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# St. Luke's Parish

39 Green Lane, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6K5 Telephone: 905-881-2786 Website: https://stlukesth.archtoronto.org Email: st.lukesparish@rogers.com



It is difficult for us to imagine what it is like to be blind and to live in an isolated world of overpowering darkness. In today's gospel, we meet a man doomed to darkness since birth. Imagine the joy he felt at seeing color and shapes and becoming aware of human behavior for the first time. Such fascinating and surprising discoveries! He also discovered that while he had been physically blind he soon learned the Pharisees were spiritually blind in their willful refusal to believe in Christ. Spiritual blindness surrounds us today. When we chose to see only what suits us, we develop blind spots and miss the richness and blessing of the ordinary.

#### There are none so blind as those who do not wish to see.

We are reminded during Lent to walk in the light of Christ by living in complete goodness and truth. We are made for glory and the purpose of our existence is union with God. Every step in our pilgrimage is a journey of faith, discovery and understanding, leading us to the fullness of that light. Jesus has made us sharers in his life-giving work and we are presented with daily opportunities of radiating this light in acts of acceptance, tolerance and love. There are a variety of charitable works that can be carried out within our immediate ability - helping the homeless seeking shelter, the hungry begging for food and the lonely hoping for recognition. Particularly during Lent, let us rise up, overcome our spiritual blindness, put the darkness of sin behind us and live in the light of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS	
Monday	Soul of Joan Braendal
Tuesday	Soul of Shirley Gonsalves
	Soul of <b>Alan Mackey</b>
	Soul of <b>Joan Braendal</b>
Wednesday	Soul of Clarence Renaud
Thursday	Soul of Michael Boyle
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

We pray for the sick in our community, especially: Tony da Camara Jr., Jairus Papio, Ashling Reilly, Nicholas Lepone, Sam Accardi, Marita Salvosa, Mary Holt, Angie Cappriccio, Marciana Saldaña, Ron Scarcello, Austin Delaney, and baby Rebecca Grace Silva

#### PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250

#### The Man Born Blind

Brothers and Sisters (in Christ), this week, the forth Sunday in Lent, the Gospel (the Good News), tells us about the man born blind, representing a way of seeing, the Christian way of seeing. To see the world as God sees it, from His perspective.

After reading and reflecting on these readings, I asked myself, how am I blind? What don't I see in this current situation? How is this current situation in the world the "good" work of a loving God? During this time of Lent, in what seems like the true "dessert" period, where is God?

<u>The Message:</u> The readings this week could not be more relevant to the current situation we are all faced with. I do not have the answer to why we are in this moment of collective suffering, but the readings this week has given me comfort and a place to look for answers.

I am the blind man, born blind, with original sin clouding my mind and vision, unable to see things as they truly are. Jesus is the light of the world by which we see things as they truly are, the way in which we can understand and make ultimate sense of things.

<u>In Depth:</u> The disciples of the Lord, in the Gospel of John, wondered whose sin had caused the man's blindness, his own or his parents. "Neither," Jesus answered. Rather, "he was born blind that God's works might be revealed in him." I am blind, not because I've sinned, but because I've been chosen – that the works of God might be revealed in me.

God is the Lord of His creation; He is indeed involved in our suffering, in this current situation, but that His purpose is always to draw some good out of evil. God is accomplishing a "work" in us, though the nature and exact trajectory of that work remain obscure to us. We are "chosen" to be the vehicle of this divine purpose, elected for a special mission, to see with the eyes of Christ.

During this time of Lent, God is calling everyone, calling me, to be closer to Him, to see with new eyes; and to die to myself so that Christ may live in me. I pray that I might say "yes" to Our Lord's call and bring His light into the world during this time of darkness.

**<u>Reflect:</u>** (from Bishop Robert Barron) How is the Christian way of seeing different from the culture's way of seeing?

Alan Lee Hoy, Youth Minister



## **SL** ShareLife

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### 2020 PARISH GOAL - \$141,000 Living the gospel by helping young mothers.

Kristen was 17 when she found out she was pregnant. Worried she would not be able to graduate from high school, she reached out to Rose of Sharon. At this ShareLife-funded agency, she was able to focus on schoolwork with the help of child minding by the agency. Kristen graduated and was accepted in the medical administration program at Seneca College. "Without Rose of Sharon," says Kristen, "there's no way I would have believe college was a possibility."

Our collective support for the ShareLife campaign is critical to making these programs possible. Please reflect on your personal ability to "Live the Gospel" by making a sacrificial gift to our parish campaign.

March 29<sup>th</sup> is ShareLife Sunday Please give generously

\*\* Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the Parish office. Thank you.

#### Saint Vincent de Paul EASTER FOOD DRIVE March 21/22 amd March 28/29

"When I was hungry you gave me to eat, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink ... "
(Matthew 25:35)

You can help feed the hungry by bringing non-perishable food (canned foods, cerals, pasta, rice, baby food etc.) to the parish hall during our annual Easter food drive. Carts will be located in the north lobby for your drop off convenience.

Thank you!

#### SCAM ALERT!

Parishioners are once again receiving requests, purportedly from the pastor, for iTunes gift cards, by either text or email. Please exercise caution when checking email messages, taking phone calls or responding to those at the door. Think before you click or open attachments, and always verify suspect messages by phoning the sender on a known phone number (not the phone number in the suspect message).

#### **NOTICE**

# All Parish activities & scheduled meetings are cancelled until further notice.

This includes **all Masses** (weekday & weekend), Stations of the Cross, First Friday Adoration, Edge, Life teen, Prayer Groups, Choir practices, RCIA, Saturday morning Meditation, Friday Drop In, Line Dancing, Confirmation, First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and all meetings.

Our parish sanctuary will be open from 8:00–4:00pm, 7 days a week for daily individual private prayer. Mass is broadcasted daily on Vision TV (Daily Mass), EWTN, and on Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation.

The parish office will remain open weekdays from 8:30-4:30pm to answer any questions or receive your weekly donations. We encourage you to check our website – <a href="mailto:stlukesth@archtoronto.org">stlukesth@archtoronto.org</a> or the myparishapp.com for updates. We will also continue posting a bulletin on-line with a limited number of copies available for pickup at our information table.

Dear Family of St. Luke's,

We all are going through an exceptional time in our world and our Parish. Please know that every Sunday while we are closed I offer a Mass myself in the church for all of us at St. Luke's. You will receive a spiritual communion.

As we sill need to keep the church running, please consider your support for the church and send your tax-deductible donations to us by mail or drop them off at the office. I pray I will see you soon. Until we meet again, let us keep praying for each other.

God Bless, Fr Mark

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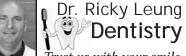
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