

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings This Weekend:

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

Readings Next Weekend:

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



Fourth Sunday of



In today's Gospel we encounter a man who was born blind. And this is us. For we were born into sin and with a spiritual blindness from which we must be rescued. This is the

Problem that is Presented. Note the **Purification that is Prescribed.** Jesus tells the man to go to the pool and wash. He came back able to see. This is Baptism. But notice the text says he came back **ABLE** to see. Just because I am able to see, does not mean I fully see everything. Thus, his **Perception is Partial.** We spend most of our lives trying to see more deeply into things and grasp proper meaning. So this man, who is us, needs to go through stages of awakening to have the Lord open his spiritual eyes even further. Next, notice the **Progress that Proceeds.** After a long series of questions he progresses in stages from referring to the Lord merely as "the man called Jesus," to seeing him as a prophet, to declaring "he is from God." Then he reaches the final stage, the **Perfection that is Portrayed.** In a conversation with Jesus, he is summoned to deeper faith and responds by saying, "I do believe" and he falls down and worships Jesus. This is us, we are on this journey to know Jesus more deeply and to confess and experience him as more than a mere man, or a prophet, but as Lord and God.

FUNERAL: Martina Veronica Redmond (Fri., March 20th)

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, March 22 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*
Clergy Mass Mary Lindsey † (birthday-Feb. 23)
Monday, March 23 *Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop*
Clergy Mass Elizabeth "Betty" Fairfax † (birthday)
Tuesday, March 24 *St. Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr*
Clergy Mass Mary L. Dyson †
Wednesday, March 25 *Annunciation of the Lord*
Clergy Mass John Savoy, Jr. †
Thursday, March 26
Clergy Mass For those affected by the COVID-19 crisis
Friday, March 27
Clergy Mass Harvey R. Clapp, III †
Saturday, March 28
Clergy Mass Emma S. Coulton †

MASS INTENTIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC: Although our parish is unable to celebrate a PUBLIC Mass until further notice, Msgr. Pope will celebrate his private Mass (Clergy Mass) daily and will include the Mass Intention for that day. If there is more than one Mass on that day (ex: Saturday & Sunday), then he is only obligated to have ONE Mass intention per day. Thus, on Saturday he will use the 8AM Mass intention and on Sunday he will use the 11AM Mass intention. If there is a Mass intention for the 4:30pm Mass on Saturday and the 8:00am and 7:00pm Mass on Sunday, our staff has been instructed to move those Mass intentions to another day. We are still accepting new Mass intentions for future dates. If you have questions or a Mass intention, call the rectory at 202-546-1885.



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

As most of you have heard or read, the Archbishop has indicated that we are not to celebrate public Masses until further notice due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Thus, ALL regularly scheduled Masses from Sunday through Saturday have been cancelled. This includes ALL weekday and weekend Masses.

You are still free to come to the parish to pray (center doors will be unlocked). I will leave that up to you and your prudential judgements.

I want you to know that I love you all and will miss seeing each one of you at Mass. Please keep the Archbishop in prayer as I know he had to make a very difficult decision. Please also know that when I get more information, I will pass it on. You are welcome to visit our website (hscchurch.org) for updates and resources. We will also send out updates and communications via our social media links and provide some documents in the rear of the church (prayers, novenas, bulletins, etc.).

May God bless you all and keep you safe and in his care.

Reverend Monsignor Charles Pope, Pastor

COMMUNICATION DURING THE PANDEMIC: Please know that we will try and keep our parishioners informed of what the Archdiocese and the parish is doing at this time. Our website (www.hscchurch.org) is a good source to find links to the Archdiocese and other important links. We have a parish app (MyParishApp.com) which allows us to send notifications to your mobile phone (available for android and Apple mobile devices). And, we have Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts which allow us to post updates and other important information. You can stop by the church and pickup a bulletin with communication and resources. We may be able to mail the bulletin at your request but our staff is limited during this time. Call 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org.

TITHING DURING THIS PANDEMIC: This is a very difficult time for everyone both spiritually and financially. If you are able to send your tithes, please know that you can submit it electronically and securely through Faith Direct. Visit faith.direct/DC59 or call 1-866-507-8757 to begin eGiving or to make a one-time donation. If you are unable to use electronic tithing, you are welcome to drop them off at the rectory office (please do not leave in the Church if clergy or staff is not present) or mail them to the rectory (1357 E. Capitol St., SE, WDC, 20003). Thank you for your support and generosity.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday:	Daniel 13:41-62	John 8:1-11
Tuesday:	Numbers 21:4-9	John 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	John 8:31-42
Thursday:	Genesis 17:3-9	John 8:51-59
Friday:	Jeremiah 20:10-13	John 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ezekiel 37:21-28	John 11:45-56

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I CAN'T GO TO MASS?

Catholics are encouraged to make a 'spiritual communion'. St. John Paul II writes that "it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'spiritual communion', which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.'" (Ecclesia Eucharistia, no. 34) Catholics in the archdiocese are also encouraged to watch our local TV Sunday Mass. The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30AM on WDCW-50 and through free online streaming at adw.org/tvmass.

How Do I Make a Spiritual Communion?

When unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings at usccb.org and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our YouTube channel. Additionally, a weekly televised Sunday Mass is available to watch at adw.org/tvmass.
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray the following prayer of spiritual communion:

An Act of Spiritual Communion by St. Alphonsus Liguori

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 this 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.

- Close with the sign of the cross.

LIVE STREAM THE ROSARY: The Servants of the Lord invite you to join them LIVE every day to pray the Rosary at 7PM. You can participate via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/SSVMUSA>. They will also recite the Stations of the Cross LIVE each day at 3PM (visit the same link). The Sisters will continue to LIVESTREAM these devotions every day while we are in the midst of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. NOTE: If you live in the neighborhood, please join the Sisters as they walk and recite the Rosary around Lincoln Park (13th & E. Capitol St., SE). You can meet up with them a few minutes prior to 12:30noon in front of HCSC or just join them in the park.

DISPENSATION FROM MASS: Archbishop Gregory has issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of Washington.

WHAT IS A DISPENSATION? A dispensation from the diocesan Bishop releases Catholics from fulfilling their Sunday obligation (Mass). Since public Masses are cancelled in the Archdiocese of Washington until further notice, this means that if you live in the Archdiocese of Washington, the right thing to do is to stay home for your safety and the safety of others. Though there is a sadness for not being able to participate at Mass, one should not feel guilty for not going to Mass. You have a free conscience to stay home. Catholics are encouraged to offer up their sickness or pastoral care for the sake of those who are seriously ill and for those who have died.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: During this pandemic the Young Adult Bible Study group will meet online through **ZOOM** on **Mondays at 8PM**. If you would like to join this group, simply send your email address to hscstaff@hscchurch.org and request to be added to the group discussion of scripture. We are currently studying the **Book of Genesis**.



HCSC CLERGY, CHOIR, and LECTORS featured on TV Mass. Msgr. Pope, Deacon Cyrus, HCSC Lectors and Choir are featured on the locally filmed TV Mass that will air on **March 29th**

(Fifth Sunday of Lent) at **10:30AM** on **channel WDCW50**. The TV Mass celebrations are recorded weeks in advance of their actual air date and this Mass was recorded prior to the Archbishop's cancellation of all public Masses. Therefore, since we will all be home together, we invite you to tune in to this TV Mass and watch and pray together on March 29th. You can view Sunday Mass on the Basilica's YouTube Channel: youtube.com/user/marysshine.



As long as we are able, we invite you to renew your relationship with the Lord through the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.

Monsignor Pope will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday evenings **from 6:30—7:15PM**.

Visit: theLightisON.org for more information and prayers.

ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES AT HCSC: Because of the restrictions placed on celebrating Mass during the COVID-19 pandemic, Monsignor Pope is also offering the time schedule listed below to hear confessions:

Sun. 7:30-8:00AM; 10-10:30AM; 6:30-7:00PM and
Sat. 4-4:30PM

LENTEN HOLY HOUR with Eucharistic Adoration will still be held **throughout Lent every Friday** in the church at **6PM** until further notice. To practice safe protocols during the pandemic we are limited to 50 people or less. You are asked to maintain "social distancing" by siting one person per pew.