



**St. John's Parish**  
Roman Catholic Church

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# PURIFY OUR GAZE AND OUR SPEECH

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MARCH 2, 2025

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy, Jesus invites us to reflect on the way we look and the way we speak. Our gaze and our speech.

First of all, our gaze. The risk we run, the Lord says, is that we concentrate on looking at the speck in our brother's eye without noticing the log that is in our own [eye] (cf. Lk 6:41). In other words, being very attentive to the faults of others, even those as small as a speck, serenely overlooking our own, according them little weight. What Jesus says is true: we always find reasons for blaming others and justifying ourselves. And very often we complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves and without making an effort to change, first of all ourselves. Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. Otherwise, there will be no change. But, Jesus explains that by doing this, our gaze is blind. And if we are blind, we cannot claim to be guides and teachers for others: indeed, a blind person cannot lead another blind person, says the Lord (cf. v. 39).

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord invites us to clean up our gaze. He first asks us to look within ourselves to recognize our failings because if we are not capable of seeing our own defects, we will always be inclined to magnify those of others. If instead we acknowledge our own mistakes and our own flaws, the door of mercy opens up to us. And after looking within ourselves, Jesus invites us to look at others as he does — this is the secret, to look at others as he does — who does not look at evil first but at goodness. God looks at us in this way: he does not see irredeemable errors in us, but rather he sees children who make mistakes. It is a change in outlook: he does not focus on the mistakes, but on the children who make mistakes. God always distinguishes the person from his errors. He always saves the person. He always believes in the person and is always ready to forgive errors. We know that God always forgives. And he invites us to do likewise: not to look for evil in others, but the good.

After our gaze, today Jesus invites us to reflect on our speech. The Lord explains that "out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (v. 45). It is true, from the way a person speaks, you can tell straight away what is in their heart. The words we use say who we are. At times, though, we pay scarce attention to our words and we use them superficially. But words carry weight: they enable us to express thoughts and feelings, to give voice to the fears we have and the plans we intend to realize, to bless God and others. Unfortunately, however, through our tongue we can also feed prejudices, raise barriers, attack and even destroy; we can destroy our brothers and sisters with our words. Gossip hurts and slander can be sharper than a knife! These days, especially in the digital world, words travel fast; but too many of them convey anger and aggression, feed false news and take advantage of collective fears to propagate distorted ideas. A diplomat, who was Secretary General of the United Nations, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, said that "to misuse the word is to show contempt for man" (D. Hammarskjöld, *Markings*, 1955, 112).

Let us then ask ourselves what type of words we use: words that express care, respect, understanding, closeness, compassion, or words that aim mainly to make us look good in front of others? And then, do we speak mildly or do we pollute the world by spreading venom: criticizing, complaining, feeding widespread aggression?

May Our Lady, Mary, whose humility was seen by God, Virgin of silence to whom we now pray, help us purify our gaze and our speech.

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY WITH THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**, for the well-being of Pope Francis!

**SEASON OF LENT:** Lent has two major purposes: 1. *It recalls or prepares for baptism*, and 2. *emphasizes a spirit of penance*. Through forty days of closer attention to God's word and of more fervent prayer, believers are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. Lenten instructions should stress these baptismal and penitential themes.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>** there will be the Distribution of Ashes at the 11:00 a.m. English Mass, 12:00 p.m. Spanish Mass, Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Ashes at 6:00 p.m. in English and 7:00 p.m. in Spanish.

**THIS FRIDAY (MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>) STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be prayed at 10am in English and Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10:30am, concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.

## ENGLISH SCHEDULE

### *Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Saturday, March 1, 2025 **5:00 PM**  
+Janet Silver

Sunday, March 2, 2025 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 **11:00 AM**  
Intentions of Marie & Len Solomon & Family

### **Ash Wednesday - March 5**

*Daily Mass* **11:00 AM**

*Liturgy of the Word* **6:00 PM**

Thursday, March 6, 2025 **11:00 AM**

Intentions of Marie & Len Solomon & Family

Friday, March 7, 2025 **11:00 AM**

### *First Sunday of Lent*

Saturday, March 8, 2025 **5:00 PM**  
+Julia Naklusi

Sunday, March 9, 2025 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

## HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

### *VIII Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

Sabado 1 de marzo, 2025 **7:00 PM**  
+Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 2 de marzo, 2025 **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 4 de marzo, 2025 **12:00 PM**

### **Miercoles de Ceniza - 5 de marzo**

*Celebración de la Misa* **12:00 PM**

*Liturgia de la Palabra* **7:00 PM**

Jueves 6 de marzo, 2025 **12:00 PM**

Viernes 7 de marzo, 2025 **12:00 PM**

### *I Domingo de Cuaresma*

Sabado 8 de marzo, 2025 **7:00 PM**  
+Pedro Fernandez + Cynthia Gomez

Domingo 9 de marzo, 2025 **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

**Miércoles de Ceniza, 5 de marzo:** Imposición de la Ceniza 11am en la Misa en Ingles, 12pm en la Misa en Español, en la Liturgia de la Palabra en inglés a las 6pm y en Español a las 7pm.

**El Viacrucis** se rezará en Español los viernes de Cuaresma a las 11:30 am comenzando este viernes 7 de marzo.

Este Viernes es primer Viernes del Mes: El Santísimo Sacramento se expone para adoración silenciosa después de la Misa de 12pm hasta las 2pm y nuevamente a partir de las 5pm hasta las 7pm. A las 6 de la tarde se tendrá una Hora Santa, que concluirá con la Bendición con el Santísimo a las 7pm. Durante el tiempo de la Exposición del Santísimo se ofrecerá el sacramento de Reconciliación.

## **Talleres de Oración y Vida les invita al RETIRO DE CUARESMA "Transfiguración"**

Preparémonos para La Cuaresma, Transfiguración es un retiro que cambiará tu vida y llenará tu alma con la presencia amorosa y envolvente de Dios. Fijar la mirada y el corazón en Dios.

**El proximo sábado 8 de marzo de 8AM- 4PM.** Traer: Biblia, cuaderno, lápiz, Almuerzo.

Precio: \$10 (precio del libro transfiguración).

*"Lo urgente es dejar que el Señor hable" dentro de nosotros.*