

Bulletin Lent 04 A March 26, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week Times: Please visit our website, www.holyrosaryalaska.org

MyParishApp: Download Sunday for our new parish app is scheduled for May 7, 2017. Please bring you cell phones to Mass.

Lumen Christi School: Fr Tom, pastor at Saint Benedict in Anchorage, is asking all parishes to help alleviate the deficit and Lumen Christi Catholic School. If you would like to sponsor a student please contact me ASAP (907-842-5581, holyrosaryalaska@hotmail.com). This is a great opportunity to let your light shine!

First Communion Class will be held after our Sunday Mass, March 26. We will be learning about posture. Be sure to check out my Youtube video on bowing and genuflecting, It has received over 18,000 hits. Here is the Link: <https://youtu.be/zAmZtLGBnjg>

Fr Chris Arockiaraj, PSS will be celebrating Holy Week with the Holy Rosary community this year. Here is a short article about him.

November 21, 2016

Catholic Priest Provides Psycho-Spiritual Counseling

You may have seen or heard Fr. Chris Arockiaraj, PSS at daily Mass. He is a full-time professor and formator at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park. He has been a counselor and spiritual director since 1995 and has professional experience as a clinician, pastor, teacher, formator, administrator and hospital chaplain. He studied psychology at Loyola University of Maryland and has a Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology from GTF and a Doctorate in Ministry specializing in Pastoral Counseling from the Graduate Theological Union.

Fr. Chris compassionately accompanies people in a gentle, collaborative and supportive way toward their goal. He is specializing in working with stress, depression, anxiety, addiction, grief, life transitions, relationship, family, faith and spiritual concerns and challenges. Fr. Chris integrates psychology and spirituality and thus uses an integral method of mind, body and spirit in his practice. Fr. Chris is certified as a Pastoral Counselor

by American Association of Pastoral Counselors. If you are interested, please contact him at 650 289 3356 / 410 428 0773 or carockiaraj@gmail.com

HOMILY: From Dark to Light

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DARKNESS DEFINED

Darkness is the absence of light. The degree to which something is described as “dark” is the amount of light that is missing.

WALKING IN THE DARK

When one finds himself or herself in darkness it can be overpowering. When one prepares to take another step, he or she first feels around with a foot to make sure there is something solid ahead for support. They make sure there are no obstacles on which they would trip. Their hands wave carefully in front of them to make sure nothing is protruding from the walls, also checking to see that the ceiling is high enough to make safe passage.

ALLEGORY AND DARKNESS

Many times we use the term “darkness” as an allegorical expression to describe a situation in life where there is confusion, sadness, uncertainty, isolation, suffering or anxiety. The causes vary from person to person and from time to time. It may result from a broken relationship, the loss of a loved one, trying to come to a decision on how to proceed, the inability to find work, the pain of illness, grappling with a problem for which an answer seems elusive, or any other situation where hope seems to have faded.

DARK TO LIGHT THEME

Going from darkness into the light is the theme of the readings this week. Jesus took the blind man from darkness into the light both physically and spiritually. He does the same for you and me.

QUOTE SAINT PAUL

Saint Paul says, “You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” Dark and light are like: sin and forgiveness; suffering and being healed; going from despair to hope; Cross-and-Resurrection.

DARK TO LIGHT PHYSICALLY/SPIRITUALLY

Here in Alaska we physically go from dark winters to light summers. At birth, we physically come from darkness into light. We are all born into darkness; what gives us life is Baptism. Spiritually, baptism brings us out of the darkness into the light.

QUOTE SAINT AUGUSTINE

We were once blind but the Lord gave us light when we were baptized. About Baptism, Saint Augustine says, "The light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith."

LIGHT AND CONFIRMATION

Confirmation makes our light shine brighter. Being confirmed into the Catholic Church is another faith step. It is another transitional step that brings us closer to the light. It enables us to use the Holy Spirit to help evangelize others. Confirmation gives us direction and helps bring peace to our lives.

JESUS UNCOVERS DARKNESS

The fasting, prayer, and almsgiving during Lent are designed to help us see Jesus clearly. Jesus uncovers the darkness that we hadn't noticed creeping into our lives. Jesus is the light that dispels the darkness. He is the source of our hope.

SHARE YOUR LIGHT

Today after Eucharist, with our lights shining brightly, let us go forth to our families, neighborhoods, and places of work, let's seek out Jesus. Let's notice people in need and help bring them from darkness into light (476 Words).

READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

The LORD said to Samuel:

"Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way.

I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,

for I have chosen my king from among his sons."

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice,

Samuel looked at Eliab and thought,
“Surely the LORD’s anointed is here before him.”
But the LORD said to Samuel:
“Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature,
because I have rejected him.
Not as man sees does God see,
because man sees the appearance
but the LORD looks into the heart.”
In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel,
but Samuel said to Jesse,
“The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”
Then Samuel asked Jesse,
“Are these all the sons you have?”
Jesse replied,
“There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.”
Samuel said to Jesse,
“Send for him;
we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.”
Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.
He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold
and making a splendid appearance.
The LORD said,
“There—anoint him, for this is the one!”
Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
He guides me in right paths
for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side

With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Ephesians 5:8-14

Brothers and sisters:

You were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light,
for light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth.

Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention
the things done by them in secret;
but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore, it says:
“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

Gospel John 9:1-41

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who

sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is,” but others said, “No, he just looks like him.” He said, “I am.” So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He replied, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see.” And they said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I don’t know.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.” So some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a sinful man do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, “What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?” His parents answered and said, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; question him.”

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner.” He replied, “If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.” So they said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?” They ridiculed

him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

To God whose Son opened wide His arms on the cross, we pray with confidence that our prayers are heard.

Let us pray for those who have authority over others: that they may use their power for good and enable those who are poor and weak to flourish, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for all who care for others: that they may draw strength and patience from the limitless pool of living water that is God's eternal love, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for one another: That all of us, by the example of our lives, may become in Christ the light of the world, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for those who have died: that they may be brought into the light of God's presence; and for those who mourn their loss, that they may be comforted, we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant

Creator God, giver of life, may our prayers always reflect our gratitude for your great mercy towards us and all your creatures, through Christ our Lord.