



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca

519 745 7855

85 Strange St., Kitchener

JESUS RESTORES OUR DIGNITY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 15, 2026

Today, the Gospel depicts Jesus giving sight to a man blind from birth (*cf. Jn 9:1-41*). However, this wonder is badly received by various people and groups. Let us look at the details.

But first I would like to say to you: take the Gospel of John today and read about this miracle of Jesus. The way John recounts it in chapter 9 is really beautiful. It only takes two minutes to read it. It makes us see how Jesus proceeds and how the human heart proceeds: the good human heart, the tepid human heart, the fearful human heart, the courageous human heart. Chapter 9 of the Gospel of John. Read it today. It will help you a lot. And how do the people welcome this sign?

First of all, there are Jesus' disciples who, faced with the man born blind, engage in small talk and ask themselves whether his parents or he was to blame (*cf. v. 2*). They look for a culprit. And we fall into this many times which is so convenient — to look for a culprit rather than asking ourselves challenging questions in life. And today, we can say: What does the presence of this person mean for us, in my life? What is he asking of us?

Then, once the healing takes place, the reactions intensify. The first are from his neighbours who are sceptical: "This man was always blind. It is not possible that he now sees — it can't be him! It's someone else" — scepticism (*cf. vv. 8-9*). This is unacceptable to them. Better to leave everything like it was before and not face this problem (*cf. v. 16*). They are afraid, they fear the religious authorities and they do not say what they think (*cf. vv. 18-21*). In all these reactions, for various reasons, there emerge hearts closed before the sign of Jesus: because they seek a culprit, because they do not know how to be surprised, because they do not want to change, because they are blocked by fear. Today there are many similar situations. Faced with something that is truly a person's message of witness, a message about Jesus, we fall into this — we look for another explanation, we do not want to change, we look for a more elegant way out rather than accept the truth.

The only person who reacts well is the blind man. Happy to see, he bears witness to what happened to him in the simplest way: "I was blind, now I see" (*v. 25*). He tells the truth. Before, he had been forced to ask for alms to live on, and had suffered from the prejudice of the people: "He is poor and blind from birth. He has to suffer. He has to pay for his sins or those of his forebears". Now free in body and spirit, he bears witness to Jesus — he neither invents nor hides anything. "I was blind, now I see". He is not afraid of what the others will say. He had already known the bitter taste of marginalization his whole life. He had already personally experienced the indifference, the contempt of the passers-by, of those who considered him to be an outcast in society, useful at best for the pious practice of giving some alms. Now healed, he no longer fears those contemptuous attitudes because Jesus has given him his full dignity. And this is clear, it always happens: when Jesus heals us, he gives us back our dignity, the dignity of the healing of Jesus, complete, a dignity that comes forth from the depths of the heart, that takes hold of one's entire life. And, on the sabbath in front of everyone, Jesus liberated him and gave him sight without asking him for anything, not even a thank you, and he bears witness to this. This is the dignity of a noble person, of a person who knows he is healed and begins again, is reborn. That rebirth in life that they spoke about today on "A Sua Immagine": to be reborn.

Brothers, sisters, through all these characters, today's Gospel puts us too in the midst of the scene, so we can ask ourselves: What position do we take? What would we have said then? And above all, what will we do today? Like the blind man, do we know how to see the good and to be grateful for the gifts we receive? I ask myself: How is my dignity? How is your dignity? Do we bear witness to Jesus, or do we spread criticism and suspicion instead? Are we free when faced with prejudices or do we associate ourselves with those who spread negativity and gossip? Are we happy to say that Jesus loves us, that he saves us, or, like the parents of the man born blind, do we allow ourselves to be caged in by the fear of what others will think? Tepid hearts that do not accept the truth and do not have the courage to say, "No, it's like this". And furthermore, how do we welcome the difficulties and indifference of others? How do we welcome people who have many limitations in life, whether they be physical, like this blind man, or social, like the beggars we find on the street? Do we accept them as a curse or as an occasion to draw near to them with love?

Brothers and sisters, today, let us ask for the grace to be surprised every day by God's gifts and to see the various circumstances of life, even the most difficult ones to accept, as occasions to do good, as Jesus did with the blind man. May Our Lady help us in this, together with Saint Joseph, the just and faithful man.

POPE FRANCIS — March 19, 2023

Stations of the Cross: will be at 10:30AM in English each Friday during Lent.

Viacrucis: Todos los viernes del tiempo de Cuaresma a las 11:30AM en Español.

REPRESENTACION OBRAS DE TEATRO

Aqui en nuestra parroquia, en el salon parroquial.

Ultima Cena: Jueves 2 de abril 8:00PM

La Pasion del Señor: Vienes 3 de abril a las 5PM & 8:30PM

La Resurreccion del Señor: Domingo 5 de abril a las 3PM.

STAGE PLAY: "THE LORD'S LAST SUPPER"

Sunday, March 29th at 3PM, in the parish hall. All are welcome.

INVITATION TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued a Statement Calling the Catholic Faithful to Prayer for Peace in the Middle East. The statement affirms that we cannot remain indifferent to an armed conflict that risks escalating into a prolonged war.

"Faced with rising tensions and the risk of escalating war, we invite the People of God in Canada to pray for peace. Let us ask the Lord to increase the thirst for justice, reconciliation, and true peace in the world. Let us pray that the leaders involved in this armed conflict will allow the light of wisdom and dialogue to guide their decisions. Where fear and anger threaten to overwhelm hearts, may the Holy Spirit inspire gestures of openness, reconciliation, and peace" – excerpt from the Statement.

The Statement encourages all Catholics to draw upon the message of the Gospel by becoming peacemakers, cultivating solidarity with people affected by war, and sustaining hope for a better world.

[Full Statement in Diocesan Website](#)

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 14 5:00 PM
+Ron Deitner

Sunday, March 15 9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, March 17 11:00 AM

Wednesday, March 18 11:00 AM

Thursday, March 19 St. Joseph 11:00 AM

Friday, March 20 11:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 21 5:00 PM
+Keshini Namasiuayam +Ron Deitner

Sunday, March 22 9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

IV Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 14 de Marzo 7:00PM

Domingo 15 de Marzo 11:00 AM & 1:00PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 17 de Marzo 12:00 PM

Miercoles 18 de Marzo 12:00 PM

Jueves 19 de Marzo San José 12:00 PM

Viernes 20 de Marzo 12:00 PM

V Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 21 de Marzo 7:00PM
+Amanda Hernandez

Domingo 22 de Marzo 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

The 7 Last Words: Special musical presentation by The Philippine Choral Society of Mississauga. **Palm Sunday, March 29th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Parish, Kitchener.** Hosted by St. Mark's CWL We will experience a time of meditation and song, helping us to enter more deeply into this sacred time. All are welcome. A goodwill offering will be collected.

St. Agnes Education Cafe event: In our noisy world, many voices compete for our attention.

We are called go to that quiet place in prayer where God speaks to us.

Do we listen? And act? Come away from the noise & join us for the next

St. Agnes Education Cafe: *"God speaks - are we listening? Overcoming Spiritual Deafness."*

Sunday March 29th 2-3:30pm, St. Agnes Parish, with Fr. Raphael Ma, St. Mary's, Kitchener.