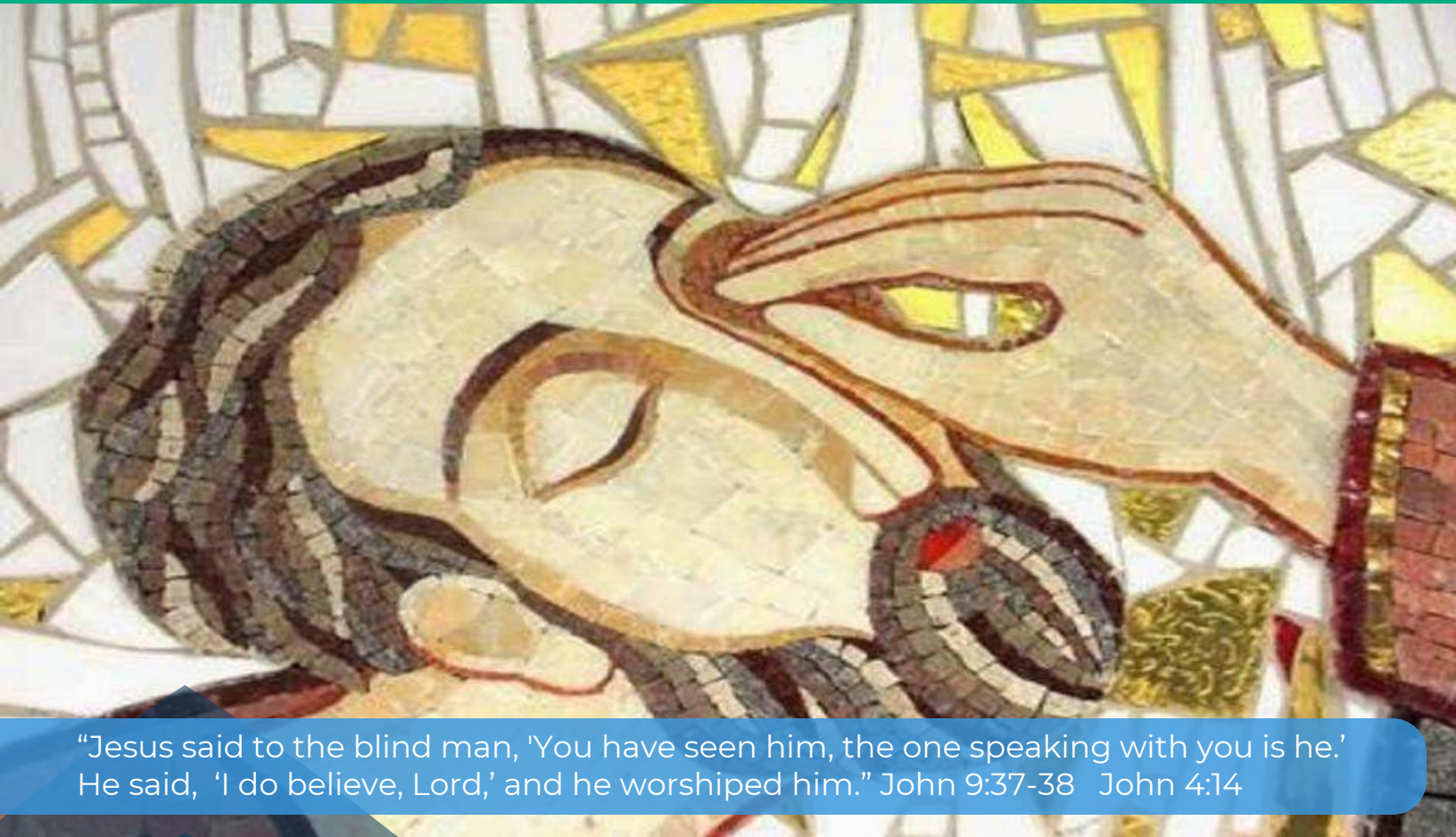


4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 15, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 · EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG

312 SOUTH STATE STREET · APPLETON, WI 54911



“Jesus said to the blind man, ‘You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘I do believe, Lord,’ and he worshiped him.” John 9:37-38 John 4:14

Regular Mass Times

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 7:45am, 9:45am

Monday 12:05pm

Tuesday No mass

Wednesday No mass

Thursday 12:05pm

Friday No Mass

Pastor - Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-422-4316

Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel

dcngerry@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-540-9594

Cemetery Info - Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-882-4158

Parish Office Hours:

920-739-5119

Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9am-4pm

Wed, 9am-6:30pm

Friday-Office Closed

Sacrament of Matrimony

Getting Married?

Congratulations! Call Fr. Bill at least six months before your planned wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?

Contact Lori Lavalle

llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:

Saturdays 9-10am or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays 4:30-8pm

Sign up for a time to sit with Jesus.

We must have one person

with the Eucharist at all times.

Or scan with your phone.

(No Adoration on Wednesdays during Lent)



SCAN ME



Thank You!

2026

Shamrock Shenanigans

Donors and Sponsors

10th Frame
Abbie & Andrew Goodman
Angela Carney
Ann & Walt Pretzel
Annie and Kevin Geurts
Annie Van Stralen
Appleton Beer Factory
ATW Airport Authority
Avenue Jeweler
Badger Family Fun Center
Bobbi and Jeff Mullen
Bread Smith
Brian and Catherine Wallace
Buffalo Wild Wings
Butte des Mortes Golf
Buzz's
Carol Frahm
Casey Hurley Photography
Casey Johnson
Ceil Temmer
Chick-fil-A
Chris Higgins
Cindy Clark
Connie Polley
Culver's
Dan & Margi Voissem
Dave & Sue Rogers
Dave and Mary Ellen Julien
Dcn Gerry & Jennifer Schraufnagel
Dean & Cindy Boyer
Dee Dee Ebben
Dee Hurley
Dennis & Alicia Di Pietro
Dennis & Nancie Chuchel
EDCI/Electroline
Festival Foods
Five Guys
Fox Cities Irish Fest
Fox Valley Golf Club

Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra
Foxfire Golf Course at Par 4 Resort
Fr. Bill
Freddy's
Gary & Kathie Shadick
Glass Nickel Pizza
Glenn & Anne Higgins
Great Harvest
Hank and Karen's
Helen Kobussen
Hooks and Needles group
In memory of Margaret Higgins
In Memory of Mary Mauthe
Jacob's Meat Market
Jeff & Carol Johnson
Jeff & Lil DelPonte
Jersey Mikes
Jimmy Johns
Joe Drusch & Nancy Lindo-Drusch
Judilynn McDermott
Judy Colling
Kate & Mark Schuh
Keith & Kathy Barth
Lake Park Swim & Fitness
Lisa Hill
Marge Vertin
Mark's Eastside
Mary Ellen Fisher
Mary Higgins
Massage Factory
McMahon Engineers and Architects
Mike & Jackie Lingg
Mike & Julie Morse
Milwaukee Burger
Nicolet Bank
Olive Cellar
Olive Garden
Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Medicine Specialists

Patti Roovers
Payne Point Liquor
PF Changs
Pizza King
Potter & Clay (Neenah)
Richard & Barb Hillman
Robert & Kristine Loderbauer
Sal's
Sara Rezin
Sarah Higgins
Skyline Comedy Club
St. Mary Parish
St. Mary Parish Quilt Group
Stretch Zone
Tanners
Tennies Jewelry
Texas Roadhouse
The Bar
The History Museum at The Castle
The Timber Rattlers
Theresa Carroll
Topsy Taco/Sangrias
Tom & Kim Nelson
Victoria's Italian Restaurant
Xavier Athletics
Xavier Catholic Schools
Xavier Fine Arts

A Simple Way to Give This Lent

Lent is a sacred season of prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we are invited to reflect on the blessings God has given us and how we can share them with others.

One meaningful way to live out this Lenten call is through eGiving.

eGiving is a simple, secure way to give online, making it easy to support our parish all year long. Please consider eGiving to support our parish and sustain ministries, programs, and services that strengthen our community and serve those in need every day.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Call ParishSOFT Customer Service at 866-930-4774 option 6
- Scan the QR code
- Text "Give" to **920-294-1189**

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands

Lenten Alms Project 2026

SCAN TO DONATE



Help young people aging out of foster care step into a hopeful future—surrounded by safe housing, meaningful mentorship, and a community that believes in them.

Place donations in the box in the back of church or the parish center. Make checks payable to "St. Mary Parish" and "alms" in the memo line. Sponsored by St. Mary Matthew 25 Committee



Brunch
BUNCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 20th at 11:30 AM

If you are 55 years old or older, mark your calendar for our next get together.

We are going for a fish lunch at the Capitol Center, 725 W. Capitol Drive, Appleton. They have Junior and Regular size portions with the fish. Reservations are required.

Please let us know by **Monday, March 16**, if you will be joining us. Call or text **Sue Rogers** at **920-810-1545**, leaving your name and how many people. Thank you.

LENTEN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

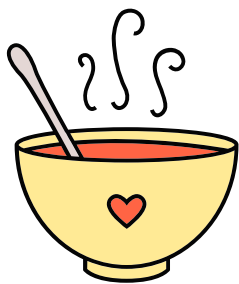
Fridays 9 am-9 pm; Saturdays 8 am to noon, Feb 20 - March 28

(No Adoration on Wednesdays during Lent). Adoration is in the chapel.

Sit with Jesus, find peace and escape the noise.

Consider signing up so we can make sure we have two people/time slot. Scan the QR code, use the link, or sign up in the Marian Way.

[sign-up link](#)



LENTEN STATIONS & SOUP

THURSDAYS

Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm with soup supper to follow.

March 12 — St. Mary

March 19 — St. Mary

March 26 — St. Joseph

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE SOUP AND SERVE ON MARCH 19!!

Sign up to make soup, dessert or serve the meal for **March 19!**



<https://bit.ly/4udhWJJ>

Help our parish make an impact on Earth Day!

ASH WEDNESDAY (Feb 18) - EARTH DAY (Apr 22)

Bring in these hard-to-get-rid of items:

- Christmas lights
- Compact fluorescent lightbulbs
- Batteries (rechargeable and non)
- Printer cartridges
- CDs/DVDs/Blue Ray discs/albums
- Books/magazines
- Egg cartons
- Reuseable fiber, paper and plastic bags (Clean and dry)



Items will be reused or properly recycled by:

- Outagamie County Resource Recovery Park
- St. Joe's Food Pantry
- Office Depot
- Half Price Books
- Home Depot

Any proceeds go to St. Joseph Food Program

Sponsored by the St. Mary Care for Creation Ministry



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

SCRIPTURAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN ART March 23, Monday | 6:00pm

Join Fr. Jim Neilson, O. Praem., for a prayerful, biblical reflection on Christ's Passion through the Stations of the Cross, introduced by St. John Paul II in 1991 and experienced through sacred art.

Be the LIGHT

Helping Our Youth Discover Jesus



Helping children discover Jesus is one of the most important things we do as Catholics. This happens every day in our parishes and in our Catholic schools.

Your support of the Bishop's Appeal funds the tools and training for youth ministers and faith formation leaders across northeastern Wisconsin.



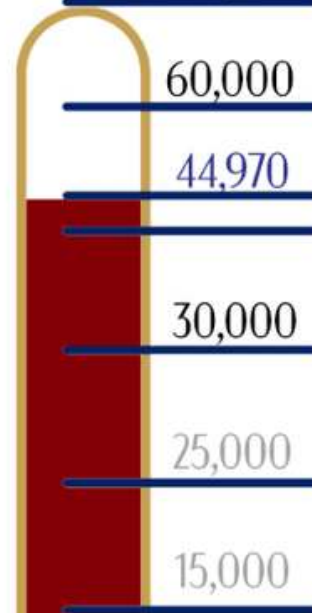
Please give generously at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give



Who was Patricius Magonus Sucatus?

2026 BISHOP APPEAL

GOAL \$74,729



POTLUCK DINNER



Save the Date!

The Holy Thursday Potluck Dinner is scheduled for April 2nd at 5:30 PM.

If you are able to contribute a dish, we welcome any item you would like to share! Do you have a specialty that you enjoy making? We would love to sample it! If cooking isn't feasible, feel free to pick something up from a drive-through on your way. Please ensure you bring enough to serve approximately 10 people.

We will provide water, wine, grape juice, and milk. Additionally, this year we will be offering ham and rolls.

Please sign up below if you are willing to volunteer.

Sign-up to help!



<https://bit.ly/3P4YSgP>



WORLD'S POOR COLLECTION

On the weeked of March 14 & 15 , we invite you to prayerfully participate in our World's Poor Collection.

Your generous support will help:

- **Provide food for the hungry**
- **Assist displaced refugees**
- **Bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable families here and around the world**

Through your compassion, lives are strengthened, hope is restored, and faith is made visible in action. Please give generously and help us share Christ's love with those who need it most.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

Easter Flowers

Donations for Easter flowers can be dropped off at the parish office, mailed in, or put in the collection basket. Please include your name and if you want the flowers to be in memory of a loved one, please include the name. Donations need to be in by Palm Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!

Your name: _____

Amount: _____

Please circle one: Cash or Check #

In Memory of: _____

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives

INVESTIGATEYOURFAITH! 2025-26 SERIES

Special Holy Week program

Monday, March 30, 7 PM

Encountering God on Death's Doorstep - PART 2

Crushed and trapped for hours after a car accident, Ed Jozsa experienced both terror and a glimpse of Heaven.

In **PART 2**, Ed shares how his mystical journey showed him what it means to pick up your cross to follow Jesus.

"In that third vision, the Lord allowed me a taste of what His physical pain was in the passion. A lot of my injuries mimicked his – piercings, scourging, blood loss, suffocation. ... I never realized the physical pain He endured."

Watch PART 1 of Ed's story:
Web search CIAFMO & click on Past Events Videos

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Free will offering encouraged For details, google CIAFMO, email ciafmo@gmail.com, or call 920-450-3025

Keeping the Lights On

Confession with Fr. Bill

March 30 • 6pm-9pm



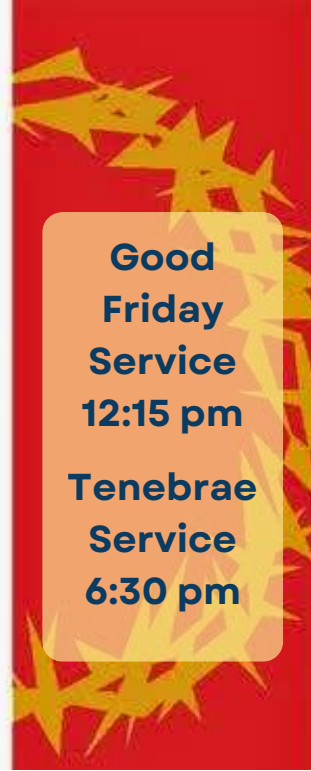
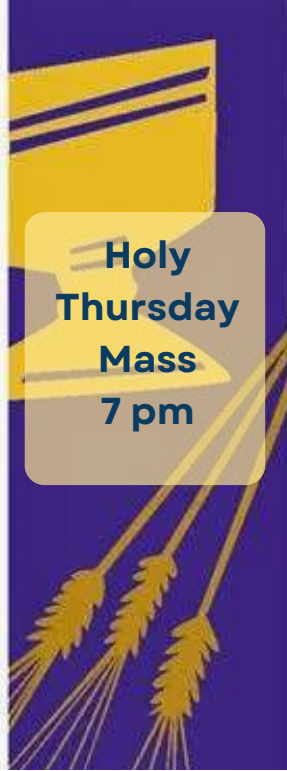
The Palm Sunday Path



Multi Church & Interfaith Rally

Sunday, March 29, 1:00-3:00 pm

Located in Houdini Plaza. Join hundreds to voice our scriptural mandate to love our brothers and sisters.



Palm Sunday Masses
Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday 7:45 am
9:45 am

Holy Thursday Pot Luck 5:30 pm

Holy Thursday Mass 7 pm

Good Friday Service 12:15 pm
Tenebrae Service 6:30 pm

Easter Vigil 8 pm
Easter Sunday Masses 7:45 am
9:45 am

PALM BRAIDING

March 28 & 29 Community Rm. After 4:30pm, 7:45am and 9:45am Masses

- Learn the History
- Watch a demo
- try it for yourself

Palm Sunday BAKE SALE

You may drop treats off any time after 10am on Friday (**March 27**) or Saturday (**March 28**) or before 7:45am Mass on Sunday (**March 29**)



TOTUS TUUS



JULY 26-31

For grades 1-12, similar to "Vacation Bible School."

- The week is filled with faith-sound catechesis with an immersion in the sacraments and personal testimony
- fun-messy games, crazy skits, silly songs
- friendship-large and small group activities



B I N G O

Bingo Turnout!

We appreciate the incredible turnout for our recent Bingo Night Social, which showcased the vibrant community spirit at St. Mary Parish. Events like these are essential for fostering connections and nurturing relationships among our members. We look forward to sharing details about our next Bingo Night which will be April 25th.



EGG HUNT

For kids ages 1-10!

SAT CELC/SCHOOL PLAYGROUND*
APRIL (FORMERLY CATHOLIC CENTRAL)
4TH 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 HUNT BEGINS AT 10:00 AM

GAMES | ACTIVITIES | COOKIES & MILK



BOOK Club

St Mary/St Joseph book club will meet

**Tuesday, March 17, from 1-2:30 PM,
 in Room LL7.**

The selected book is: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Please reach out to Mary Schulz, 920-809-4474, with questions or to request the list of books scheduled through July 2026.

"Walking Together"

The Vision of Pope Francis in Appleton

Pope Francis invited 200 priests from around the world to Rome... One of them was from Appleton



Fr. Bill Swichtenberg (St. Mary Catholic Church) shares his experience at this global gathering and what it means for communities like Appleton

March 26, 6-7pm @ Appleton Public Library

Appleton Lyceum

Talks and Discussions for Everyone with Curiosity

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Mar 15-Mar 22

Sunday, Mar 15

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

World's Poor Collection

7:45 am Mass
 9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed
 11:00 am Baptism Prep Course/LL7
 1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Monday, Mar 16

12:05 pm Mass
 6:00 pm New Horizons Practice/CR
 6:00 pm Discipleship Committee/LL7
 6:30 pm St. Mary Bell Choir practice/Loft
 6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7
 7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Mar 17

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7
 1:00 pm SMP & SJP Prayer Shawl Group at SJ'S LL112
 1:00pm SMP & STJ Book Club/LL7
 6:30 pm Finance Council/CR
 6:30 pm Matthew 25/LCR

Wednesday, Mar 18

8:00 am Quilting/CR
 9:30 am Connect Group/LL7
 4:30 pm Flock of Sparrows/Baby Sitting Room
 4:45 pm-7:45 pm Beacon Faith Formation
 6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Thursday, Mar 19

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm
 12:05 pm Mass
 1:00 pm Hooks & Needles/CR
 5:30 pm Stations & Soup/Church, CR
 6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR
 6:00 pm Women's Ministry/LL7

Friday, Mar 20

Parish Office Closed

9:00 am Small Group/LL7
 9:00 am-9:00 pm Lenten Adoration/Chapel
 11:30 am Brunch Bunch/Capitol Center

Saturday, Mar 21

8:00 am-12:00 pm Lenten Adoration/Chapel
 9:00 am THEO/CR
 9:00 am Confessions
 4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Mar 22

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

7:45 am Mass
 9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed
 1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Sun., Mar 15	7:45am 9:45am	Deceased Memebers of St.Mary Available
Mon., Mar 16	12:05pm	Available
Thur., Mar 19	12:05pm	Available
Sat., Mar 21	4:30pm	Ed Sabish
Sun., Mar 22	7:45am 9:45am	Available Available



Prayer Requests Contact **Laurie Richter** (lauriejrichter@gmail.com), **Mary Jo Zilisch** (920-734-1182) or **Ann Walkowski** (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember these requests in our prayer baskets.

Generosity CORNER

What a beautiful start to March this year. Though I hope the old adage that if March comes in like a lamb it goes out like a lion. With the Bishop's Appeal, Shamrock Shenanigan and the Lenten Alms project, your generosity and support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
February	\$37,823.00	\$75,083.33	-\$37,260.33

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Shamrock Shenanigans, our parish celebration of our Irish heritage, takes place this weekend. Nearly 100 individual and corporate donors and sponsors have blown us all away with their generosity. The committee has been working on the event for months. It is their efforts that keep this parish event vibrant and fun.
- Responding to a number of requests from our parishioners, we will be installing handicap access doors on the restroom on the main level. We hope to have these installed in the next couple of weeks.



St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, Nigeria, and engineers

in Joy & **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 3.15.2026

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



From the archival chest of my homilies, I share again this meditation, “In the Master’s Company: Set Free from Blindness in the Temple,” which I first shared on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 19, 2023.

My dear Jesus,

One of the really scary moments of my childhood involved helping Mr Rutten, our next door neighbor, who was somewhat eccentric, raising his family, alongside his wife, as well as a menagerie of pheasants and quails, and even a goose or two, in his backyard right smack in the middle of the Town of Menasha. Our family never appreciated the odor wafting into our backyard on a hot, humid summer day! Anyway, Mr Rutten was pouring yet another slab of concrete somewhere near the bird pens, and I was in charge of making sure the ingredients of sand, water, and dry concrete powder

Jesus, I see,
but help
me to see
with my
heart, like
you see!

were loaded into the mixer and mixed to the required consistency. As a boy, I always liked to help. The recipe called for at least one pail of concrete powder. I filled the pail and set it down too hard on the walkway from the door of the garage to the backyard. I don't know the word to use here...The pail huffed or it puffed or it popped or it poofed and a thick cloud of fine cement powder flew up directly into my eyes. I remember laying on the couch, with stinging, scratched eyeballs, and my mom constantly flushing my eyes out with a water-drenched warm wash cloth.

Jesus, thanks for helping me to recover from that freak accident.

The gift of eyesight is so precious. I cannot begin to imagine being born blind from birth. I cannot imagine not seeing the diversity of colors, the glory of a spectacular sunset, the panoramic view from the top of a hill, the perfect soft delicacy of a newborn baby's hands or feet, and his or her cute smile, the elegance of a formal party with the gowns and tuxedos like the Oscars, the expansiveness of the ocean, the thrill of watching a movie or reading a book...You name it, Lord, there is so much grandeur to see every day. Remind me often to thank you for the gift of my sight.

I can't imagine the joy on the blind man's face, flushing his eyes with crystal clear water in the pool of Siloam and, all of a sudden, there is this rush of light streaming through his now opened eyes. Imagine that...what an incredible miracle of your love touching this man's closed eyes and opening them to the bright beauty all around him.

Once again, the religious leaders of your time, Lord, are a big disappointment to you. I cannot imagine being in such a self-imposed prison of rules and regulations that your miracle of restoring sight to this poor man, seeing his joy, caused some of the Pharisees to pout and puff about doing the work of making a salve on the Sabbath day. Jesus, they never began to comprehend even a tiny bit your saying that *the Sabbath was made for human beings and not human beings for the Sabbath*. They never appreciated that the spirit of the law is always more important than the letter of the law. Some of the Pharisees were such sourpusses.

They were unable to see with their hearts, shaped by your Heart. They could see but they were blind to anyone who might call them to a change of perspective or change of heart. Were they still hanging on to that idea that this poor man's blindness was a result of his sin? How ludicrous to imply that you, Lord, make people sick to punish them for their sins! What kind of compassionate God would ever do such a thing! How could people say, back in the 1980's, that AIDS was God's punishment of gay people? How cruel and utterly deplorable is such judgmentalism!

Jesus, get that through our heads! Sickness is not your punishment for sin!

And there is still the *piece de resistance*, the *magnus opus*, if you will, of the Pharisees' blindness. And you ask, Lord, what is that? They threw the blind man who now sees out of their places of worship, the Temple and the synagogue. What kind of family pushes its children away? May we never be a Church or parish family that pushes anyone out. May we always pull people in!

Jesus, I see, but help me to see with my heart, like you see! Do I really see other people with my heart, a heart filled with a tender compassion, which draws me close to them? Is my perspective skewed away from your way of seeing others, especially my sisters and brothers who are marginalized or vulnerable or judged and condemned? I daresay, "Does my religion or my politics taint the way I see people?" Is my perspective always aligned, Jesus, to your perspective? Am I too weighed down by the darkness near and far to recognize the many ways you continue to bring light into the world? Do others see the light of your love shining through me? I hope so, Lord.

I want to join my prayer to this prayer that Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata often prayed: *Dear Jesus, shine through me and be so in me that every person I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only you, Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen.**

*attributed to Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman

Fr. Bill +