

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
LAETARE SUNDAY  
MARCH 2, 2008

Cycle A - Year II

From  
The  
Pastor

**FR. TOM'S MESSAGE**

The scriptures proclaimed this weekend present a theme of vision. It is a wonderful story how Jesus heals the blind man. He receives vision. Remember he was born blind so he never

had the experience of seeing. This experience soon got him in "trouble." He was called before the authorities to explain and not just once. His parents were dragged in to testify also. The man had a simple defense: "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." Those who named Jesus a sinner were reduced to many bad arguments. We who have sight and vision, reading these words need to be reminded: "**Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart.**"

**SOME THOUGHTS FROM FR. TOM**

- Spring cleaning will be starting around the property soon. Stop by the office and see how you can help.
- We just about have electric power to the buildings on Echo St. Soon work will begin (by parish volunteers) on restoration.
- I thank Fr. Tom Cronin for helping with the Holy Masses this weekend while I attend to some family matters.
- Take care of your CSA pledge as soon as possible, please.

**~RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION~**

- **Primary grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>** Classes meet today.
- **Special Sacramental Primary** grades will meet today
- **The Special Sacramental Class grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Class will meet Monday 03/0308 .
- **Home Study Class** will meet March 9, 2008.
- **Confirmation Class** will meet Tuesday, 03/04/08.

**REMINDER:** Parents of all those who will be receiving First Holy Communion will meet **SUNDAY, MARCH 09<sup>TH</sup>** immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass.

**Did You Know???**

When we give up something - something important - we make a sacrifice: It is penitential, a way to express sorrow for our sins. It teaches us that we don't need those things to be happy. It is a building-block in learning spiritual self-discipline. It is a way of expressing solidarity, individually and as a whole Church, with the poor of this world, the poor in whom Jesus says we will meet Him.

*( How to Observe Lent as a Catholic [OSV] )*

**Choose Life**

"By word and by prayer, and also by renunciations and sufferings that advanced age brings with it, older people have always been eloquent witnesses and apostles of the faith in Christian communities and in families."

*Pontifical Council for the Laity*

**Prayer**

A sinner must approach the Sacrament of Penance with the appropriate disposition (1) Conversion, a sincere repentance, a heartfelt sorrow and an intent to sin no more; (2) Confession: disclosure of ones' sins before a priest; (3) Acts of Penance: performance of certain acts in order to repair the harm caused by the sin and provide a cure for the sickness of sin; (4) Absolution: pardon pronounced by the priest in the name of Christ who has given him this power.

**ACT OF CONTRITION**

*O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all of my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. But most of because they offend you my God Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen*

*The Essential Catholic Prayer Book.*

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2008**

*Tending the flock*

We have begun our annual Catholic Services Appeal. We thank Betty Barr who has graciously agreed to be our chairman. **CSA** is a wonderful way to support our Diocese in many charitable ministries while at the same time supporting your parish of Saint Michael.

Our Diocese is one of the very few who give back to the individual parish 100% of monies once the diocesan goal has been attained.

It is the goal to have all of the members of Saint Michael participate in this stewardship program that is so fruitful for so many. Thank you for your consideration.

***If you did not receive a letter in the mail, the information is in the back of the church.***

**The Season of Lent**

*Lenten Observation: Following are the minimal Lenten Observance as mandated by the Church:*

**FASTING**

All baptized Roman Catholics between the ages of 18 years & 59 yrs are obliged to observe the Lenten Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

**ABSTINENCE**

All baptized Roman Catholics who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday

**Here at Saint Michael..**

**Lenten Devotion:** All are invited to bring soup and bread and to participate in this Sacred Devotion.

*Soup-Bread-Video 6:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.*

**Schedules:** The new schedules for Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Altar Servers in both English and Spanish are in the Sacristy. Please pick up your copy.

**Around the Diocese of Reno**

**Monthly Memorial Mass:** Will be celebrated on Wed. 03/05/08 @ 11:00 in the Most Holy Redeemer Mausoleum Chapel at the Cemetery. The celebrant will be Fr. King

**Pray for Peace - Pray the Rosary  
Pray for Vocations - Pray the Rosary**

# GOOD NEWS

March 2, 2008

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

The Book of Ephesians indicates that we can tell who the children of light are by the fruit they bear. Some clues are obvious; some dark works clearly should be avoided. Yet often we face ambiguity. Obviously I am not called to be a bank robber. But should I be a banker? maybe a teacher? a carpenter? Am I meant for medicine, law, business? for parenting? We can tell what the fruits are *after* the "child of light" has been active. But how do I know ahead of time what to do? What if I'm called to produce a new kind of fruit? In the mirror, do I see a child of light? I know this person's strengths and failings. I see the honest attempts, but also the dishonesties, the non attempts. What can God do with that?

When Samuel is told to find the anointed one of God, he is told to see deeply. Jesse's son, a good-looking choice, is not the one. Neither are any in the next string of brothers. The young man who is going to do God's work has been in the back, out of the picture, while Samuel looked at the others. John's passage is not subtle. Look at the Pharisees, the healed blind man, the man's parents. Look at Jesus. This is a story that asks who really is blind and who really can see. Our question of good fruit and the question of recognition reach a new depth here. Who can Jesus heal? When can he do it? Who is willing to go on record about what they see? The blind man knows one thing: Jesus touched him, and now he can see.

To the experts, to those who have seen a lot, Jesus looks like a sinner So what are *we* called to do? We are supposed to be Jesus' hands and eyes. "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" ( John 9:16). Yet God calls us.

DAN FINUCANE

## This Week's Readings

**Monday**  
March 3  
Is 65:17-21  
Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday**  
March 4  
Ez 47:1-9, 12  
Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday**  
March 5  
Is 49:8-15  
Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday**  
March 6  
Ex 32:7-14  
Jn 5:31-47

**Friday**  
March 7  
Wis 2:1a, 12-22  
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday**  
March 8  
Jer 11:18-20  
Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday**  
March 9  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
Ez 37:12-14  
Rom 8:8-11  
Jn 11:1-45

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dear Padre

### Should prayer be given as penance?

Dear Padre,

*I am a teacher. I never give homework as a punishment because I don't want the children to see it as something they do only if they are bad. Recently my son made his first reconciliation and received some prayers as his penance. Doesn't this make prayer seem like something you do as a punishment for being bad?*

Julie

Dear Julie,

I couldn't agree with you more. In fact the new rite of reconciliation suggests that, if at all possible, penance must be something that rights the wrong, and it must be clear enough that the penitent knows he or she has fulfilled it. The idea of penance is not only to show God we are truly sorry, but also to help put us on the right track of living Christian lives. It also serves to correct the harm our sins caused.

Unfortunately, this idea of penance does not seem to be widely practiced, perhaps because priests sometimes feel rushed in the sacrament, don't want to make it too hard on anyone, or are just not creative. I try to come up with a penance that fits the sin, and that is not always as easy as it sounds. For instance, if someone has stolen something and returning it would reveal their sin (this cannot be part of the penance), making a comparable donation might be a fitting penance. When someone confesses gossiping, I challenge them to tell someone else something good about the person they gossiped about.

In other words, instead of spreading pain, learn to spread joy. The penance for disobeying parents might be to do something nice for them, simply telling them that you love them or doing chores without being asked. Once you start giving it a little thought, you find it is really not that difficult and in the end is far more beneficial to the penitent and the community at large. I agree that using prayer as a penance can send the signal that we pray only when we have been bad or need something from God, like forgiveness. On the contrary, prayer should be constant. We should pray always and in all ways, if for no other reason than to give glory to God.

Father Rick Potts, C.Ss.R.

## SCHEDULES March 08/09, 2008

	5:30 p.m.	8:a.m.	9:30 a.m.	Noon-Spanish
<b>Communion Minister</b>	S Hays	B Bailey	A Perkins N Perotti E Walls	R Morales
<b>Lector</b>	K Scull	J McNeil	J McCormack	R Caseros
<b>Altar Server</b>	Tyrone D Cody D Tripp C	Kevin G Marthony G Alex V	Hunter M Kieren Mc Logan Mc	Gracie P Kimberly Puente

## ATTENDANCE/COLLECTION

February 24th, 2008	
5:30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection
69	\$1857.06
8:00 a.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
31	\$ 459.00
9:30 a.m.	
144	
Noon	
237	

## MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

**03/01/2008** **Intention** Requested by  
5:30 p.m. †John Schuster Dennis Schuster

**03/02/2008**  
8:00 a.m. †David Drakulich Dobson Family  
9:30 a.m. Mother's Day Mass League

Noon The People of the Parish

## VOCATION CROSS FAMILY PRAYER

Name	Date Received	Date Returned
Familia Claro-Gomez	03/02/2008	03/09/2008
????????????????	03/09/2008	03/16/2008

\*Daily Holy Mass or a Communion service at 9:00 a.m.  
\*\*Thank you for your continued stewardship of Time, Treasure and Talent!

\*\*\*Holy Mass Intentions are available. Please call the parish office.