St. Norbert

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

FERVENT DISCIPLES

March 22, 2020

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Fax: 610.644.0201
Mary Kay Hennessy, Principal
mkhennessy@stnorbert.org

MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9am, 11:30 am,
Spanish @ 1:30pm; **Youth Mass** @ 6pm
Monday-Friday: 6:30 & 8 am; **Saturday** 8am
Reconciliation: Sundays 10-11:15 am; **Saturdays** 4-5 pm;
or by **Appointment** call 610.644.1655
Adoration: Thursdays 8:30 am—3:30 pm; **Saturdays** 4-5 pm

CLERGY

Rev. Steven J. Albero, O.Praem., Pastor
salbero@parish.stnorbert.org
Rev. James C. Rodia, O.Praem., Parochial Vicar
jcrodia@parish.stnorbert.org
Deacon John P. Lozano
Deacon Steve Martino
Deacon William M. Masapollo (Retired)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Our Lenten journey continues this Sunday as we hear of Jesus healing a blind man in the Gospel of John. Jesus proclaims himself the light of the world, a light that overcomes darkness and enables a new capacity to see. The man, blind from birth, was able to begin his path to sight by first acknowledging his blindness. We are reminded of God's ongoing invitation to us to journey from blindness to sight. We begin by acknowledging our own capacity for "blind spots," and so open ourselves to uncomfortable truths and to God's healing. We are invited to see beyond appearances, as the reading from Samuel indicates, and to look into the heart of things. We are invited to "live as children of light" as the letter to the Ephesians teaches. Like the man healed from blindness, we may gradually learn to see fully and to follow Jesus.

HEALING FOR COMMUNITY

It is helpful to observe that our Gospel passage from John, the healing of the blind man, is the first part of a longer episode. When Jesus' words end Chapter 9 in today's passage, he goes on speaking in the discourse on the Good Shepherd in Chapter 10. The healing of the blind man was not only a demonstration of God's power, giving him the physical capacity of sight. It was even more than the awakening of the man's personal faith in Jesus. The image of the Good Shepherd confirms that the man was liberated from the social isolation of his blindness and became a member of Jesus' flock. All of Jesus' powerful actions of healing were intended as gifts, not only to individuals, but for the building up of the community of faith.

HUMILITY AND ACTION

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." In our first reading, Samuel draws conclusions about who God will choose as king based on his assumptions of what a proper king looks like. But God sees a deeper reality.

How easy it is to miss our own blindness. How frequently we are unaware of our own flawed assumptions about others and about ourselves. We often need a deeper humility about the limitations of our perceptions and our convictions.

Yet, as the letter to the Ephesians encourages, there are times to expose the "fruitless works of darkness", to speak out, especially when persons or groups are suffering from abuse or oppression. We are called to live within a tension that these scripture passages convey. We are to seek God's guidance in prayer with genuine openness. We are then to speak and act forcefully against wrongdoing, even as we maintain humility about how much we know, or what is the best action to take. We are called to bring God's wisdom and mercy to all.

Today's Readings: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Ps 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8–14; Jn 9:1–41 [1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38]

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Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

— Psalm 23:1

Sunday, March 22
5:30 Vigil Anthony Massey & Concetta Pomani
7:30 AM † Jonathan Lucks
9:00 † Anna Albert
11:30 † Molly Mancini
1:30 PM Our Parishioners
6:00 PM † Vincent Marriott

Monday, March 23
6.30 AM † Patricia Goodall
8:00 † Louis Vastardis

Tuesday, March 24
6:30 AM † Andrea Engle
8 :00 † Connie Staszak

Wednesday, March 25
6:30 AM † Pastor's Intentions
8:00 † Nancy Finocchio

Thursday, March 26
6:30 AM † Pastor's Intentions
8:00 † Mary Cadile

Friday, March 27
6:30 AM † Pastor's Intentions
8:00 † Joseph A. Pontarelli

Saturday, March 28
8:00 AM † Anna Gianone
5:30 Vigil † Margaret DiPietro

Sunday, March 29
7:30 AM † Jonathan Lucks
9:00 † Anna Albert
11:30 † Molly Mancini
1:30 PM Our Parishioners
6:00 PM † Vincent Marriott

Our Faith

LIGHT

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light" (Ephesians 5:14). We are at the midpoint of our Lenten journey of conversion. As always, God never gives up on us, especially those who have "fallen asleep" along the road to conversion. The most powerful stories of conversion are proclaimed during these final weeks of Lent. They have the power to shake us out of our sleep. Today's Gospel story of the healing of the man born blind exposes the real blindness in the time of Christ—the blindness of the self-righteous religious leaders. In a few weeks, at the Easter Vigil, the Church will proclaim "Christ our Light" as the paschal candle is carried into darkened churches throughout the world. May the darkness of sin that still pervades our lives, communities, and world, be dispelled by the Christ who comes to bring sight to the blind and light to the world.

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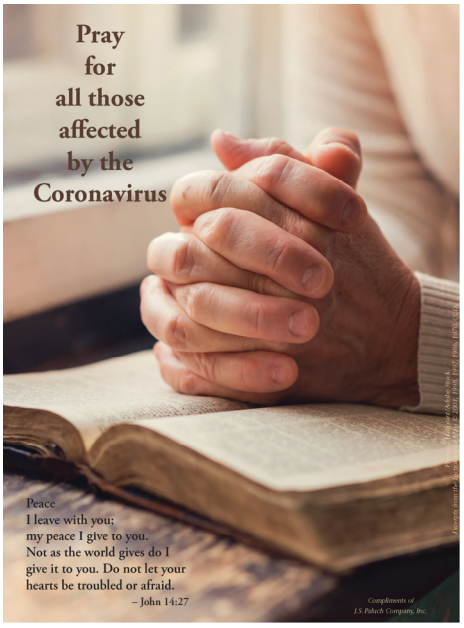
Prayers & Readings

PRAY FOR HEALING: Corinne Kerrigan, Greg Kleckner, Julian D'Orazio, Maria Morales, Michael Fullam, Mary Corcoran, Tim Dippel, Alice Bowman, Dorothy Wilson, Ed Rofi, Guillermo Maldonado, Helen Gelstine, Peter Lim, Ann Sassaman, Diana Reyes, Patricia Boyce, Louanne Armstrong, John F. Erickson, Debra Ulicny, Roberto Barajas, Joseph Mongiello, Mary Alice Spina, Sue Birmingham, Dan Petrella, Marion Fries, Isabelle Oravecz, Midge Malloy, Bob Denney, Mary Pyne, Jackson Kahn, Marc Palfy, Mary Ann Gallagher, Gerry Hughes, James Buroker, Layne McHugh, Deborah Nagle, J.D. Sobota, Ana Maria Bertsch, Lyndsay Whitmore, Graciela Gonzales, Ernestina Hernandez, Shirley Hoisington, Bob Walentis, Edgar Dolores Vega, Lily Walker, Philip Stadter, Miguel Angel de Leon, Anita Hogan, Winnie O'Brien, Pedro Sotorrio, Mark DeLuca, John Lee, Jane & Hugh Pluscauskis, Carol Lubecki, Christine Coyne, Patricia Uberti, Gilbert Mook

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; 2nd Lt. **Robert Farber**, USA; 2nd Lt. **Robert Dietrich III**, USA, 1st Lt. **Dan Door** and all the members of the 82nd Airborne , 2nd Lt. **Joseph R. Ellis,** USMC ; Lt. **Tyler M. Susa**, USN



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4;Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-51b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday:1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13 -17, 34-38]

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Per the Archbishop's message, all public masses have been suspended effective at 12:00pm on Wednesday, March 18.

St. Norbert Church is available for private daily Prayer throughout the week from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. Please enter through the main entrance. Please use the reserved area in the center of the main Church. Please note the Oratory will not be open for private prayer. All other activities have been suspended.

At this challenging time, we must use our prayer to gain strength and support. We may not be physically together , but we can pray together each day. Let's use our time wisely. Pray with your families, connect and pray with friends. Let us use the technology that we have to keep in touch and support each other. Below is the prayer to end the coronavirus. Please join us

Stay Healthy & Safe

God Bless,
Fr. Steve

Prayer for the End of the Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness."
At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus.

May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.
Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us.

News & Events

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

March 17, 2020

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez Announces The Suspension Of All Public Masses In The Archdiocese Of Philadelphia Effective At Noon Tomorrow

Today, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced that Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez has suspended all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia effective at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th and until further notice.

Last week, the Archbishop dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Both decisions were made in response to the growing concern over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the directives provided by government and health department officials at the local, state, and national levels. These measures will be re-evaluated pending future developments.

Archbishop Pérez said, "As the Archbishop of Philadelphia, my first priority is to ensure the health and welfare of those entrusted to the pastoral and temporal care of our Church. So, in light of the developing Coronavirus pandemic, a decision has been made to suspend the public celebration of all Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the time being.

All of us need to do our part to slow the spread of this illness. Like you, we are monitoring coronavirus developments and look forward to continuing our lives on a more normal basis.

While things may look and feel different during these uncertain times, I want to be very clear that the Catholic Church in Philadelphia is not closing down. It is not disappearing and it will not abandon you. Time and again as our history has proven the Church has risen to meet great challenges and provide a beacon of hope and light.

As your Shepherd, I promise that the Church remains steadfast and is prepared to walk with you and serve you. Neither the Church nor its charitable works will stop. God is always by our side. He never abandons us. I invite you to join me in prayerful solidarity for the intentions of the sick, suffering, and their caregivers as well as government and health officials. With God's grace and blessing, we will navigate the difficult waters of this challenge as a united human family, for after all is said and done, we are people of Hope!"

Though public Masses are suspended in all churches in the Archdiocese, the right and need of the faithful to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments is not put aside. Pastors, along with all those who work with them, will be as attentive as possible to all the spiritual, pastoral, and charitable needs of the people they serve.

Priests will continue to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Mass during this period and to honor all requested Mass intentions.

Churches can remain open as a location for private prayer at the discretion of the pastor. Baptisms, Confessions, Marriages, and Funerals will take place as usual but with due regard for the limitation of participants and reasonable social distancing.

In conjunction with directives already in force in hospitals and institutions, all visits to the sick with Holy Communion, including in private homes, by priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are suspended. In such instances, only priests will be available to celebrate the Sacraments for those in immediate danger of death. In all circumstances, government and health agency directives for group size and social distancing are to be observed as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia strives to meet the pastoral and temporal needs of all those in need.

On Sunday, March 15th, the Archdiocese featured a live streaming broadcast of the 11:00 a.m. Mass on its website and Archbishop Pérez's Facebook page for the benefit of those wishing to participate in the liturgy remotely. This broadcast will continue each Sunday on an ongoing basis.

Additional information regarding opportunities for prayer and devotions are available on the Archdiocesan website.

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Editor's Note: For comprehensive information about the pastoral and temporal response of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, please visit http://archphila.org/covid19/ (http://archphila.org/covid19/).

Contact:

Contact: Kenneth A. Gavin
Chief Communications Officer
215-587-3747 (office)

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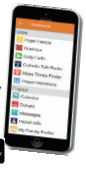

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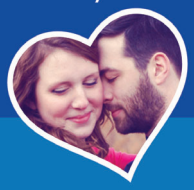

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Katie McFadden
Sales Associate
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