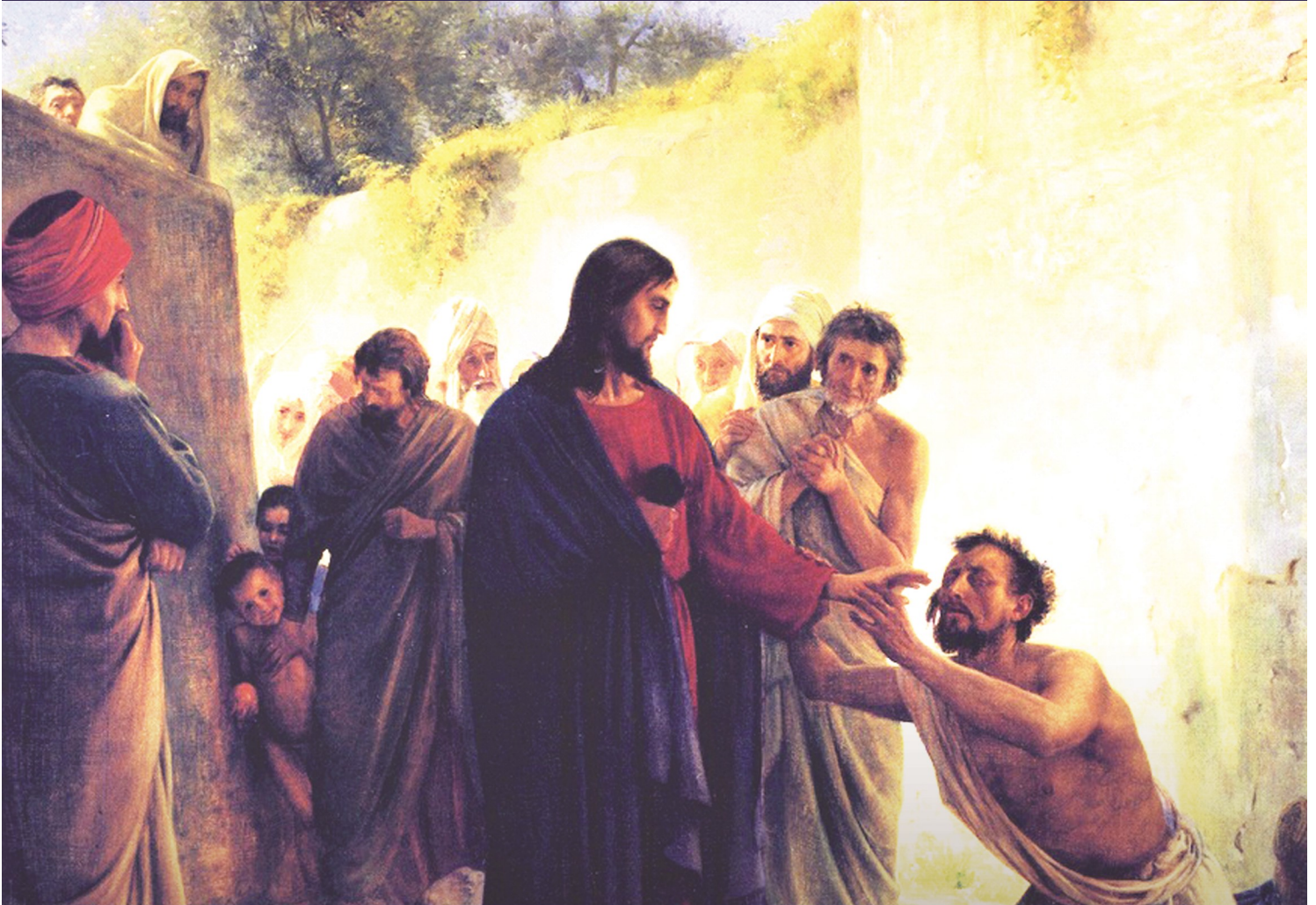


ST. PETER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22ND, 2020



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said,
“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

John 9:35

915 12th St. Greeley, Colorado 80631 970-352-1060

Sacramental Emergencies 970-352-1060, press 1

www.StPeterGreeley.org

ADORATION CHAPEL

(USE YOUR KEY FOB)

CHAPEL IS CLOSED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:00AM - 4:00PM

FRIDAY

8:00AM - 12:00 NOON

	OBSERVANCES	READINGS	MASS INTENTIONS		CHURCH EVENTS
Sunday March 22	4th Sunday of Lent	1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	7:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 6:00 PM	Yates Family +Sue Asche Enrique Alvarez +Benjamin and +Zachary Smith For the people of St Peter	Until further notice, all church events and public Masses have been cancelled.
Monday March 23	St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop	Isaiah 65:17-21 Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b John 4:43-54	12:10 PM	+Jerry Murphy	The following have been cancelled or closed until further notice: Eucharistic Adoration Confessions (by appointment only, call the office) All classes parent classes, RE, RCIA and RCIC Youth Group Stations of the Cross Soup suppers and Fish Fry Parish Mission All parish small group studies Food Pantry Angelic Accents Gift Shop
Tuesday March 24		Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 Psalm 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 John 5:1-16	12:10 PM	+Vittorio and +Maria D’Angelo	
Wednesday March 25	The Annunciation of the Lord	Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10 Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Heb rews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38	12:10 PM	Theresa Rogakis	
Thursday March 26		Exodus 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 John 5:31-47	12:10 PM	+Dillon Conrad	
Friday March 27		Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22 Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	12:10 PM	+Donald Bloomfield	
Saturday March 28		Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 John 7:40-53	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Janette Gau-Moore +Keith Osmundson	
Sunday March 29	5th Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45			

Fr. Tomas's Weekly Reflection

In Gospels, many times Jesus repeatedly calls the Pharisees blind. Moral blindness or spiritual blindness is narrowing the perception to a limited field of view, focusing on certain insignificant aspects of reality, with a complete omission of other, important ones. Many times it happens that we emphasize someone else's worst traits, while in the same time we don't see our own flaws. Really blind is the one who does not see his own foolishness and perceives all others as stupid.

In Greek, the word that John uses for 'clay', besides the ordinary meaning of the 'sticky and moist substance', also metaphorically refers to stupidity. However, not in a sense of mental deficiency, but denoting an intentional perversion. Imagine a situation when someone hands you over a cup, beautiful and clean on the outside, but with stains, growing mold and what looks like a month worth of dirt on the inside, and at the same time claims that it happened because of your dirty hands? Or how would we react to the cries of someone who accuses you of staining their carpet with muddy shoes during the drought? This is exactly what Jesus refers to when he call Pharisees blind. Elsewhere, with equal irritation, He argues that not what enters into a man's mouth makes him unclean, but what comes out of him, from his heart, does. And when the disciples came to Him, signaling that the Pharisees had been offended by this statement, He emphatically exclaimed describing them the blind guides of the blind. But if the blind leads the blind, they will both fall into the pit. Couldn't the One who healed a man blind since birth also help the blindness of the Pharisees? It is easier to cure a blind man from his disability than another one from his foolishness and hypocrisy. The most common signs of this kind of hypocritical foolhardiness are: indignation filled with condemning of others, dealing with someone else's mistakes instead of ours, and naively citing religious prohibitions and orders.

Healing of the blind man in today's Gospel was intended as a help for the Pharisees to open their eyes to their moral blindness. But even an obvious miracle does not help anyone who is blind to himself. The first impulse of a conscience that begins to heal is to start thinking about our own moral situation, not correcting others. Thinking about our own blind judgments, slander, accusations, outrage, scandals, suspicions... After all, when we will face the powerful eschatological tribunal, God will not ask us about the sins of others, but about ours. And above all, nothing will outrage Him more than our outrage with others.

STEWARDSHIP WAY OF THE CROSS

The Ninth Station

Jesus falls the third time. Envy causes people to fall. Jesus always put people before things. We can rise from our envy by putting people first. Covetous desires place more important upon our neighbors' goods than upon the dignity of individuals. Do we have the poverty of heart as shown by Jesus? Jesus celebrates the joy of the poor to whom the kingdom already belongs.

The Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his clothes. Jesus shows us how to give it all away, even the clothes off his back. Private property must not be gained by theft or coercion. Commutative justice demands respecting the rights of others and making reparation for injustice. Jesus stands here as a victim of injustice, naked and humiliated. Do we defend the rights of the vulnerable?

The Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross. Jesus shows that suffering does not have to be meaningless. Christ is living in me, I am living in Christ. He suffers in my place as a gift to satisfy justice. Do I consider offering my suffering for the reparation of sin? Do I encourage others to find meaning in their suffering so they may offer it as a gift to God?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathy Allen, Kathleen Alvarado, Kay Anderson, +Jonathan Appel, +Sue Asche, Asche family, Luke Barden, Staci Behne, Lisa Biem, Claudean Boatman, Kathryne Bonar, Diane Brown, Dick Budd, Ray Burns, Corrina Cantrell, Frani Castaneda, Roman Castaneda, Lydia Castillo, John Casynn, Lea Ciothe, Betty Clark, Mallory Cranwell, Jeremy Cruz, Chad Dunfee, Karen Eicher, Jackie J. and Family, Priscilla French, Heidi Gaiser, Merle Gaspers, Jeanette Gau-Moore, Rodriguez Gonzalez, Victor Gonzalez, Kelly Graybill, Aaron Greber, Gimena Gunderson, Denise Gustafson, Bryce Hares, Jean Hawkins, Margaret Hernandez, Elliot Hitchcock, Marcella Holguin, Frank Holland, Judy Houston, Karen Johns, N. J. King, Geni Koenig, Rodney Kontz, Estson and Karen and Sherlene Kontz, Randy Koski, Carolyn Lafferty, Gavin Landwehr, Larue Lara, Laronda Leigh, Carla Martinez, Kevin McKenzie, Chrissy Moore, Barbara Morales, John Muniz, Rose Pargas, Carol Murphy, Nestia Nuanez, Luci and Salem O'Leary, Donna Olson, Carlos Pena, +Michael Prieto, Deloris Potterfield, Zachary Quick, Tony Quigley, Joel Redman, Virginia Rodriguez, Andrea Romero, Jackie Rowe, Cheryl Rubino, Kendall Scheiderer, Tyson Schaffer, Fred Sieber, Debie Simonton, Mildred Skonksner, Henry Smith, Eleanor Sneddon, Neva Spencer, Wilmena Stahla, Jon Stoson, Judy Stryker, Sonny Subia, Mabel Tapia, Joe Trujillo, Pauline Trujillo, Sonny Unrein, Mary Frances Villarreal, Patricia Marie Villarreal, Justine Wahlert, Terry Walsh, Majorie Whittington, Tamara Wilkinson, Joe Yates, Bonnie Youngman

Letter from the Archbishop

To the faithful of the Archdiocese of Denver:

Today the bishops of Colorado made the decision to cancel public Masses to at least the end of March. We have heard from many of you who support the decision, and also from those who do not. I hope this letter will offer some insight into why we are taking this action.

The decision was not an easy one as the three of us love the Eucharist and it is the center of our lives and realize that is true for most Catholics. However, after talking with many different doctors and health experts over the last couple of months and doing a lot of reading on the virus, we learned how easily it is transmitted, and how dangerous it can be to the elderly and those with medical conditions.

The fact is that one person attending a public gathering can transmit it to many, and even though we tell people not to come to Mass if they have any symptoms, we know that some might still come not knowing they are infected. Every hour things are changing on the virus and the number of cases continues to rise, and sadly we have had the first death in Colorado. Whole countries have taken this precaution earlier. Also, the countries who isolated and quarantined early are the ones dealing best with the virus. With all this data the three bishops concluded the prudent and charitable decision was to cancel Masses for the common good.

The Churches will remain open so people can pray and visit the Blessed Sacrament. Priests are aware that they are to hear Confessions if necessary and anoint the sick even if they have the virus. Priests will continue to celebrate private Masses and religious communities will have Masses. Funerals will continue to take place, but only with family members. Weddings may continue too, but only with family members.

All of us during this time must limit our contact with one another and follow the recommendations of those in the medical field who know best how to contain the virus. It is best for families to stay at home, work from home if they can, and only go out for essential and urgent matters.

The most important part for us as Catholics is to pray for those suffering from the virus, for those in the medical profession, and to seek the intervention of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to bring a rapid end to the virus. I encourage you to spend time in prayer as a family, in private, and to pray the prayer designated by Pope Francis or the Novena to Our Lady of Monte Berico beginning on March 16 and concluding on March 25 for the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

The archdiocese will continue to provide updates on our website: <https://archden.org/coronavirus>

May our Lord fill you with his peace at this time!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila

Spiritual Adoption

Every day over 3,000 babies are killed by abortion. To help stop the anti-life push around the world, the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn child. This is done by praying for 9 months that the one particular but unknown child's life be spared abortion and be allowed to continue to live.

On March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation, at the 12:10 PM Mass, St. Peter's will begin a sacrificial 9-month prayer for the unborn children in danger of an abortion. Our prayers CAN make a difference between whether a baby will be born ... or aborted. Our prayers can also be a form of spiritual support for both of the parents. Please share the love of life given to you by the Lord of all life and join in spiritually adopting a baby.

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Perfect Contrition and Spiritual Communion

What to do if you cannot go to Confession or Holy Communion due to the COVID-19 coronavirus



If you have to self-isolate or are quarantined due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, it is unlikely that you will be able to receive the sacraments as normal.

In these circumstances, there are devotions through which you can receive absolution for your sins, (under certain conditions), and the consolation of Eucharistic grace.

These devotions are officially encouraged by the Church and have been practiced by saints.

How to make an Act of Perfect Contrition

Through an act of Perfect Contrition, you receive pardon for your sins outside of confession, even mortal sins, on condition that you determine to amend your life and make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as this becomes possible for you.

Perfect Contrition is a grace from God, so sincerely ask for this gift throughout the day prior to making your act of contrition: "My God, grant me perfect contrition for all my sins".

1. In reality or imagination kneel at the foot of a crucifix and say to yourself: "Jesus, my God and my Saviour, in the midst of your agony, you remembered me, you suffered for me, you wished to wipe away my sins".
2. Contrition is 'perfect' if you repent of your sins because you love God and are sorry for offending Him and causing the sufferings of Christ on the cross. Before the Crucified Christ remember your sins, repent of them because they have brought our Lord to His sufferings on the Cross. Promise him, that with His help, you will not sin again.
3. Recite, slowly and sincerely, an act of contrition focused on the goodness of God and your love of Jesus: "O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you and by the help of your grace I will not sin again. Amen".
4. Make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as practically possible.

How to make a Spiritual Communion

The key to Spiritual Communion is to grow in your heart a constant desire for the Blessed Sacrament.

1. If you are aware of serious or mortal sin, make an Act of Perfect Contrition.
2. Imagine the sacred words and actions of the Mass or watch online or on TV.
3. Make all those acts of faith, humility, sorrow, adoration, love and desire that you usually express before Holy Communion.
4. Desire, with earnest longing, to receive our Lord present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Blessed Sacrament.
5. Say this prayer of St. Alphonsus de' Ligouri: "My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You are already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen.
6. After moments of silent adoration make all those acts of faith, humility, love, thanksgiving and offering that you usually express through prayers after Holy Communion.