



ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 27 // MAR. 16, 2023

# *In the Beginning...*

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Welp. It's the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Easter will be here before you know it! We'll be welcoming Phyllis and Emily into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. If you've never been to the Easter Vigil Mass, I invite you to join us. It's by far my favorite Mass of the year. Beyond the beauty of this particular Mass, I like to pause to think that the same thing is happening at Easter Vigil Masses throughout not only our diocese, but dioceses around the world: the universal church is welcoming people home.

Why do we use that phrase? We welcome them home because the Catholic Church is the original universal church ("catholic" means "universal"). Most non-Catholic Christians are not Catholic simply because they were born into their particular non-Catholic faith tradition. However, if you go back far enough, they likely had Catholic ancestors. At some point during or after the protestant schism, their ancestors left "home."

Jesus gave us the parable of the prodigal son, which is a fitting analogy for us. It takes a lot to overcome anti-Catholic indoctrination. Sometimes it's subtle, sometimes it's not. Either way, it is well ingrained into non-Catholic faith traditions. But once our brothers and sisters in Christ are able to break free from that socialization, they often begin the journey home. And like the loving father who welcomes his prodigal son home, the Mother Church stands ready to embrace those who choose to return.

In September, we'll begin another journey in RCIA for those interested in coming home to be in full communion with the universal church. If you or someone you know might be interested, please shoot me an email and let's connect!

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Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM  
Also, by appointment

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Tuesday: 8:30AM

Thursday: 8:30AM

Friday: 8:30AM

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Saturday: 4:00PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

Please join us for our third and final "parent meeting" this Sunday, March 19 at 5:30pm in the Brophy Center. In addition to watching the third session of Presence: Mystery of the Eucharist, we'll be handing out some useful material and going over what will be happening in the coming weeks. It's getting closer!

Parents have a unique and irreplaceable role in catechizing their children. **This session offers practical tips and strategies to encourage and empower parents as they help their children prepare for First Reconciliation.** These tools go beyond sacrament preparation to help build a family culture of mercy and reconciliation.

[For Parents: Preparing Your Child  
For First Confession](#)



## SAINT JUDE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION / RECONCILIATION DATES TO REMEMBER

### PARENT MEETINGS

Sunday, January 15, 2023 5:30- 7 PM

Sunday, February 19, 2023 5:30 - 7PM

Sunday, March 19, 2023 5:30 - 7 PM

### FAMILY MASS & BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 16, 10:30AM Mass

Breakfast after Mass

Student decorate Communion Plates

### RECONCILIATION REVIEW & CHURCH TOUR

Students only

Sunday April 23, 2023 5:30 - 6:30 PM

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Thursday April 27, 2023 6:30 PM

### FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE

Thursday May 4, 2023 6:30PM

### First Holy Communion Mass

Sunday May 7, 2023 10:30AM

Signs of Grace  
"You Are Loved"  
(about the Eucharist)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[Episode 7](#)

[Presence for Children](#)

Signs of Grace  
"You Are Forgiven"  
(about Reconciliation)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[How to Make a Great  
Confession](#)

[Forgiven](#)

[Session 1](#)

[Session 2](#)

[Session 3](#)

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute" (CCC 2221).

Although the parish helps to form our children in the faith, no one can take the place of the parents' role in forming holy individuals. As parents, we should be well equipped to answer questions and to act, not only as the first teachers, but as the first witnesses of faith. This page is intended to help you in the journey as we work together to prepare your children for this special moment in their lives!

# SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13](#)

[Psalm 23:1-6](#)

[Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

[John 9:1-41](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin," he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see Genesis 2:7), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see John 9:11). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent."

Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will (see John 9:4; 12:44). He is the new source of life-giving water: the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism (see John 4:10; 7:38-39).

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him (see Exodus 3:1; Psalm 78:70-71), David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus (see John 10:11).

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By His death and Resurrection He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing. With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: "I do believe, Lord."

"The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light," trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

"As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing."

JOHN 9:1-7

Source: [St. Paul Center](#)



# The Gospel at Home

## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Gospel Reading:

*John 9:1-41 (shorter form: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38)*

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man. The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment. The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind. As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

### Family Connection

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows. Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

*"Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.*

JOHN 9:35-41

# Did You Know?

## The Pool of Siloam Still Exists

From Aleteia.org:

The Pool of Siloam is the place where, (according to this week's Gospel reading), Jesus healed a man who had been blind since birth. According to the article published by [Business Insider](#), the pool “will be fully excavated and open to the public for the first time in modern history.” Even though a small section of it has been accessible for several years, most of the pool was destroyed and covered after the First Jewish-Roman war (in the year 70).

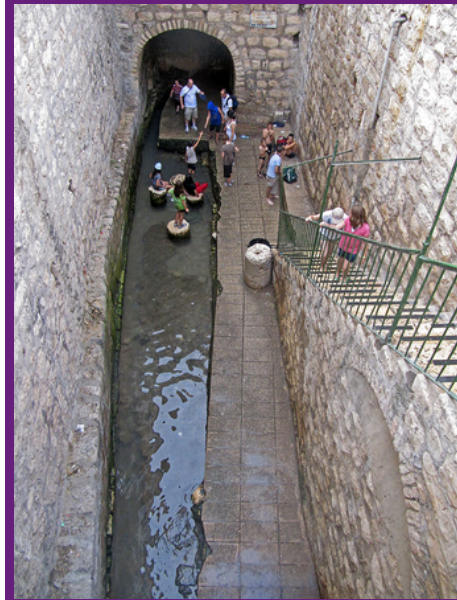
A coming excavation, the Insider explains, “will completely expose the ancient pool, allowing visitors to view it as part of a tourist route, the Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel National Parks Authority, and the City of David Foundation said in a statement provided to Insider.”

The pool was part of Jerusalem’s ancient water system, and later became a site of religious significance for ancient Jewish people. Religious pilgrims used it as a mikveh (a ritual bath) to cleanse themselves before visiting the Temple.

A small fragment of a stone inscription was recently found in the Siloam Tunnel – a water canal leading to the Pool of Siloam. Carved in ancient times, the tunnel is now located in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan, in eastern Jerusalem. Its popular name, “Hezekiah’s Tunnel,” is due to the most common hypothesis that it dates from the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah, between the late 8th and early 7th centuries BC.

It has been commonly believed that this tunnel corresponds to a “conduit” that is mentioned in 2 Kings 20:20: “The rest of the deeds of Hezeki’ah, and all his might, and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?”

[Continue Reading...](#)



Source:  
[Aleteia](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Sunday, March 19:**

10:30am - Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30am Mass.  
5:30pm - Religious education classes for grades 1-8.  
5:30pm - Parent meeting for parents of children making their first communion and reconciliation.

### **Monday, March 20:**

7:00pm - Women's Bible Study in the Thaddeus Center.  
7:30pm - Bible Study on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary in the Kelly Conference Room.

### **Tuesday, March 21:**

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room.  
7:30pm - Book Club. This week we're discussing chapter 3 of "The Abolition of Man" by C.S. Lewis. [More info here!](#)

### **Wednesday, March 22:**

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center.

### **Thursday, March 23:**

5:00pm - 8:00pm - The Light is ON for You: An Evening of Penance. Are you wondering how to best prepare yourself for Easter? Why not set aside some time to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation? Join the Diocese of Grand Rapids for "The Light is ON for You: An Evening of Penance"; Thursday, March 23; 5 - 8 p.m. in almost every parish of the diocese. Visit [GRdiocese.org/penance](http://GRdiocese.org/penance) for details.

### **Friday, March 24:**

7:00pm - Stations of the Cross.



"Jesus replied,  
'The first is  
this: 'Hear, O  
Israel! The Lord  
our God is Lord  
alone! You shall  
love the Lord  
your God with  
all your heart,  
with all your  
soul, with all  
your mind, and  
with all your  
strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

### **Confession**

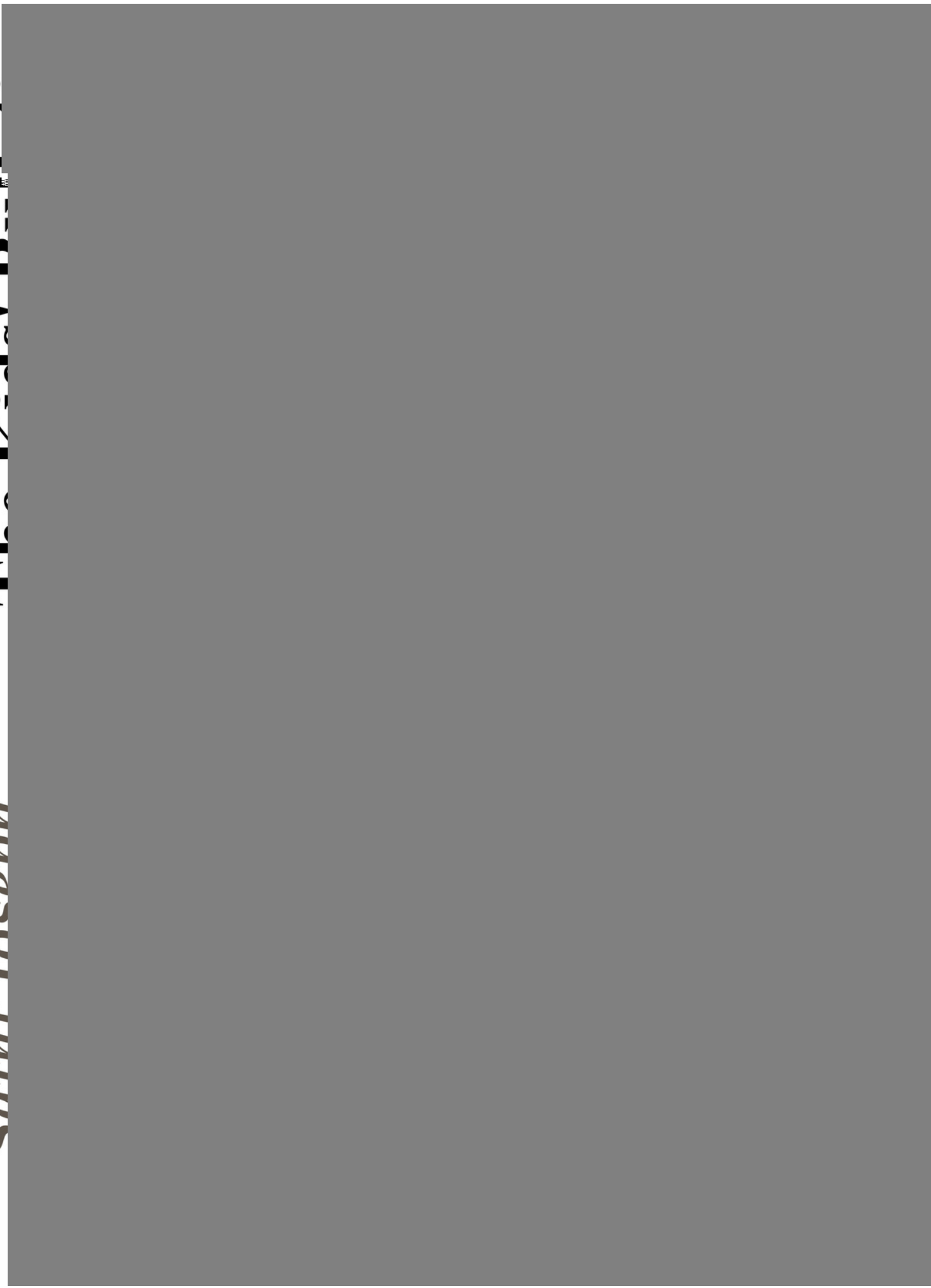
Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM  
Also, by appointment

### **Daily Mass**

Tuesday: 8:30AM  
Thursday: 8:30AM  
Friday: 8:30AM

### **Weekend Mass**

Saturday: 4:00PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM



# THE ANNUNCIATION

MARCH 25

*The Lord is my Shepherd...*

OVERFLOWS IN 

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4
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