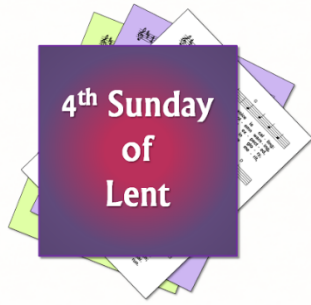


4th SUNDAY of LENT ***YEAR C – March 31, 2019***



It's another weekend when we have two sets of readings because of the scrutinies that are celebrated with our RCIA candidates and catechumens. When we look at both sets of readings, the message is basically the same.

Saint John speaks to us in the cycle A readings about a man born blind who is healed by Jesus and given the gift of sight.

It's an easy transition for us to reflect on spiritual blindness - the kind of blindness that affects all of us at one time or another. The holy Season of Lent is a good time to ask our Lord to heal that kind of blindness in each of us. He can do that.

Saint Luke, in his Gospel, in the cycle C readings, tells us about the prodigal son and the forgiving father. He also makes mention of the older son who sees the sin of his younger brother but is blind to his own sins, especially his inability to forgive.

What does all that have to do with us some 2000 years later.

Well, just like the prodigal son, we too can be influenced by the hedonistic culture of our time. We too can be blinded to our own sinfulness. We can easily see which commandments our brothers and sisters are breaking but we don't look at ourselves with the same critical eye.

When the prodigal son was cured of his spiritual blindness, he came to his senses and asked for his father's forgiveness. The older brother did not see his own sin.

I think it's fair to say that you are not in immediate danger of losing your soul. You wouldn't be reading this if your mind and heart was so turned away from God, so steeped in sin that you are in danger of losing your soul.

Our parish Lenten Penance Service will be held this year on Sunday, April 14th. at 7:00 PM. You are most welcome to join us then or any Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock for the sacrament of reconciliation. The healing grace of that sacrament is available to all of us who need that kind of healing. And it's free.

We pray today for our spiritual blindness to be healed by Jesus. We pray for the grace to see ourselves as He sees us. And we pray for all our RCIA candidates who examine their consciences at Mass today in our second set of Scrutinies. They are preparing to become members of our parish family and the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday evening. Please pray for them.

For a few moments in silence, imagine our Lord standing before you and asking you, "What do you want me to do for you?" Imagine yourself saying, "Lord I want to see - I want to see myself as you see me."

DO YOU WEAR A MASK?

