Today's readings begin with a joyous reunion of the blind, the lame, and those who departed in tears. All are consoled and guided. The psalm celebrates the return of captives, filled with laughter, their lives transformed from weeping and sorrow to rejoicing. The reading from Hebrews reflects upon the Old Testament priesthood and the Jerusalem Temple, and contrasts it with the priesthood of Christ. The priest's glory comes from being, like all of us, a child of God. In the Gospel a blind man, crying out to Jesus, is rebuked, told to be quiet. Nevertheless he persists. Jesus calls to him, and his request is simple and straightforward: "I want to see." Jesus recognizes his faith, returns his sight, and sends him on his way. His way, it turns out, is to follow Jesus. The blind, the lame, the sorrowing, captives, and priests who, like us, are weak — are not successful by worldly measure. Yet they are the ones whom God seeks.

Broken
Today's readings are about those whom society often looks down on, those who are physically disabled, who have been imprisoned. We read about those whose losses are so great that they cannot stop weeping. Hebrews reminds us that even those in the exalted position of priest are themselves beset by weakness. Weakness is at the very heart of the priest's ability to minister to others. Finally it is a blind man, shouting from the side of the road, shushed by those around him, told not to make a scene, whom Jesus sees. His sight is returned because of his faith, and his first choice as a sighted person is to follow Jesus.

Beloved
Success is not measured by strength, wholeness, or power. Success is measured by our weakness, by God's embracing of that weakness and our choice to follow God. The priest has power only because of the weakness that is a part of each person. We are the blind, the lame, the sorrowing. And we are the ones whom God saves and transforms. The blind man in us cries out when decorum would have us be quiet. Our faith cries out for salvation, for wholeness, for redemption, for sight, and we are heard. Our blindness is transformed into sight, and with such vision we see the world as God sees it, broken and beloved.

Today's Readings: Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52
**Gratitude**

**Touch Jesus**

As Christian stewards we are called to devote a regular portion of our time to God in prayer. Perhaps we find it intimidating to find the right words when approaching our perfect and all-holy God.

Today’s Gospel shows us we need to have our “act together” before we can spend time with Him in prayer. In this passage from Mark, we see that Bartimaeus received a powerful answer to prayer at a very low point in his life. There, he sat, begging at the side of the road in a very undignified manner. His posture wasn’t exactly reverent, and his prayer wasn’t eloquent, just a desperate, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.” But it was a sincere cry from his heart. And Jesus, though surrounded by a sizable crowd, heard it, and called for Bartimaeus to come to Him. Folks from the crowd called to Bartimaeus, “Take courage; get up, and all will take courage this week knowing that Jesus is calling us right now to spend time with Him just as we are, in all our weakness and brokenness. Tell Him, the great High Priest, what your needs are and then, like Bartimaeus, follow Him, and keep on keeping on in this stewardship way of life. It’s a life with the ultimate happy ending.

**Prayers & Readings**

**PRAY FOR HEALING:** Corinne Kerrigan, Greg Kleckner, Maria Palfy, Julian D’Orazio, Maria Morales, Michael Fullam, Mary Corcoran, Tim Dippel, Alice Bowman, Dorothy Wilson, Ed Roif, Guillermo Maldonado, Rudy Spina, Helen Gelbstein, Peter Lim, Ann Sassaman, Clare Rossmeisl, Diana Reyes, Frank Henriquez, Patricia Boyce, Louanne Armstrong, Joan Schaub, Ruth Chavez, John F. Erickson, Trudy DiNardo, Debra Ulczer, Roberto Barajas, Joseph Mongiello, Mary Alice Spina, Sue Birmingham, Todd Monastero, Dan Petrella, Julienne Zelov, Guillermo Lopez, Maura Tehrani Henderson, Kate Fullam, Marion Fries, Isabelle Oravecz, Midge Malloy, Bob Denney, Mary Pyne, William R. Evwing, Jackson Kahn, Marc Palfy, Mary Ann Gallagher, Missy Schwartz, Eduardo “Lalo” Quintana, Joseph Morelli, Gerry Hughes, James Buroken, Fr. Ted Antry, Layne McHugh, Kathy Cushmore

**REST IN PEACE:** Lucy Lorine Moore

**PRAYERS FOR OUR TROOPS:**

Pvt. Matthew Cress, USA; Pvt. Jessica Flowers USA; Pvt. Michael Flowers, USA; Capt. Rob Kersey, USN; Capt. Spencer Lahiff, USMC; Sgt. Justin Lansford, USA; Pvt. Bryan McCormick, USA; Lt. Col. James Merenda, USAF; Lt. Nicholas Prestipino, USA; Sgt. R. J. Paski, USA; Sgt. Matthew Paski, USAF; Maj. Brian Wallin, DO, USA

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Eph 4:32 – 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17

**Tuesday:** Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21

**Wednesday:** Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-14; Lk 13:22-30

**Thursday:** Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

**Friday:** Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016

**Saturday:** Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11

**Sunday:** Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:25b-34

Jesus is calling you.” And right there on the spot, Bartimaeus experienced a profound moment of personal encounter with our Lord and the healing of his vision he desired.

**“Consult the Bible as often as your cellphone.”
– Pope Francis**

**WRITE**

POPE FRANCIS
His Holiness, Pope Francis
Saint Martha House
00120 Citta del Vaticano,
Vatican City

PRESIDENT USCCB
Cardinal Daniel DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
1700 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002

ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT
Archbishop Charles Chaput
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
222 N. 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19101

**Online Giving**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Eph 4:32 – 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17

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A LAST BLESSING TO . . .

AN AMAZING PARISH

This, no doubt, will be the last Pastor's Pulpit announcement from me. I have enjoyed writing my reflections here in the Bulletin and enjoyed being your Pastor.

Saint Norbert Parish is an Amazing Parish here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Yes, it is amazing, but it is not a perfect parish; that may not be possible, but it is something we all need to strive toward. One simply needs to go online or take a Bulletin to see all the wonderful services you all are engaged in here. Our Vision Statement comes alive at Saint Norbert’s. With that said, I wish Frs. Steve and Arul a wonderful journey as they continue to serve you the people of God here in Paoli.

I hesitate to single out one ministry since there are so many and varied, however, our “Blue Ribbon School of Excellence” does stand as a testament to you all and the signs on the school building are a wonderful reminder. Principal Mary Kay Hennessy has done an incredible job in her administration of the school.

I suggest that you take a moment and go online and check out our website as well as the weekly email messages that are also a testimony to the work that so many of you are doing to energize our parish.

Allow me to digress a moment on a personal note. Someone just shared a similar memory he had of a religious sister who gave a talk here some years ago. Her challenge was placing each of us at the “Pearly Gates” standing in front of Saint Paul and Saint Peter who ask the question: “Who did you bring with you?” Then, the sister said, turn around and look at how many you have brought with you to heaven. It is indeed the responsibility of the fervent disciple to lead others to Christ.

My God, these are indeed challenging times and we continue to pray for that “Amazing Grace.” And if we look at the statistics of “nones” (those who no longer belong to a Church), we are certainly challenged.

I pray that St. Norbert Parish continues to be an Amazing Parish in the way it accepts the challenge of healing wounds and giving prayerful comfort to those who have been injured by individuals in leadership positions in our Church.

Allow me to end this last Pastor’s Pulpit with the same reminder that I gave to the children in our school. I asked them to remember that no matter where you go and what happens to you in the days and years to come, always remember: JESUS LOVES YOU! — Father Mike

Treasures of Our Faith . . .

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Today is the feast of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, the first representative body of many Catholics who died for their faith between 1555 and 1679 to be beatified or canonized. Almost all of them died at Tyburn, a place of public execution near today’s Marble Arch in Hyde Park, London. The first to suffer were Carthusian monks who refused to swear an oath supporting Henry VIII as supreme head of the Church in England, and the last was Saint Oliver Plunkett, the Primate Archbishop of Ireland.

Today, the tree-like gallows provides the design of a religious symbol, the canopy over the altar of the martyrs in Tyburn Convent. There, at the heart of the bustling city, a monastic community of women practices contemplative prayer and "spiritual hospitality" in the Benedictine tradition. Oddly, the community is French in origin; it was expelled from France a century ago when France outlawed contemplative monastic life.

England, where the laws against Catholicism had been lifted, invited the community in. In gratitude to their new homeland, and in honor of those who gave their lives for the Catholic faith, the nuns came to Tyburn. In the public crypt, coats of arms stand for each of the 350 martyrs. A Web site visit is possible at www.tyburnconvent.org.uk. Read more at https://tudorstuff.wordpress.com/tag/tyburn

Icon of Tyburn Martyrs courtesy of Lawrence Lew, OP, https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/
Thank You!

Our Amazing Parish has thrived tremendously over the eight years Fr. Mike has been our pastor. Starting under Fr. Mike’s direction with a renewed Focus on Sunday, Forming Fervent Disciples and anchored by Encountering Jesus across our St. Norbert Parish, Fr. Mike has calmly, spiritually and thoughtfully shepherd our community. The fruits are all around us, with a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School, thriving Youth and Young Adult Groups, our restructured CaFFE (Catholic Family Formation and Evangelization) religious education, Walking With Purpose for women and That Man Is You! for men, Gethsemani Way Addiction ministry, Respect Life, Adoration days, AbbeyFest, 50+ Group, Outreach to the poor via St. Gabe’s Food Cupboard, Bethesda Project, and Wednesday food distribution in Paoli and Chester County, Prayer and Healing nights, and so much more. Fr. Mike’s legacy at St. Norbert’s has been a harnessing of the tremendous generosity of you our parishioners towards fulfilling our vision to be “...one in Christ as a community of fervent disciples who listen attentively for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and who lovingly embrace Jesus, present in the poor, the alienated and the spiritually hungry.” Thank You Fr. Mike, enjoy your retirement, we pray for you and look forward to following your next career.

Key Parish Contacts

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Ann Simpson asimpson@parish.stnorbert.org

Reach out and touch someone

St. Norbert’s Generosity

Outreach November

The first weekend of each month is dedicated to helping our less fortunate friends and neighbors. There are plenty of opportunities to cook, provide help, and donate time, treasures, talents and household items including:

**Aid for Friends:** Meals for the homebound in Coatesville and Philadelphia. Tray packets for leftovers are on the table in the Narthex. Please label each meal with date and contents. Place meals in the Aid For Friends freezer in the mechanical room. Contact: rfalinley@parish.stnorbert.org

**Bethesda Project:** New underwear (sizes medium and large), towels, twin sheets, and travel-size toiletries are needed for Our Brothers House where more than 150 men pass through the shelter each day and 100 more people per night are sleeping in the Church shelters run by Bethesda. Visit: BethesdaProject.org to learn more about this wonderful ministry.

**Bethesda Casserole Ministry:** Please pick up a casserole container and recipe sheet in the Narthex. Place your casseroles in the freezer in the mechanical room and be sure to label the date and contents. Casseroles all month feed the hungry at My Brothers House and other Bethesda residences.

**Birthright:** Diapers and formula are always greatly needed. For any large item, please call the Parish office before dropping off. Visit: birthright.org for more information.

**Christmas Giving Tree:** Please pick an ornament (or two or three) from our Christmas Giving Trees to help those who would not otherwise have presents for Christmas.

**St. Gabriel’s Food Cupboard:** It’s Turkey Time again. Please pick up and fill a Thanksgiving Bag. Traditionally, we have provided over 750 Thanksgiving Dinners to needy families in the Greys Ferry area.

**The Second Mile Center:** Needed are: household decorative and kitchen items, small appliances, dishes, utensils, pots and pans and Christmas decorations. All items should be placed in plastic bags or boxes and dropped off in the Father Burke Center before noon on Sunday, Nov 4. Visit: thesecondmilecenter.org.

Thank you all for your continued generosity and response to helping the poor. You are making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.
Bottle Collection...
SUCCESS!
Over $6,000 has been donated by you our generous parishioners for our Legacy of Life Foundation Bottle Collection. This is the most ever and a tremendous blessing in helping women to keep their babies and supporting their new life.

Sunday Afternoon Free Seminar...
Are You Medicare Ready?
When to enroll? Late penalties?
What’s covered and what’s not?
How much does this cost?
What’s supplemental insurance and how much do I need?

Bring your questions and talk to a Medicare Specialist. Sponsored by St. Norbert’s 50+ Group. FREE. Today, Sunday, Oct 28, immediately following the 11:30 AM Mass at 12:15 PM, St. Norbert School Dining Hall. Refreshments served. Designed for friendly advice and NO SALES PITCH. Learn how to get and stay Medicare Insurance ready. RSVP: Kevin Horan 610.296.4687

Bereavement Ministry ...
Experiencing Loss?
The Fall sessions start on Tuesdays, Oct 23, 30 and Nov 6 and 13, 7-8:30 PM, at St. Patrick’s in Malvern. CONTACT: Pat at 610.647.8280 or Sharon at 301.775.5709 for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Come and See
Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Whether you are an adult who has never been baptized, you were baptized in a different faith community, you have been away from the Church, or you are an adult Catholic who doesn’t feel they had a solid faith formation, we invite you to journey with us! NO COMMITMENT is required. This is a time to ask questions, explore Catholic spirituality and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ in a relaxed, conversational setting. Weekly RCIA sessions Mondays, at 7 PM. CONTACT: Lorrie Grady at 610.405.0610 lh90@verizon.net or Hank Fila at 610.513.9768 HankFila@gmail.com or Barb Stoyell-Mulholland at 509.998.4723 barbstoyell@gmail.com

50+ Group
Happy Hour
Tuesday, Nov 13 from 4-7 PM at LaCabra Brewery located at 642 Lancaster, Berwyn across from train station. Beer and wine will be available plus a food menu. Parking is behind building. CONTACT: Joan Reed 610.358.4449

Designer Bag Bingo
Friday, November 2
Doors open at 6:15 pm; bingo begins at 7 pm St. Norbert Dining Hall

- Get friends together for a girls’ night out
- Register at school.stnorbert.org
- Bring your favorite food and drinks
- Get ready to win some designer handbags and some great raffle prizes!

Don’t Miss Out on a Chance to Win These Great Raffle Prizes
Dinner for 8 by Aquilante Catering
2 Eagles Tickets
Tower of Cheer

Available the Night of...
50/50, Large Prize and Small Prize Raffles as well as Bingo Insurance and extra bingo game sheets will be available for purchase at the event.

If you’d like to donate a designer bag, please contact Tricia D’Antonio at tdantonio@stnorbert.org

All proceeds benefit St. Norbert School Fundraising

Are You Receiving Emails From Us?
If not, then we don’t have you on our list.
CONTACT: Ann Simpson at asimpson@parish.stnorbert.org
**FOR OUR MILITARY**

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER CHAIN**

The Giving Tree Ministry has reached out to St. Norbert families who have loved ones actively serving in our military. These families, as well as the service people who are serving, have asked for prayers this Christmas. To make this a tangible as well as spiritual response, we will be sending a prayer chain to each of the soldiers with your help. Please write a prayer, a verse, or an encouraging thought on the paper provided at the tables in the Narthex the weekend of **Nov 10-11**. Children may draw on a paper as well and these will be linked into the prayer chain. Your name on the prayer is optional. The prayers will be joined together in a chain and then mailed to our military personnel in time for Christmas. Thank You for reaching out in prayer to these individuals!

**SAVE THE DATE . . .**

**40 HOURS ADORATION**

Make your plans now to attend our annual 40 Hours Nov 4, 5 & 6 (Sunday through Tuesday evenings) starting at 7 PM each evening. This year’s theme is “One in Christ: Many Parts, One Body” with our new Deacon Steve Martino speaking on:

- Sunday Night: Many Parts
- Monday Night: Healing the Wounds
- Tuesday Night: One Body in Christ

Adoration and Benediction each night.
Signup Board in the Narthex
Come spend time with our Lord

**CONTACT:** Laura Peterson at 610.644.1655 ext 121 or lpetersen@parish.stnorbert.org

**REGISTER NOW FOR . . .**

**CYO BASKETBALL**

Registration for CYO basketball is now open at our new site (see below). Registration for 5-8th grades ends Nov 2. Tryouts begin on Nov 3.
The CYO Team is looking forward to a great and prayerful season. **CONTACT:** Ed Morris at eddiamo@comcast.net

**REGISTRATION:** http://stnorbert.website.siplay.com/

**FAST FACTS:**

**50th ANNUAL ABBEY DINNER DANCE:** Nov 16 at Aronimink Golf Club. Funds Norbertines’ mission, feeding and housing the poor. **CONTACT:** Jeanne Byrne at 610.647.2530 ext 118 or jeannebyrne@daylesford.org

**ST. GABE’S FUNRAISER**

**Food Cupboard Outreach**

- Wine Tasting & Parish Social
- Saturday, Nov 10, 6:30 PM
- $50 Per person in advance

**20 Highly-rated Wines**
- Paired Finger Foods
- Smooth Jazz
- Socialize & Get Wine Educated

**Reservations:**
See StNorbert.org For Ticket Form

**ST. GABE’S TURKEY TIME**

Oct 27-28 Weekend
Food drive starts for St. Gabriel’s Thanksgiving outreach.
Pick up bags in the Narthex.

**CONTACT:** Ed Grady at egrady@parish.stnorbert.org or 610.644.1655 ext 115

**ST. GABE FUNDRAISER**

Drop or mail form below to St. Norbert Parish Office with CHECK Payable to:
St. Norbert Church: Notation: Food Cupboard Outreach
Name(s)______________________________
Email: ______________________________
Phone: ______________________________
Number Attending: ___________@$50/Person
Total Enclosed: ________________

**CONTACT:** Rob Healy at rhealyconsulting@gmail.com