

#### St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Parish

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# 4th Sunday of Lent Lætare Sunday March 19, 2023

One of my favourite Stevie Wonder songs is "Joy Inside My Tears". A super cool bass line over which Stevie sings, "You, You, You made life's history, you've brought some joy inside my tears, you have done what no one thought could be, you've brought some joy inside my tears". Sure, it is addressed to a woman, but doesn't true human love (at its heart) express a reflection of the greatest Love?

This is **Laetare Sunday** – *Joy* Sunday. This is the middle of Lent, when we allow the Holy Spirit to prepare a place to meet Jesus in our hearts through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. That space – especially as you get older – is also a place of tears. It is hard for folks who have just lost someone to come to Holy Mass for a reason: here with Jesus all the barriers are down and we very easily encounter the absence of a loved one, a dream gone, and a world numbingly troubled. Yes, even the most rose-coloured glasses can't stop our eyes from streaming in this *Lacrimarum Valle* (*Valley of Tears*).

But today I *do wear rose*! Because in the midst of the clarity brought to our lives by Lent, we see JOY! We see Jesus! Joy Inside our Tears.



First of all — we **SEE**! How? Jesus spits and makes a mud paste for our eyes. Don't rush past this. The Word who was God in the beginning fashioned Adam from the dust. The Word who is God, Jesus Christ, fashions a New Creation. A new Creation in which we are able to see who we are and who others are truly. Born blind by human brokenness (indeed, we are spiritually blind because humanity's parents sinned) Jesus makes us whole again. In Jesus Christ, God walks with us — God walks in us! — even more beautifully than He did in Eden. We SEE!

Secondly, Jesus sends us to Siloam with the Man born blind – or rather, Jesus shows us what the waters of our Baptism are doing in order that we may SEE always. *Siloam* means "sending-forth" – which is what the ancient crevices on Mount Zion precisely do. But the waters of Baptism – which flow from the One at the Well who promised "living Water" – are the waters of **SENDING-FORTH**. There is a great mystery here.

The Mystery is this: we **SEE** through being **SENT-FORTH**.

The waters of Baptism are waters of Mission. We can only continue to See if we are missionaries who are sent forth. Sight that cannot see others who are blind and bring them to Jesus is sight returning to blindness. Not in this parish. We are surrendering to the Lord of Joy's instructions that sound in the waters of Baptism – "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations". Joy Sunday sees us make a new commitment to allow our sight to be sent-out as disciple-makers of Jesus – the Joy Inside Our Tears.

#### MONDAY, March 20, 2023 St. Joseph, Spouse Of The Blessed Virgin Mary (S)

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary

12:10 pm - Mass († Cynthia Mysko) 6:30 pm - Medjugorje Prayer Group

### TUESDAY, March 21, 2023

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary

12:10 pm - Mass († Cynthia Mysko)

7:00 pm - Bible Study

# WEDNESDAY, March 22, 2023

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary 12:10 pm - Mass **(SI Bernadette DoCouto)** 3:00 pm - Eucharistic Adoration until 5:00pm

#### THURSDAY, March 23, 2023

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary 12:10 pm - Mass (SI Philip & Linda Lewans)

7:00 pm - RCIA

8:00 pm - Christ the King Prayer Group

#### FRIDAY, March 24, 2023

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary 12:10 pm - Mass (SI Philip & Linda Lewans)

12:10 pm - Confessions throughout Mass

5:30 pm - Sto. Nino Prayer Group 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

## SATURDAY, March 25, 2023 The Annunciation Of The Lord (S)

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary

12:10 pm - Mass († Joseph Davis)

12:10 pm - Confessions throughout Mass

## SUNDAY, March 26, 2023 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass

7:30 pm - Vespers

8:00 pm - Mass

Check out the "Music Section" on our webpage at

www.stpaulscc.com/music-at-st-pauls/ to hear some new music coming soon!



#### LITTLE SISTER PARISH



For the week of March 19 we are asking for PASTA & PASTA SAUCE. Guadalupe Parish always needs Ziplock storage bags and Powdered Milk. Drop-off bin in the welcome area. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Special offertory envelopes are found at the back of the church.

#### Stations of the Cross

"We adore You O Christ and we praise You,

because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world"

Fridays at 6:30pm during Lent



#### **Extended Confessions During Lent**

Confessions: 11:00 to noon, Monday to Saturday (as usual) & extended confessions offered throughout the 12:10pm Mass the next two Fridays and Saturdays leading up to Holy Week.

Fridays: March 24 & 31
Saturdays: March 25 & April 1

#### **Marriage Preparation**



Marriage Preparation Course starting soon! Christ in the Middle meets Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm **April 18 to May 30**. For more info or to register, call Angela at (306) 652-0033



**First Communion** classes for children who have received the sacrament of reconciliation begin **May 3**. The First communion sacrament date will be

on the **Feast of Corpus Christi, June 3**. For more info and to register, please contact Shelley through the Parish Office or by e-mail at: good-shepherd.catechist@gmail.com

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# **Eucharistic Adoration**

Wednesdays 3 - 5 pm Monday to Saturday 11 am - 12 pm

Fr. Penna publishes the banns of marriage between James Pye of the Parish & Ruth Ancheta (Candidate for Confirmation) of this Parish. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it. This is for the first time of asking.

#### OFFERING for March 12, 2023

| Cash Donations     | \$<br>316.30  |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Envelope Donations | \$<br>2226.00 |
| Renovations        | \$<br>143.00  |