

Catholic Churches of Barber County, Kansas

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March 22, 2020

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Fourth Sunday of Lent Thoughts on Today's Liturgy

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a David is anointed as king of Israel.

Reading 2: Ephesians 5:8-14 Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.

Gospel: John 9:1-41 The man who was blind went off to wash himself and came back able to see.

Sunday's Reflection: "Seeing" Beyond the Miracle The story of the healing of the blind man in the Gospel of John has been, since the fourth century, associated with preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. It is a story that participates in the richly symbolic world of the Fourth Gospel. Sight serves as a metaphor for faith in Jesus and the life of discipleship. The journey by which the blind man comes to "see" who Jesus is, is counterposed with the increasing blindness of "the Jews," a designation that actually refers not to first-century Judaism in general but to a small subset of religious leaders opposed to Jesus. As the biblical scholar Francis Moloney has noted, in this story the religious leaders are preoccupied with how such a miracle could have happened, whereas the real question at issue is who Jesus really is. Like so many of us, "the man born blind" comes to this insight only gradually. Initially, he identifies the one who healed him simply as "the man called Jesus." The interrogation he undergoes leads him to acknowledge Jesus as "a prophet." But it is only by way of direct engagement with Jesus that he acknowledges him as "the Son of Man," a title that suggests Jesus is the one who makes God known in human history.

In this story, acquiring sight is all about recognizing the true identity of Jesus and learning to live out of that truth. This Gospel insight is complemented by the Letter to the Ephesians, which invites followers of Jesus to "live as children of light." Our Lenten journey alongside those moving toward baptism is about learning to see Jesus as the one who gives true meaning to our lives. *Richard R. Gaillardetz*

FROM THE DIOCESE

From Bishop John:

In conjunction with the bishops of Kansas, effective 1 p.m. March 17, 2020, and until further notice, all public celebrations of the Holy Mass in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City are cancelled. Guidance for *Funeral Masses, Baptisms, and Penance services* are forthcoming.

All meetings, PSR, RCIA, Adult education, Knights of Columbus etc. are also cancelled.

As updates are provided by the Diocese, they will be posted on our website.

Dispensation of Sunday Obligation

Until further notice, Bishop John has dispensed the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City from the obligation to attend Sunday Holy Mass.

PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION

Word of Life

“There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those ‘brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves’... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life” (The Gospel of Life 86).

****PLEASE EMAIL BULLETIN ITEMS TO JULIE BY NOON WEDNESDAY TO secretary@barbercountycatholic.org****

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick and Shut-Ins:

John Harding, Mike Lynch, Ronald Ringer, Pete Eck, Chuck Hobson, Hugh Rankin, Corona Hoch, Charlie Jo Warner, Mary Eck, Helen Eck, Sandy Ricke, Ruth Blick, Gladys Christensen, Lawrence Rausch, Miles Sheldon

For the Faithful Departed:

Deven Leis, Art Junger, Ted Hauser, Jim Ricke, Laura Seiler, Anita Patterson, Sue Smith, Mary Traffas, Betty Ricke, Walter Sedlak and all the souls in Purgatory. May they rest in perfect peace.

For the Military:

Captain Rebecca Wright Lopez, Christopher Coggins, Nicholas Noland, Dylan Allison, Sheldon Hart, Bianca Lewis, Luke Fisher

St. Boniface will be hosting Totus Tuus again this year June 7-12, 2020. Additional information to come.

Please plan to have your children attend this educational week!

Send Retreat Donations and Surveys to:

Grace That Reigns
2002 Fairway Drive
Dodge City, KS 67801

Women's Lenten Retreat

The Methodist Church in Kiowa has cancelled the women's retreat originally scheduled for April 4.

Electronic Giving at Holy Rosary

myEoffering provides a secure web based platform in which parishioners may privately and prayerfully make a one-time donation or set up their entire years contribution. myEoffering utilizes an easy to use schedule for parishioners to commit to any fund such as: general church operations, flowers for Easter or Christmas or any periodic church contributions. It's easy to use and you have complete control. Click on the "myEoffering" button on our website or go to <https://members.myeoffering.com> Call John Hagood if you have any questions.

Church News

St. Boniface Religion Class & Holy Rosary PSR

All PSR classes are cancelled until further notice.

St. John the Apostle

The Lenten Video series on "Jesus and the End Times: A Catholic View of the Last Days" will be rescheduled.

Save the Date – Totus Tuus

Chrism Mass

The public Chrism Mass in the Dodge City Cathedral is cancelled. We will continue to use the oils we have until the Bishop blesses and consecrates new oil.