

# Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 15, 2026



As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and

those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. -John 9:1-41

## **St Ambrose Speaks of Jesus' Healing the Blind Man**

*So he went and washed, and came back able to see.*

[\(Jn 9:7\)](#)

You have heard that story in the Gospel where we are told that the Lord Jesus, as he was passing by, caught sight of a man who had been blind from birth.

Since the Lord did not overlook him, neither ought we to overlook this story of a man whom the Lord considered worthy of his attention. In particular we should notice the fact that he had been blind from birth. This is an important point.

There is, indeed, a kind of blindness, usually brought on by serious illness, which obscures one's vision, but which can be cured, given time; and there is another sort of blindness, caused by cataract, that can be remedied by a surgeon: he can remove the cause and so the blindness is dispelled. Draw your own conclusion: this man, who was actually born blind, was not cured by surgical skill, but by the power of God.

When nature is defective the Creator, who is the author of nature, has the power to restore it. This is why Jesus also said. "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world," meaning: all who are blind are able to see, so long as I am the light they are looking for. Come, then, and receive the light, so that you may be able to see.

What is he trying to tell us, he who brought human beings back to life, who restored them to health by a word of command, who said to a corpse, "Come out!" and Lazarus came out from the tomb; who said to a paralytic. "Arise and pick up your stretcher," and the sick man rose and picked up the very bed on which he used to be carried as a helpless cripple?

Again, I ask you, what is he trying to convey to us by spitting on the ground, mixing his spittle with clay and putting it on the eyes of a blind man, saying: "Go and –

Cont...wash yourself in the pool of *Siloam* (a name that means 'sent')?" What is the meaning of the Lord's action in this? Surely one of great significance, since the person whom Jesus touches receives more than just his sight.

In one instant we see both the power of his divinity and the strength of his holiness. As the divine light, he touched this man and enlightened him; as priest, by an action symbolizing baptism he wrought in him his work of redemption.

The only reason for his mixing clay with the spittle and smearing it on the eyes of the blind man was to remind you that he who restored the man to health by anointing his eyes with clay is the very one who fashioned the first man out of clay, and that this clay that is our flesh can receive the light of eternal life through the sacrament of baptism.

You, too, should come to *Siloam*, that is, to him who was sent by the Father (as he says in the Gospel. "My teaching is not my own, it comes from him who sent me)." Let Christ wash you and you will then see.

Come and be baptized, it is time; come quickly, and you too will be able to say, "I went and washed;" you will be able to say, "I was blind, and now I can see," and as the blind man said when his eyes began to receive the light. "The night is almost over and the day is at hand." (*Letter 80, 1-5: PL 16, 1326-1327*)

## **Readings For This Sunday**

Reading I: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Reading II: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9: 1-41

## **Readings For Next Sunday**

Reading I: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Reading II: Romans 8: 8-11

Gospel: John 11: 1-45

## **FINANCE**

**1st Collection=\$2,102**

**Building & Maintenance=\$1,199**

**This week's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection = Catholic Relief Services**

**AMA 2026 Goal=\$34,900 Pledges=\$4,945 Rec'd=\$3,435**

**You may place your rosary counts in the collection baskets. Report: 11,994! Rosaries prayed last week =56 Cumulative= 11,994**

## **INVITATION TO MASS of the CHRISM**

The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa, Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, along with the Diocesan and Religious priests of the Diocese invite you to participate in the Mass of the Chrism at the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa on **Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** The beautiful Mass of the Chrism is celebrated once a year. The Bishop blesses the oil of Catechumens, the oil of the Sick and the oil of Chrism. This Mass is one of the principal expressions of the fullness of the ministerial priesthood that the bishop has received. It also signifies the unity the priests have with the bishop who share in the same ministerial priesthood. During this Mass, the Diocesan and Religious priests will renew their commitment of priestly service.

## **Eureka Holy Mass Schedule**

### **Saturday, March 14**

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm +Juvenal Regalo St Joseph Church

### **Sunday, March 15**

7:30 am +Erling Dellabalma St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am +Jim Cruz Sacred Heart Church  
10:30am Int. Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church  
12:15 pm(Sp)Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

### **Monday, March 16**

12:15 pm +Rebecca Bertain St. Bernard Church

### **Tuesday, March 17**

7:30 am Mary Grinsell St. Joseph Church

### **Wednesday, March 18**

12:15 pm Int. Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church  
6:00 pm Adoration/Confession Sacred Heart Church  
7:00 pm No Intention (Sp) Sacred Heart Church

### **Thursday, March 19**

7:30am Int. Ryan Pepper St. Joseph Church  
11:30am Mass No Intention St. Joseph Hospital

### **Friday, March 20**

12:15 pm + Sandra Lingle St. Bernard Church  
1-2 pm Confession St. Bernard Church  
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper Sacred Heart Church

### **Saturday, March 21**

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm Mass for the People St Joseph Church

### **Sunday, March 22**

7:30 am Sherry & Baby Scott St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church  
10:30am +Rebecca Bertain St. Bernard Church  
12:15 pm(Sp)No Intention Sacred Heart Church

**Please Pray For:** Chet Williams, Maria Mendes Da Costa, Martin Fosnaugh, Sylvia Clark, Catie Biesecker, Stacy Cudney, Josephine Silva, Jo Ann Dellabalma, Ann Marie DeSimone, Bill King, Martin & Claudia Vess, Chris Miller, Mary Alpers, Basil, Santos, Bosco, Maria, Mario, Pio, & Mariano Mainus, Nancy Allen, David Russell, Sonny, Garrett Anderson, Dottie Barrett, Harvey & Mary Anne Bennett, Mildred Perrone, Marian Griffin, Massimo Matteoli, Gary Cormier, and Obdulia Walter

### **Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:**

Gloria Allen, Rebecca Bertain, Roseann Cooney, Lorraine Holland, Sandra Lingle, Lena Petty, Sarah Mixon, Suanna Rowell, Erling Dellabalma, Paul Windham, Rosealee Schuler, Nick Giannini, Juvenal (John) Regalo, Evo Fannuchi, Dianne Luzzi, Rose Ann Hurst, Tom Long, Joe Thompson, Colleen Cruz, Gina Costa, Rodrigo Reyna Sanchez, Jerry Bronder, Madalenne Smith, Bruce Amado, Doris Davy, Stella Reyes, Mary Antonelli, Mary Ellen Hadley, Sara & Carmen Scrivner, Camille Regli, Fred Avelar, Delores McBroome, and Gus Cricchio

### **St. Bernard's Phone Prayer Line**

For those who are interested in joining the prayer chain or anyone with a prayer request, please call Alan / Illeen at (707) 442-6844. "Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love." ~ St. Teresa of Avila

## **JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF PRAYER TO END**

**ABORTION** We will have an hour of Prayer to End Abortion every Saturday until March 28<sup>th</sup> 10 AM every Saturday! Corner of Walford and Wilson, just up from Safeway. Bring your kids, bring your guitars, bring your Rosaries.

## **ICF 2026 PBJ Betty Chinn Drive Thank You**

The Italian Catholic Federation (Eureka Branch #145) thanks the parishioners of St Bernard and Sacred Heart Parishes for supporting the 2026 Super Bowl of peanut butter and jelly drive in support of Betty Chinn's ministry in memory of Fr. Freed. St. Mary's in Arcata won again (965 lbs!); but Eureka churches collected an outstanding 426 pounds. Total donations countywide: 1,872 lbs!

## **Rosary- Making Kit Finds A Home**

We wish to thank Chris who has taken up the rosary-making mission left by beloved parishioner +Mel Berning, former Knight of Columbus and President of the Humboldt Gem and Mineral Society. May God bless and keep you.

## **Hall of Fame Dinner**

The Alumni Association will host its annual Hall of Fame Dinner Saturday, March 21 in the St. Bernard's Academy Auditorium, 222 Dollison St., Eureka. Two Alumni and two Friends of St. Bernard's will be honored. This year's inductees are: Cindy Honeycutt Finck, Class of 1989, and her husband Brian, for their years of volunteer service and tireless commitment to St. Bernard's Academy. Brenda Daly Zwiefelhofer, Class of 1965, will be honored posthumously for her years of working with youth and for her selfless volunteer hours of service in church and community organizations. Bill Long, in memoriam, for his school contributions, community involvement, and unwavering support for the youth of the area.

The Hall of Fame Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. with a no-host reception with dinner starting at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$35/adults, and \$15/children age 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the St. Bernard's Academy school office (707-443-2735) or by mailing reservation request and payment to the school: St. Bernard's Alumni Association, 222 Dollison St. Eureka, CA 95501 All proceeds will go to tuition scholarships for St. Bernard's Academy students.

## **Come Join Us! On March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, Catholics from across California will gather in Sacramento**

for a sacred day of prayer, unity, and public witness with our California bishops. This gathering is meant for everyone — families, young adults, school communities, ministry leaders, and parish groups. It is an opportunity to make Lent visible and to stand together in hope at the center of our state's civic life. For your convenience, you'll find bulletin inserts, a pulpit announcement script, and an email template you can share here. If you'd rather receive it by email, please email me at [familylife@srdioce.org](mailto:familylife@srdioce.org). More information about the event: <https://cacatholic.org/capitol/> Thank you

## **Pray to End Abortion with 40 Days For Life**

Look for our table outside after Mass for information on how to get involved. Call for more information: Sue Lehman at 347-446-5508 Allen Rode 707-601-9592 Join us in this prayerful campaign!