bulletins for updates.

Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen, pastor

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):

Sat. 3:30 p.m., or any other time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

By appointment. Contact the parish office at least six months before the date of the marriage.

Pre-Cana is required.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

By appointment. The Diocese requires instructions beforehand for the parents.

Contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (P.S.R.):

Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. for Grades 1-12.

REGISTRATION AND CHURCH SUPPORT:

Parishioners should be properly registered at the Parish Office

Church Office Phone: 304-845-1593
Church Hall Phone: 304-845-9238
Xavier Hall Phone: 304-845-7080
Rev. That Son Cell: 408-858-7467
Parish Office Email:

sfxmoundsville@comcast.net
Website: sfxmoundsville.org

MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekends: Saturday - 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday - 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedule:
 8:00 am, 7:00 p.m.

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS

Prayer Request: Anna Mae Veronis Holiday, Diane Hill, Connie Howard, Ronnie Hill, Eleanor Smith, Catherine Pellerin, Mary Coffield, Jim Conner, Thomas Sullivan, Sara Walters, Diane Young, Tex Reynolds, Bobby Kleinedler. **Homebound:** Semon & Phyllis Prado, Doris Murphy, Rachel Kerekes. **Nursing Home:** Bertie Gaughenbaugh, Bill Tennant, Gary Dobbs, Patricia Schmidt, Helen Remke, Barbara Meyer, Elizabeth Potts, Ron Jaworski.

TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

In this time of uncertainty, let us remember that we are all facing the same fears and hardships. Let us follow the example of Kathy Swift and the students in our Parish School of Religion who are checking in on our homebound and elderly with phone calls.

It is also a good time to remember the local eateries who are suffering because they must stay closed to keep us safe. Try and plan to order a takeout meal or two during the week to keep them busy.

If you have been helping others in some way or you have an idea that we can pass on to the congregation for easing the difficulties we are facing, please send us an email describing it.



Thank you to the good souls that cleaned all the priests' and altar servers' white albs!

WISDOM OF POPE FRANCIS

May the Church be a place of God's mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged, the Church must be with doors wide open so that all may enter. And we must go out through these doors and proclaim the Gospel.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE....

If anyone needs:

- ⇒ Rice, call Father That Son
- ⇒ Watercress, call Linda Miller
- ⇒ A funny story, call Mark Hitt
- ⇒ A ride to Olive Garden, call Carolyn Gordon
- ⇒ Pierogis, call Libby Magnone
- ⇒ Vitamin C, call Susan Board
- ⇒ Yarn, call Robin Targosky
- ⇒ A song, anytime, call Father Arul

FROM THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS:

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

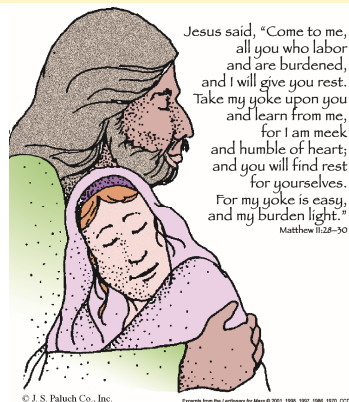
We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:
(Go to this link for the prayer)

www.usccb.org/coronavirus

Bus Trip Update:

On March 31 a decision will be made by the Sight and Sound Theater about canceling or postponing the show. Stay tuned!



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Office of Safe Environment

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, contact local law enforcement, or contact WV Child Protective Services: 800-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese, contact this diocesan number: 888-434-6237.



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