

March 15, 2023

From Fr. John

The readings for this Sunday all have to do, in one way or another, with a question of blindness, or more specifically, do we see what God sees, or do we see what man sees?

Obviously, none of us sees exactly as God sees. We cannot truly know the mind of the Creator of the universe and therefore we cannot truly see exactly what our Creator sees. But, as Sunday's readings suggest, we can look at the world through the eyes of faith and begin to see things differently.

What do you see when you look at a one of the many people who ask for money on the street corners of Alexandria? Do you see someone who needs a bath — and a job? Do you see someone who “probably making \$40k a year, tax free, by panhandling”? Or do you see a child of God, whom Jesus referred to when he told us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless?

What do you see when you see someone who is covered in tattoos and piercings, whose hair is either cut in a style you would “never be caught dead wearing,” or is some color (or colors) that do not appear in nature? Do you see a “freak,” someone with whom you could not possibly have anything in common? Do you see someone who obviously has a lifestyle that is completely sinful? Or do you see a child of God who, just like you, is trying to get along in this world in the best way they know how, someone who simply expresses themselves in ways that are different from yours? Do you see a child of God who needs love and acceptance just like you do?

What do you see when you see someone who wears clothing that is “wrong” for their gender or someone who identifies as gender nonspecific? Do you see someone whose appearance must somehow be harmful for children? Do you see someone whose gender identity is, in itself, threatening? Or do you see a child of God, one of the lambs of the flock for whom Jesus said the Good Shepherd would give his life? Do you see someone whom God loves exactly as God loves you?

If we (unlike the man born blind from the Gospel) are fortunate enough to have been given the ability to see the world around us, we have human vision. We just wake up in the morning and we can see. It's a blessing, and we don't have to work for it. Seeing through God's eyes takes work. It's Jesus' work. It's Gospel work. It's our work.

Peace be with you all,
Fr. John+



Lenten Opportunities

- **Wednesday Evening Holy Eucharist & Healing Service**- 5:15 p.m. in the Chapel
- **Stations of the Cross** - Every Friday at 12:15 p.m. in the Church



Tonight

Dinner: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall
[Mexican lasagna, salad, bread, dessert]
[\$5 for adults; FREE ages 18 & under]

JEYC/EYC: 6:30 p.m. in Youth Building
Adult Class: 6:30 p.m. in Parlor
Viewing & Discussion of Season 2 of The Chosen

Adult Christian Formation This Sunday



Join us Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor as we continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew, using a video that is the word-for-word according to the Gospel, but with actors bringing the action to life.

There is discussion of what we see and hear each week. No preparation needed.



Coffee Hour

Join us for coffee hour & fellowship this Sunday morning following the 10:30 AM service. This is a great opportunity to visit and catch up on what is happening within our church family.

If you would like to help either with refreshments or as a server for this ministry, sign up in Parish Hall or call Susan Frey at 318-449-8501.

Make Palm Crosses

No previous experience needed!
Training offered on the spot!

Saturday - April 1
9:30 a.m. - Parish Hall
Fellowship, coffee, snacks!



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

Blessing of the Palms followed by the Holy Eucharist
8:00 a.m. - Front of Chapel
10:30 a.m. Patio off Parish Hall - Procession into Church

TUESDAY in HOLY WEEK

10:30 a.m. Diocesan Chrism Mass with Renewal of Ordination Vows - Church

WEDNESDAY in HOLY WEEK

Regular Faith & Fellowship
5:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing Service - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Dinner - Parish Hall
6:30 p.m. EYC - Youth Building
6:45 p.m. Adult Class - Parlor

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Washing of the Feet - Church
7:30 p.m. - 7:30 a.m. Vigil - Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY

12:15 p.m. Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday - Church
1:15 p.m. Meditations on Last Seven Words of Christ - Church
2:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Church
[Church Office Closed]

HOLY SATURDAY

THE GREAT VIGIL of EASTER

10:00 a.m. Proper Liturgy for Holy Saturday - Chancel
6:00 p.m. Convocational Celebration - Kindling of the new fire, lighting of the Paschal Candle, followed by the first Festival Eucharist of Easter
[Nursery Available]

EASTER DAY

THE GREAT FESTIVAL of the RESURRECTION

9:00 a.m. Easter Brunch - Parish Hall
9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt - Parlor [Ages 5 and Younger]
Easter Egg Hunt - Youth Building [Ages 6 - 10]
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Flowering of the Cross - Church

Maundy Thursday Vigil Returns

Jesus said, "could you not stay awake with me one hour?" Matthew 26:40 (NRSV)

The Maundy Thursday (Thursday in Holy Week) liturgy is a very powerful one. But perhaps the most moving part of the service comes at the end, when the altar area of the church is stripped of everything that makes it look grand, and perhaps all that makes it look "occupied." The end of the Maundy Thursday service reminds us of that place and time in which Jesus was arrested and taken away, leaving the Disciples alone.

The period of time between The Last Supper and sunrise on Good Friday is commemorated by a Gethsemane Watch, or Maundy Thursday Vigil. Beginning this Sunday there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who would like to stay in the Chapel for one overnight hour on April 6/7. There will be a Sheriff's deputy on premises all night for security. There will be reading and prayer resources available for those who participate.



Easter Flower Memorials

It is the custom of St. James at Easter to invite our parish family to make a contribution to the glory of God and in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one. This is not only an appropriate way to honor those we love, but these gifts allow for the festive decoration of the church.

If this is your wish, please send your donation along with the names of those you wish to remember to the church office no later than Tuesday, April 4th. Offering envelopes are also in the church pew racks. (You may email the names to the office for clarity in spelling, as well: rita@stjamesla.org.)

Eggs Needed

St. James is having a hunt!
An egg hunt!
Actually 2 egg hunts!

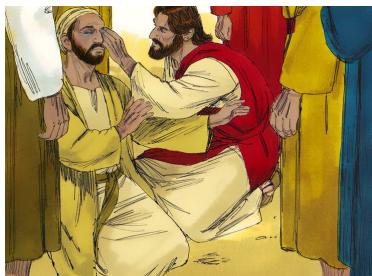
Easter Day at 9:30 a.m.!



One for children ages 5 and under will be in the patio off the Parish Hall.
The other one for ages 6 - 10 in the area around the Denley Patio.

Donations of pre-wrapped candy are being accepted!
Place in the blue crate in the Parish Hall.

Worship



March 19th
Fourth Sunday in Lent

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click on this link to join the 10:30 AM service.](#)

[Click here for the service bulletin.](#)

March 19, 2023
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077

Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & reading.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

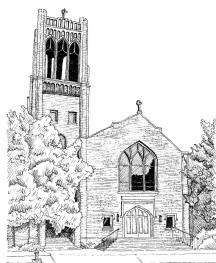
Fr. John, Carli, Betty Gaiennie, Lacy Shaw, Sam Bejach, Gary and Becky Maxwell, Liz McSween, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Charles, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Bill Owens, Mother Meredith Ward, Pat Carter, Jack Dewitt, Sr., Beth Hebert, Rita & Bill Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Bill and Beverly Jarvis, Robbie G., Jonathan Rhea, Laura Murchison, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Richard Norem, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Bernard Parker, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Shannon Norman, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Stacy and Richard, Chase Barnfield, Taylor Thompson, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Kevin Hooter, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Kyle Jordan, Josh Duff, Samuel Hayes, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in March (day):

Melinda Mikell (1), Janet Ahrens (5), Alexander Adams (7), Donnie Hayes (7), Randall Despino (8), Edmond O'Quin (8), Shepard Searcy (9), Courtney Dixon (10), Randy Welch (13), Julie Despino (14), Barbara Moorehead (16), Alex Norton (22), Tom McBride (25), Don Kramer (27), Bryce Dixon (28), Betty Gaiennie (29).



Visit our Website

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