



# ST. AGATHA – ST. JAMES PARISH

*“Forming a community of missionary disciples”*

March 10th, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Friends,

In Psalm 23 notice the action of God the Father, likened to how the shepherd is described in this week's psalm. *The shepherd does everything* - he makes me lie down and leads me to still waters. *The shepherd heals* - comforts and is always with me. *The shepherd welcomes* - sets a table before me and anoints my head with oil, which symbolizes our own Baptisms. Finally, the psalm concludes with a proclamation of the Father's goodness and mercy, remaining close to me all my days.

**How well do you know the shepherd?**

The rest of this Sunday's readings have a theme of darkness to light, blindness to sight. As a member of God's flock, do you find yourself wandering in darkness or without purpose? **How well do you know the Father** - the one who is goodness and mercy. Just like Jesus restoring sight to the blind man, when we come to know and receive God's mercy we start to live in a different light.

During this season of Lent, we must not undermine the reality of God's mercy in our lives. Many saints like Thomas Aquinas, Augustine, and John Paul II proclaimed that *mercy is God's greatest attribute*. Divine Mercy is God's love reaching down to meet our needs and pull us up out of our darkness. It is the thing that breaks through even when our inclination is to stay in sin. St. Faustina's words describing the effects of mercy are powerful,

*"All grace flows from mercy ... even if a person's sins were as dark as night, **God's mercy is stronger than our misery**. One thing alone is necessary: that the sinner **set ajar the door of his heart**, be it ever so little, to let in a ray of God's merciful grace, and then **God will do the rest**."*

When we **let go** of our tendency to fix ourselves or stay in the darkness and **let God** heal us with His mercy, we can be sure to taste eternal life that Jesus promises. As we continue this journey of *'letting go and letting God'*, I invite you to two challenges: **Reflect** on God the Father as your shepherd in Psalm 23 and His attributes. Schedule a time to go to confession and **receive** the ocean of grace before Easter.

Anthony Quinn, CLM Missionary

## WORSHIP AID

**Entrance - Lord of all Hopefulness — 560**

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares can destroy, Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953, ♦ Oxford University Press

**Reading 1 Sm 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 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6**

**Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. 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.**
2. 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.**

3. You spread the table before me. in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R.**
4. 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.**

## Reading II | Eph 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 Jn 4:5-42

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. 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." 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." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

**Nicene Creed: See Hymnal.**

**Preparation Altar: Remember you are Dust — 391**

**Refrain - Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.**

1. Repent, the kingdom is at hand. Rend your hearts, not your garments. Now, the acceptable time. **R.**
2. Repent, the kingdom is at hand. Blow the trumpet in Zion. Now, the acceptable time. **R.**
3. Repent, the kingdom is at hand. Forgive one another. Now, the acceptable time. **R.**

Text: Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-62; Paul A. Tate, b 1968, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain from the Sacramentary, © 1973, ICEL

**Note for Communion:** All those who are properly prepared may come forward to receive Communion and should consume it in the sight of the minister. If you are unsure or non-Catholic, we encourage you to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing

## Communion Hymn: Wait for the Lord — 340

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Isaiah 40, Philipians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

**Saint Michael the Archangel**, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls."

## Recessional Song: Wait for the Lord — 340

1. The glory of these forty days We celebrate with songs of praise; For Christ, by whom all things were made, Himself has fasted and has prayed.
2. Alone and fasting Moses saw The loving God who gave the law; And to Elijah, fasting, came The steeds and chariots of flame.
3. So Daniel trained his mystic sight, Delivered from the lion's might; And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became The herald of Messiah's name.
4. Then grant that we like them be true, Consumed in fast and prayer with you; Our spirits strengthen with your grace, And give us joy to see your face.

Text: Clarum decus jejunii; Gregory the Great, c. 540-604; tr. by Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, Oxford University Press

## Stewardship Corner

Collection	2023/3/5	2024/2/25
<b>Total Collection</b>	\$ 2,391	\$ 1,478
<b>Cash / Envelopes</b>	\$ 691	\$ 773
<b>Online Giving</b>	\$ 1,700	\$ 705

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**"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."**

1 Peter 4:1



## Mass

**SUN** | 9:00am, 11:30am 5:30pm

**MON-FRI** | 12:05PM

**WED-FRI** | 5:30PM

**TUE** | 6:30PM

**SAT Vigil Mass: 1st:** Filipino, 7pm; **2nd:** Spanish, 5:30pm; **3rd:** Korean, 5:30pm; **4th:** Intercultural, 5:30pm

**Confessions are available 30 minutes before each Sunday Mass or by appointment**

## Mass Announcements

- Our **Holy Week Schedule** has been published on our website & emails. In addition to the liturgies of the Triduum, there are a number of ways to live your Holy Week at Sts. AJ's, beginning with our Night of Mercy on Wednesday.



- This Wednesday evening at 6:30pm we are hosting our 1st-ever "**Senior Dinner**" for Penn & Drexel Seniors (RSVP to Amy at [abishop@saintsaj.org](mailto:abishop@saintsaj.org)). Sign-ups are also out for our **Baccalaureate Mass**, which will be held May 18th for Penn & June 11th for Drexel.



## Ongoing Groups

- Parish Rosary Group** | Wed, 6PM | Patrick Travers ([ptravers@saintsaj.org](mailto:ptravers@saintsaj.org))
- Hiking Group** | Saturday | Patrick Travers ([ptravers@saintsaj.org](mailto:ptravers@saintsaj.org))
- Nazareth Group for Married Couples** | Last Thursday of the month, 7PM & **Nazareth Parenting group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, childcare provided | Christina Urdy ([ccamarata97@gmail.com](mailto:ccamarata97@gmail.com))
- Young Adult / Graduate Students Group** | Wednesday, 6:30PM Mica Udani ([alivelyoungadults@saintsaj.org](mailto:alivelyoungadults@saintsaj.org))
- Undergraduate Bible Study** | Penn: Tim Broderick ([timothy.broderick@focus.org](mailto:timothy.broderick@focus.org)) Drexel: Rebecca Richards ([rebecca.richards@focus.org](mailto:rebecca.richards@focus.org))
- Athlete Ministry** | Penn: Molly Bent ([mbent@saintsaj.org](mailto:mbent@saintsaj.org)) | Drexel: Katie Creamer ([katherine.creamer@focus.org](mailto:katherine.creamer@focus.org))
- Latino Group** | Maria Jose Armas ([marmas@saintsaj.org](mailto:marmas@saintsaj.org))
- Communion for Homebound (Sundays)** | Patrick Travers ([ptravers@saintsaj.org](mailto:ptravers@saintsaj.org))
- Mass Readings Reflection Group** | Carmen Sanchez ([csanchez@saintsaj.org](mailto:csanchez@saintsaj.org)) | Sunday's 10:15am

## Contact Info

For more information about office hours or staff visit: [www.saintsaj.org](http://www.saintsaj.org) or call (267) 787-5000

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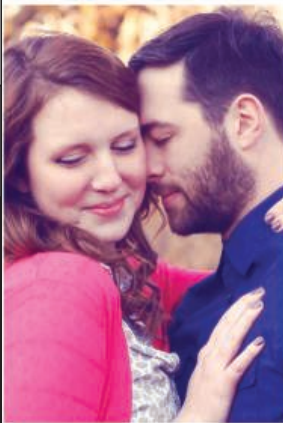
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