

SAT 4pm	Feb. 28	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Servers	Madalyne Brown Tryston Brown Abby Brown	Anna Brown Aubrey Brown Adeline Brown	Issac Wells Fred Dust Trey Brown	Issac Wells Fred Dust Trey Brown	Madalyne Brown Tryston Brown Abby Brown
Lector	Alaina Miller	Donna Davis	Sara Roepke	Doug Brown	Christy Brown
Usher	Don Brown Doug Brown	Jason Wells Mike Holland	Justin Miller Don Brown	Jason Wells Mike Holland	Doug Brown Justin Miller
Ministers of Holy Communion	Don Brown Kathy Brown Donna Davis	Rosemary Holland Mike Holland Katrina Davis	Don Brown Beth Spannagel Sara Roepke	Donna Davis Kathy Brown Rosemary Holland	Mike Holland Sara Roepke Don Brown
Gift Bearers	Fred & Joe Dust	Don Brown Family	Doug Brown Family	Jesse Davis Family	Jason Wells Family
SUN 8am	March 1	March 8 Families in Faith	March 15	March 22 Families in Faith	March 29 Families in Faith
Servers	Wylie Miller Daisy Miller Jacob Vonderheide	Wade Conder Olivia Vonderheide Zoey Conder	Hunter Buehler Garrett Hoene Braxton Hoene	Wylie Miller Daisy Miller Jacob Vonderheide	Wade Conder Olivia Vonderheide Zoey Conder
Lector	Terry Hoene	Lisa Thompson	Kathy Adams	Terry Hoene	Lisa Thompson
Ushers	Jim Vonderheide Trevor Floyd	Dennis Koester Shawn Buehler	Gene Doedtman Tom Doedtman	Josh Miller Justin Conder	John Neu Don Antrim
Ministers of Holy Communion	Timber Miller Trevor Floyd Vanessa Floyd	Shawn Buehler Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide	Lisa Thompson Leslie Kemme Timber Miller	Shawn Buehler Trevor Floyd Vanessa Floyd	Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide Leslie Kemme
Gift Bearers	Rodney Hoene Family	Charley Rhonda Vonderheide	Jim Marylou Vonderheide	Dan Angela Woods	Barb Vonderheide
Greeters	Barb Vonderheide	Jason Pruemmer Family	Larry Lieb	Don Marcella Antrim	George Diana Conder
Money Counters	Hoene	Kemme Adams	Bales Richards Hackman Sheehan	Stremming Conder	Doedtman Shadwell
WED. 8am Lectors	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25	April 1
	Linda Doedtman	Mike Holland	Alice Richards	Irene Koester	Linda Doedtman

Please remember to sign in in the sacristy before mass so we know all ministries are covered.

Sacrament of Marriage-Please contact our parish office (1-844-536-6514) at least 9 months before your anticipated wedding date to begin your spiritual preparation. One or both persons must be registered and actively living their faith. All couples planning to be married at our parish must attend a Pre-Cana program, Natural Family Planning program and FOCCUS evaluation.

Sacrament of Baptism - A family must be registered & actively living their faith. Godparents must also be registered in a Catholic parish or other Christian church & actively living their faith. A Baptism Class is required for all parents. We ask that both parents attend this class together. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please call the parish office (1-844-536-6514).



+Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
www.dio.org

Annunciation Church of B.V.M.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Shumway, IL

Fr. Adam Prichard, Pastor

aprichard@dio.org

PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461

1-844-536-6514

Website: www.stmaryshumway.org

Email: parishoffice@stmaryshumway.org



4th Sunday of Lent—March 15, 2026

MISSION
Be a growing community of disciples, centered on the Eucharist, that imitates Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel and serving our neighbors with love.

VISION
Building the Body of Christ through families of faith with vibrant spiritual formation, joyful community fellowship and service, and a welcoming presence to all.

Shumway Mass Times:
Tuesday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
Reconciliation-3pm
Sunday 8:00 am

Green Creek Mass Times:
Thursday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Friday – 8 am
Saturday – 6 pm
Sunday – 10:00 am

No Adoration/Mass when it falls on a Holy Day

Seeing with New Eyes
The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A brings us stories about seeing in a new way. God helps us look beyond what is on the outside. These readings remind us that God sees people differently than we do. He looks deeper and knows what really matters.

In the first reading, David is chosen to be king, even though he is the youngest and smallest. Everyone thought his older brothers would be picked. But God shows that he sees things others miss. The Gospel also tells about seeing—Jesus heals a man born blind. This healing helps him believe in Jesus.

These readings fit well with Lent. Lent is a time to grow closer to God and let go of things that keep us in the dark. On the 4th Sunday of Lent Year A, we are invited to open our eyes and trust God to lead us. His ways are full of mercy and light.



March Committee:
Wanda Ohnesorge,
Vanessa Kessler, Patty Kessler,
Vanessa Floyd, Alice Richards,
Irene Koester

As we continue to walk through Lent, one of the questions that may find ourselves faced with is, "Who am I? What is my identity?" It's a question that Jean Valjean, the protagonist in Les Misérables, struggles with throughout the book, throughout the musical. In the song, "Who am I", he sings, "My soul belongs to God, I know/ I made that bargain long ago/ He gave me hope when hope was gone/ He gave me strength to carry on." While Jean Valjean is a fictional character, following his journey can help us to understand that we are more than two-dimensional people. We are complex, we can change and develop throughout the years of our life.

What was the bargain that Valjean made with God? He accepted the mercy of God, which was shown to him by a Bishop. He accepted that God sees him, not just as a thief who had been arrested, sentenced to labor, and finally was paroled, then stole again, but as a person who is loved by God. Who is not abandoned by God. It's very similar to the account of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. Though she has been rejected and scorned by her previous husbands, by her fellow townsfolk, God has not abandoned her. God continues to call her to Himself. That doesn't mean that she is without sin, has never done anything wrong, that she is without needing to accept accountability in her life; it does mean that she is called to repentance, to turn towards the Lord, and receive His love for her every day of her life.

When we grow in understanding of who we are, created in the image and likeness of God and, through the Sacrament of Baptism, adopted into the family of God as His sons and daughters, the understanding of our identity can become clearer. Our occupations, our personalities, our roles and vocations (in the church, in our families, in our jobs), our interests, and our actions can and do influence the way we see ourselves and how others see us. But, ultimately, the most important thing when it comes to realizing our identity is understanding how God sees us and loves us then responding to that.

May we all know God's love for us and respond to it more and more throughout our lives.

God Bless,
Fr. Adam



PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!



- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bob Frese | Tom Laue | Steve Moore |
| David Childress | Jerry Worman | Pat Kuhns |
| Elsie McKay | Mardell Sheehan | Bill Hamilton |
| Don Clark | Hans Kollinger | Christie Dust |
| Kelly Myers Kocher | Kathy Miller | Helen Kollinger |
| Roger Thomas | David Brown | Bill Nuxoll |
| Ron Harris | Larry Nation | Cinda Held |
| Lottie McCormick | Beth Hewing | Kathy Wakefield |
| Kenny Hille | Jim Gordon | |
| Trevor Roy | Don Kemme | |
| Tony Bierman | | |
| Tori Schairbaum | | |

Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone. Thank You.

Dear Padre March 15, 2026

I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing. The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word "sinister" is from the Latin sinister, meaning "left."

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most lefthanded people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. • Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.

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Weekly Offering..... March 8, 2026

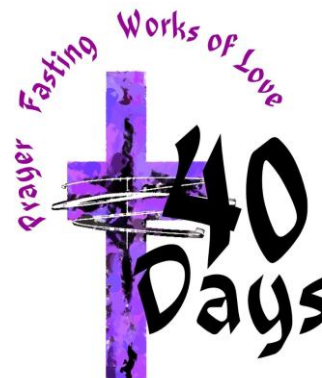
Adult.....	\$1394.00
Loose.....	296.25
Catholic Times.....	10.00
Easter Flowers.....	340.00
Catholic Charities.....	160.00
Total.....	\$2200.25
Parish Hall update	\$156,843.47
Mases	\$30



EVERY weekend, we will be collecting food for local food pantries. You can find the donation tote in the cry room.

To reserve the church basement please call 1-844-536-6514.

- Cemetery Committee**
John Adams 618-322-2874
Matt Childerson 217-254-5896
Daphne Hoffman 217-821-7268
- Funeral Meal Coordinators**
Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
Dot Thomas 217-259-8560



To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE

- MONDAY**
MARCH 16
Is 65:17–21
Jn 4:43–54
- TUESDAY**
MARCH 17
Ez 47:1–9, 12
Jn 5:1–16
- WEDNESDAY**
MARCH 18
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30
- THURSDAY**
MARCH 19
St. Joseph,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4–5a,
12–14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16–18,
22
Mt 1:16, 18–21,
24a or Lk 2:41–51a
- FRIDAY**
MARCH 20
Wis 2:1a, 12–22
Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30
- SATURDAY**
MARCH 21
Jer 11:18–20
Jn 7:40–53
- SUNDAY**
MARCH 22
Fifth Sunday
of Lent
Ez 37:12–14
Rom 8:8–11
Jn 11:1–45 or
11:3–7,
17, 20–27, 33b–45

Knights of Columbus donate to Parish Center Building Fund

The Effingham Knights of Columbus recently made a \$3,000 donation to St. Mary's Parish Center Building Fund. Making the presentation to Pastor Father Adam Prichard is Past Grand Knight, Jesse Davis.



You are invited to Lenten Day of Reflection in Springfield –

Through conferences and personal prayer time, this Lenten Day of Reflection on Sunday, March 22 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield will help you to contemplate on and to experience more deeply the infinite and tender love of Christ for all of humanity. It will also help you prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Arrival is at 2 p.m., and it concludes at 7 p.m. The day includes conferences, adoration, time for prayer, the Rosary, confession, and dinner. The cost is \$25. Register by March 15 at dio.org/events.

Sacred Marian Shrines Pilgrimage – Join Msgr. David Hoefler of the Diocese of Springfield on a pilgrimage to the Sacred Marian Shrines of France, Portugal, and Spain, traveling September 28–October 9, 2026. This spiritually rich journey will include visits to some of the most beloved Marian sites in the world. Space is limited. To learn more and register online, go to go.dio.org/786

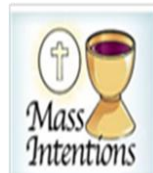
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St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Newton, IL

Job Postings: Middle School Math Teacher Starting: 2026-2027 School Year
St. Thomas is accepting credentials for the position of Middle School Math teacher/6th Grade Homeroom. Practicing Catholics preferred, but not required. All interested individuals should submit resume', application (found at stthomassaints.com), copy of license(s), letter(s) of reference and transcripts to:

St. Thomas School

Attn: Mrs. Jill Bierman, Principal
306 W. Jourdan St. - Newton, IL 62448
Or jillbierman@stthomassaints.com Please feel free to email or call Mrs. Bierman (618) 783-3517, if you have any questions. Deadline to apply: April 24th, 2026



† This symbol denotes-deceased.

Saturday, March 14- +Merita Elson by Teresa Tegeler
Sunday, March 15 – +Agnes Agbata by Don Marcella Antrim and +Marita Kemme by family
Tuesday, March 17- No mass
Wednesday, March 18 – No mass
Saturday, March 21 –Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sunday, March 22 –+Merita Elson by George & Diana Conder
Tuesday, March 24 – +Sally Wakefield by Tim & Deborah Thoele
Wednesday, March – 8am - +Marita Kemme by Family
-6pm-

To schedule a mass intention please use a mass intention envelope. They are in the cry room in the "mailbox" outside the bathroom. There is also a calendar there with available dates. Drop your intention in the collection basket. If you have anv questions. contact Donna Davis @1-844-536-6514.

Happy Birthday



Christina Niebrugge 3-14
Rory Miller 3-15
Helen Doedtman 3-17
Jesse Davis 3-18
Hans Kollinger 3-18
Karen Kemme 3-18

**Families in Faith
Next classes March 22 & 29**

USE YOUR TALENT & PASSION!

The newly created Parish Mission, Vision and Values is a foundation and guide for the Parish. We have Goals written for the year and want everyone's help. This Weekend after Masses in the Church basement you are invited to learn about these Goals and if interested, participate in them. Refreshments will be available too!



Wednesday, March 25

We will celebrate our Feast Day with Mass at 6pm followed by a meal.

Please sign up!! There are sheets at each entrance of the church



Stations of the Cross **every Friday @ 6:30pm**

Adoration/Penance Service – Tuesday, March 24 @ 5-7pm (no mass)

Chrism Mass – Tues. March 31 Springfield @ 6:30pm

Wed. April 1 – normal 8 am Mass

Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life

St. Michael's church in Sigel Tuesday March 24th.

Rosary 6:00 pm.

Fr Hyland Smith will celebrate Mass @ 6:30 pm.

A business meeting will follow in the school gym.

What Really Happens at Mass movie – The Real Presence: The Mass is a 28-minute film that reveals the unseen spiritual world of the Catholic Mass through a combination of beautiful liturgical imagery and artistic augmented reality. At the heart of the film is the belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist—not symbolically, but in reality. With alarming statistics showing that many Catholics no longer believe in this foundational truth, the film seeks to reawaken faith and offer compelling insights into what the Church teaches about the Real Presence. Watch for free: therealpresence.com.

Bible Study @ St. Mary's, Shumway

“A Journey Through Church History.”

Next Meetings @ 6:30pm

Wed. March 18

Thurs. March 26

Mon. March 30

Wed. April 8

Millions of Monica Prayer group will meet March 16th from 6-7pm @ Sacred Heart Parish in Effingham. We invites all mothers to come pray with us. This is a group of mothers, grandmothers, aunts and godmothers coming together to lift up their children (of all ages) in prayer. Following St. Monica's example of patience and perseverance, we pray for the joyful return of our children to full unity with the Catholic Church. For more information, visit www.millionsofmonicas.com.



The sign ups can be found in the cry room. Father would also like volunteers to sign up to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday.

Holy Thursday – April 2 -Shumway @5:30pm

Good Friday – April 3 – Green Creek @ 5:30pm

Easter Vigil – Holy Saturday – April 4- Shumway @ 8:00pm

Easter Sunday – April 5 – 8 am Shumway
10am Green Creek

SonRise Men's Breakfast – The Hidden Face of God

This week at SonRise TMIY will look at how God is coming to us through other people and how we can encounter God in our home. Find out how he wishes to encounter us all day, every day.

All men are welcomed.

Come for Hot Breakfast on **Friday, March 20**, 6:15 AM, prayer, program and discussion from 6:30 – 7:30 AM, at the St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham.

Women's faith, wine, and chocolate night

– Women of the diocese are invited to a beautiful evening of prayer, fellowship, and faith on Wednesday, March 25, at the Villa Maira Retreat Center on Lake Springfield in celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation. The night begins with Mass at 6 p.m., honoring Mary's joyful “yes” to God, followed by a relaxed and meaningful gathering featuring wine, chocolate (Lenten penances are not obligatory on solemnities), and guided discussion. The night ends at 9 p.m. Together, we will reflect on what it means to live as women after the model of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, growing in friendship with Christ, Our Lady, and one another. The cost is \$10. Registration deadline is March 20. Go to dio.org/events to register.

...SAVE THE DATE...

Mattoon Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting Monday, March 16, 2026

“Ladies’ Day Out, Irish Style”

Immaculate Conception, Mattoon 320 N 21st Street; Mattoon Furthering faith and family, featuring fun, food and fellowship

*****NOTICE TIME CHANGE*****

9:30 – 10:15 Registration; 10:30 Mass Lunch, Meeting and Drawings to follow

Guest Speaker: Fr. R. Dean Probst “Stories of Travels with Fr. Dean”

(NOTICE: 50/50 Raffle replaces white elephant gift)

Wear Green – get 1 ticket Bring a new friend – get 5 tickets



The El Shaddai Maternity Home in Effingham recently had a bad flood when frozen sprinkler pipes burst. It damaged their west wing, living room, and food pantry. All contents of the pantry had to be thrown away.

If you're able to help, they are asking for financial donations to help pay the \$5,000 deductible for their insurance. You can make a donation online at <https://elshaddaihomes.com/> or mail a check to:

El Shaddai Homes
505 W. Temple Ave.
PO Box 6065
Effingham, IL 62401

- Detailed list of needs
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Flour
- Sugar
- Hamburger helper
- Tuna helper
- Tuna
- Sloppy Joe mix
- Noodles of every kind
- Spaghetti sauce
- Chilli beans
- Tomato sauce and juice
- Canned vegg
- Crackers
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayo
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Cake and brownie mix's
- Baby formula -Similac and Enfamil
- Snacks
- Thank you!!!

They're also in need of items to restock their pantry. These items can be dropped off at 505 W Temple Ave in Effingham any time before 8 pm.

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to see with the eyes of faith. The readings call us to recognize God's work in unexpected ways and to look beyond outward appearances. They challenge us to live as children of light and to trust God's purpose, even in times of struggle.

The Significance of the Miracle

In the Gospel for the 4th Sunday of Lent Year A, Jesus heals a man born blind using dirt and saliva. These simple, ordinary things show that God can use anything to bring healing and grace. By using what was considered unclean in Jewish culture, Jesus shows his power to make all things holy.

This miracle also points to spiritual renewal. Just as the man's eyes were opened, we are called to open our hearts to God. Some see this as a symbol of baptism, where water washes away sin and brings new life. The man moves from darkness to light, just as we do when we are baptized.

Jesus also challenges the belief that suffering is a result of personal sin. He explains that the man's blindness was not a punishment but an opportunity to show God's glory. This reminds us that suffering can have a purpose beyond what we see.

This story invites us to reflect on how God works through ordinary things in our lives. It challenges us to see our struggles not as punishments but as ways God's power can be revealed. It calls us to trust in God's purpose and healing.

Seeing as God Sees

The first reading for the 4th Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that God sees beyond outward appearances. When Samuel is sent to anoint a new king, he expects to choose the strongest and most impressive of Jesse's sons. But God guides him to David, the youngest and least likely choice.

God explains that humans see the outside, but He sees the heart. This challenges us to look beyond looks, status, or wealth and to value inner goodness and faithfulness. It also reminds us to trust God's choices, even when they don't match our expectations.

The second reading continues this theme by calling us to live as children of light. We are challenged to see the world through God's eyes, walking in goodness and truth. Spiritual sight involves seeing things from God's perspective, not through the lens of selfishness or judgment.

By seeing as God sees, we learn to look at others with love and mercy. We are called to see potential and goodness in others, just as God saw greatness in David. We are also called to examine our own hearts and ask if we are living faithfully.

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to develop spiritual sight. It challenges us to see with compassion, trust in God's choices, and live as children of the light.

Similarities and Differences Between This Encounter and the Encounter with the Woman at the Well

On the 4th Sunday of Lent Year A, the Gospel tells of Jesus healing a man born blind. This follows the story of the woman at the well from the previous Sunday. Hearing these stories together helps us see both the similarities and differences in these encounters.

Both the woman and the blind man are outcasts in their society. Jesus meets them where they are, breaking social barriers. In both cases, his actions lead to a life-changing transformation. The woman becomes a believer and a witness to her community, while the blind man gains both physical sight and spiritual insight.

Both stories reveal Jesus' identity. To the woman, he speaks of living water, showing himself as the source of eternal life. To the blind man, he reveals himself as the Son of Man. In both encounters, Jesus shows that he is more than a healer—he is the Savior.

However, the community's response is very different. The woman's community is open and curious. They come to believe in Jesus because of her testimony. In contrast, the religious leaders reject the blind man's story and refuse to believe in Jesus, showing their spiritual blindness.



These stories challenge us to respond to Jesus with open hearts. The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to reflect on our own willingness to see and believe. It asks us if we are open to Jesus' message or if we allow prejudice or fear to cloud our vision.

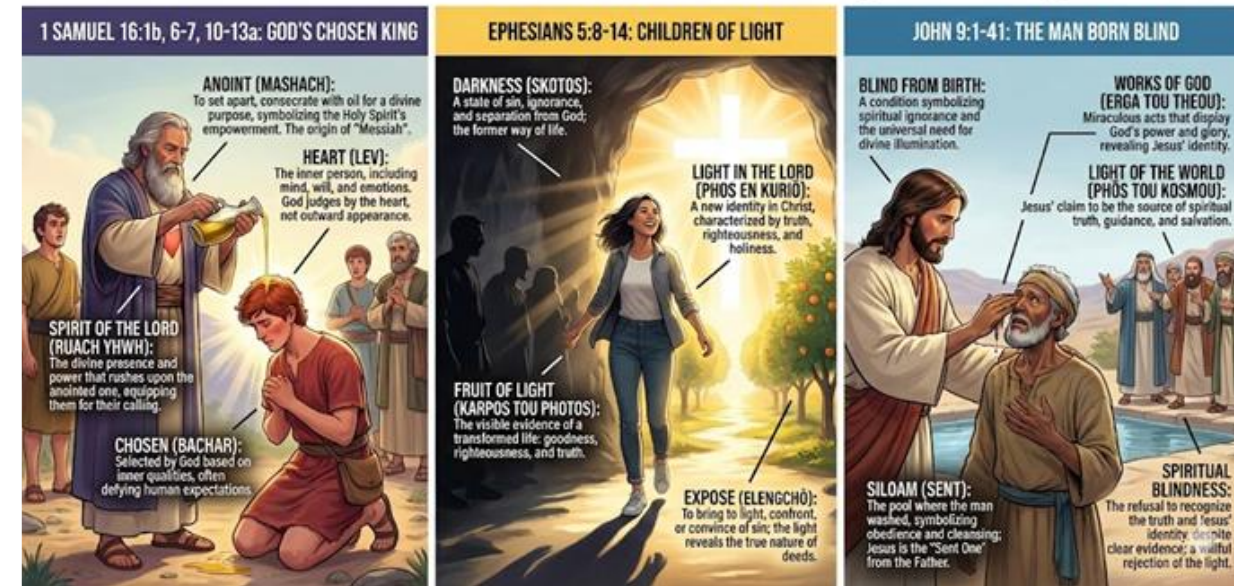
The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that true sight comes from faith and an open heart. By seeing as God sees and trusting His purpose, we grow closer to Christ. May these reflections inspire us to walk in light and love.

Reflection Questions for the 4th Sunday of Lent Year A

- How does God use ordinary things in your life to bring grace and healing?
- What distractions keep you from seeing God's work?
- How can you live as a child of light?
- Do you judge others by appearances or by their hearts?
- How can you trust God's purpose in times of struggle?
- What does spiritual blindness look like in your life?
- How can you grow in faith and spiritual sight?
- Are you open to God's choices, even if they surprise you?
- How can you respond to Jesus with courage and faith?
- What steps can you take to see others with love and mercy?

<https://young-catholics.com/2533/4th-sunday-of-lent-year-a/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)



Check out this website. Lots of great reflections.

<https://thewordthisweek.net/bible-study-4th-sunday-of-lent-a/>