

**ST. ELIZABETH
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Diocese of Knoxville

Week of March 22, 2020

Parish Life

Mailings to Church — Any donations or other communication to be mailed to the church should be mailed to the post office box:

St. Elizabeth Church
P.O. Box 7
Elizabethton, TN 37644

Parish Online Presence — St. Elizabeth has a parish website at stelizabethsparish.org and additional online presence through the MyParish App and Facebook.

Happy Anniversary! — Happy anniversary to Marc and Leann Clemons who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on March 20.

To Make a Spiritual Communion — St. Thomas Aquinas defined Spiritual Communion as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” It is a wonderful practice for when we are not able to go to Mass. Here is a prayer to make a Spiritual Communion: “My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at the moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”

Saintly Wisdom

“What an example of firm faith the blind man gives us! A living, operative faith. Do you behave like this when God commands, when so often you can’t see, when your soul is worried and the light is gone?”

— *St. Josemaria Escriva* —



WHOSE SIN WAS IT?

A common belief in Old Testament times held that all illness was caused by sin. Jesus meets a man who has been blind from birth. The Apostles wonder about the severity of the sin that might have caused this handicap. Jesus rejects the idea. He teaches that lack of spiritual insight is far worse than lack of physical sight. The Pharisees demonstrate the truth of this judgment.

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Weekly readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm 23:1-6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Monday

Isaiah 65:17-21
John 4:43-54

Tuesday

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
John 5:1-16

Wednesday

Isaiah 49:8-15
John 5:17-30

Thursday

Exodus 32:7-14
John 5:31-47

Friday

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday

Jeremiah 11:18-20
John 7:40-53

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 130:1-8
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

To View Mass

You may see a Mass that has been recorded at the cathedral at dioknox.org Mass can also be viewed on TV on channel EWTN at 8 a.m. and noon. Daily Catholic Mass is also available on YouTube.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Reading 1

(1 Samuel 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

(Psalm 23:1-6)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. 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. You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 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.

Reading 2

(Ephesians 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

(John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

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.

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