

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 28, 2018

MASS READINGS

MONDAY: EPH 4:32-5:8, PS 1, LK 13:10-17

TUESDAY: EPH 5:21-33, PS 128, LK 13:18-21

WEDNESDAY: EPH 6:1-9, PS 145, LK 13:22-30

***THURSDAY: RV 7:2-4, 9-14, PS 24, 1 JN 3:1-3,
MT 5:1-12A**

FRIDAY: WIS 3:1-9, PS 23, ROM 5:5-11, MT 25:31-46

SATURDAY: PHIL 1:18B-26, PS 42, LK 14:1-7-11

**NEXT SUNDAY: THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME -RDGS: DT 6:2-6, PS 18, HEB
7:23-28, MK 12:28B-34**

***HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: MASSES 7AM/
NOON/5PM**



But he kept calling out all the more

With all the “voices” coming at us from every direction it seems practically impossible to focus these days. In an attempt to make this less burdensome we have reduced many of these voices to mere “sound bites” thinking that by shortening them we remove their intrusiveness. In some cases doing this only minimizes what they might truly have to say and so we come away with only half, if that, of the message. Others we try and silence all together, either we find them unpleasant or too challenging to be dealt with. Other voices we allow to speak out loud and clear simply because they tell us what we want to hear and the message is a soothing and pleasant one, even though it may not be the right one. The Gospel is a voice trying to compete with a variety of other voices. Just as our poor blind man sought to be heard above the din of the crowd and to get Jesus’ attention, attention, I suspect, he already had, we can sometimes barely hear the Gospel since our lives are not as finely tuned in as they should be for proper reception. And, even if we did hear, we might be inclined to react negatively like members of the crowd and silence the voice because we find it too disturbing. Examination of self usually allows us to discern what sort of “voices” we permit access to our minds and hearts. What Jesus said about treasure can be used here regarding voices. Whatever voice you choose to hear is where your heart is. The Fathers of the Church often spoke of the “ears of the heart”, that ability to be aware of the voice of the one calling us from Glory to “hear the word of God and keep it”. Prayer, fasting and works of charity give us that inner clarity by which we are tuned in to the only voice that matters, that voice through which all the other sounds of life are filtered and that voice which gives directs us toward true peace and serenity. In keeping with today’s gospel sometime we are the one crying out and sometime we are the ones “shushing”. And sometimes we are BOTH...yes, that unique fragmented self which is the result of sin which finds us conflicted about asking for help, while at the same time, not wishing to bother or worse, afraid of receiving the type of help which will cause us to experience that scary four-letter word FEAR, a fear that we might just have to change and proceed on a different path if we are truly wanting to see and hear the truth. In spite of this we should take a cue from the fellow in today’s gospel and continue to call and call and call...knowing that Jesus knows precisely what we need and is more than ready to provide it...Why then are we calling out so much? Perhaps in doing so we might truly hear ourselves and take heed that we actually DO need help and let the Lord do his work as we wish to do.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY: MARY JO DANAHER

TUESDAY: PAUL VELTEN

WEDNESDAY: JOHN SCOWDEN

***THURSDAY: 7: ANN HUBERTZ/NOON: STACY BROWN,
5PM FOR THE PARISH**

FRIDAY: POOR SOULS

VIGIL: MARY JO DANAHER

7:30: STACY BROWN

10:00: JEANNE HANTHORN

NOON: FOR THE PARISH

***HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: MASSES AT 7AM/NOON
AND 5PM**

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

All members of St. Ann’s parish, families-living & deceased. Marian Schwartz. (Gene & Genevieve Bullock & Hank & Jean Corbin). (Mrs. Pat Kingma & Mrs. Joanne Irwin). (Karen Fox, Mike & Rosemary Cavanaugh). Nufer/Vogel families, (Frank & Evelyn Meyer, Paul & Marjorie Byrd). (Ann Owen, M/M Lewis Owen, M;M Donald Yantis, Patricia Yantis, Geraldine Erwin). Janice Anderson.

Jane Clapp. Jody Dixon.

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Conquer Spiritual Blindness

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV

Jesus the “Light of the world” gave sight to the blind! Spiritual blindness is an extremely prevalent reality. However, spiritually blind eyes can still have their sight restored.

This short article will bring to the light three major reasons for spiritual blindness and then three remedies to conquer this blindness! May Jesus the “light of the world” dispel the spiritual blindness in our souls.

1. *Jealousy and Envy.* One of the Capital sins is Envy. A definition for envy: “You feel bad because somebody else has something that you do not have and when something bad happens to this person you rejoice.” Cain killed Able due to envy. Saul tried to kill young David because of envy. Joseph was sold as a slave into Egypt due to the envy of his brothers. Finally, one of the principal reasons for the condemnation, crucifixion and death of Jesus was the envy of some of the Jews. Have you ever given into jealousy or envy in your life? Time to repent.

2. *Bitter Anger.* Anger does not fulfill the justice of God. When the passion of anger has gotten control of your life, it is probably best not to speak and react towards others; this could prove catastrophic. We have to learn to cope with our anger and learn techniques to extinguish the fire and calm

3. *Impurity.* Without a doubt one of the chief causes of modern spiritual blindness is a rapidly increasing viewing and addiction to pornography. One of the principal reasons is the ease of access to pornography. A half a decade ago, porn was available mostly through a magazine or two. However today no matter where one turns he is literally bombarded with impure images : T.V. programs and commercials, Cable, Movies, Magazines, Newspaper advertisements, and most especially the easy access to Internet—the sources never end! It is like an avalanche that has started and in full force. There is barely anything in the world that militates more fiercely against growth in the spiritual life than giving in to impurity. St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, asserts that impurity causes spiritual blindness and leads even to hating God. Many will reject God, the Church, the reception of the Sacraments because they have become addicts—to one of the tentacles of the ugly octopus of impurity, especially internet porn! May God save us, heal us and restore our sight!



*I Once Was Blind,
But Now I See
Mark 8:22-26*



Master, I want to see!

Blind Bartimeus

*Blind Bartimeus at the gates
Of Jericho in darkness waits;
He hears the crowd;—he hears a breath
Say, "It is Christ of Nazareth!"
And calls, in tones of agony,*

*The thronging multitudes increase;
Blind Bartimeus, hold thy peace!
But still, above the noisy crowd,
The beggar's cry is shrill and loud;
Until they say, "He calleth thee!"*

*Then saith the Christ, as silent stands
The crowd, "What wilt thou at my hands?"
And he replies, "O give me light!
Rabbi, restore the blind man's sight.
And Jesus answers, "*

*Ye that have eyes, yet cannot see,
In darkness and in misery,
Recall those mighty Voices Three,
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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As Jesus healed the blind two thousand years ago, so He is just as powerful today to heal all spiritual maladies and that of course includes spiritual blindness. Our prayer should be: “Lord grant me light to contemplate the beauty of your face now and for all eternity!” Following are three ways that we can use our eyes well so as to glorify God, sanctify our souls and live out the beatitude: “*Blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God.*” (Mt. 5:8)

1. *Meditate on the Word of God.* What chlorine is to the pool water, the Word of God is to the human mind. If our mind has been contaminated by indecent and impure images they must be dislodged, purified and discarded. One of the most efficacious tools to rid one’s mind of bad images and to restore spiritual sight is the daily reading, meditating and even memorizing of the Word of God. The Psalmist describes the Word of God as a light and lantern for our steps. Jesus is the Word of God and the Light of the World who came to dispel darkness and even blindness.

2. *Contemplate the Eucharistic God.* When Jesus lived 2000 years ago people could not always see Him. When He was in Galilee, He was not at the same time in Jerusalem. In other words, even though Jesus could have been in many places at the same time, He decided to limit His presence to one time and place. Right now we have an extraordinary grace: contact and exposure to the Real Presence of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the most Blessed Sacrament. In all of the Catholic Churches throughout the world Jesus is present in either the Tabernacle or exposed in the monstrance and sometimes both at the same time! He invites all to come to Him: “*Come to me all of you who are weary and you will find rest for your souls because my yoke is easy and my burden is light. I am meek and humble of heart.*” (Mt. 11:28-30) What a privilege we have right now: to visit Jesus, look at Him present in the Blessed Sacrament and to love Him with all of our hearts. The Psalmist once again invites us: “*Look to the Lord and be radiant with joy.*”

3. *Contemplate the Face of Mary.* All of us should form the wonderful habit of praying to Mary every day: the Morning Offering, Angelus, *Memorare*, Litany, and especially the Holy Rosary. While praying to Mary it is of great help to have before our eyes a beautiful image of Mary—statue, painting, icon, mural, mosaic, stain-glass window.... Prayer is the lifting up of the mind and heart to God. By contemplating a beautiful image of Mary, such as Our Lady of grace, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a transformation takes place in our eyes, mind, heart, soul and even in our body! The scales of our spiritual blindness fall from our interior eyes and we are able to see God and all that refers to God with greater clarity! Indeed among the many beautiful titles given to Mary, several refer to light: Mary, star of the sea, Mary, morning star, Mary, the star of evangelization. Blessed Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic letter on the Rosary, in which he introduced the Mysteries of light, stated that we should strive to contemplate the Face of Jesus through the eyes of Mary. Let us cure our spiritual blindness by contemplating the beauty of the face of Mary, the “Masterpiece of creation”. (St. Louis de Montfort).

Jesus Calls Us From Spiritual Blindness To Sight

Collecting loose change isn’t always a good thing; in fact, one college professor recognized it as a sign that he was getting overly tired or depressed. If he found a lot of change in parking lots or while walking on campus, that made him realize he was walking with his head down, not paying attention to the people or scenery around him. This tunnel vision made him depressed, and so he’d make a conscious effort to notice a nearby bird or flower, or see someone waving to him, or appreciate a beautiful day—and this effort would immediately lift his spirits (*Emphasis*, March-April 1993, p. 61).

How many times do we fail to notice things? Such a failure might involve something serious, as when a driver thinks it’s safe to pull out into traffic, only to have another vehicle suddenly appear seemingly out of nowhere. Quite often our inattention or carelessness involves a relatively small matter. I remember being in 4th grade English class when a new concept was introduced; I don’t recall what it was, but I do remember very clearly that it was on page 38 of our textbook. I simply didn’t understand it, and several attempts by the teacher to explain it to me didn’t help. Afterwards I glanced at page 38 again, and this time I actually saw the words and read them, and then the explanation of the concept was as clear as day; it made perfect sense, and I thought to myself, “Wait—were those words there all the time? Why didn’t I see them before?” The human mind can be a tricky thing; oftentimes we only see what we expect to see, or what want to see. Of course, the more we’re tuned in to something, or someone, the more we can be blessed by what we observe. An older gentleman named Al said, “Whenever my granddaughter tosses her hair back from her forehead, my heart skips a beat. When she does that, all I can see is my wife—even though she’s been dead for ten years” (*Homily Helps*, May 6, 1984). Love really does make a difference that way—especially our love of God. St. Clare of Assisi loved Jesus so much that she often cried when she prayed: tears of sorrow over her sins, and tears of gratitude over Christ’s gift of redemption and over the Lord’s many blessings. One day as she was praying, the devil tried to confuse and upset her by shouting, “Don’t cry so much—if you do, you’ll go blind!” To this, the saint responded, “We are never truly blind, if we see God!” (*Real Models for Real People*, p. 25). This is indeed true; as long as we are trying to focus on Jesus and discover His plan for our lives, everything else fades into insignificance; the Lord promises to show the way to Heaven to all who sincerely seek to follow Him.

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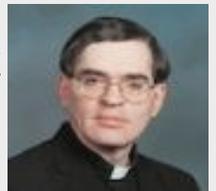
Cleopas and his unnamed fellow disciple clearly were good men; otherwise, they would not have been distressed over the crucifixion and death of Jesus. However, their eyes were prevented from recognizing the Risen Lord on the afternoon of Easter Sunday; moreover, as Jesus said, they were slow to believe all that the prophets had foretold about the sufferings the Messiah would have to endure. Nevertheless, their hearts were burning within them as Jesus explained the Scriptures to them, and their eyes were completely opened when He celebrated the Eucharist for them. The Lord calls us from spiritual blindness to sight. In Acts (2:14, 22-33), St. Peter addressed the people of Jerusalem, giving them hope that despite the sinful blindness they had shown in rejecting Jesus and calling for His death, God would gladly forgive them, welcome them into the Church, and grant them the gift of eternal life. In 1 Peter (1:17-21), he elaborates on this idea, stating that Jesus was revealed at the proper time in history so that all who believe in Him might be saved; furthermore, if we see, understand, and accept Jesus as our Savior, we will show this by living in a spirit of faith, reverence, and gratitude.

Are there ways in which we are spiritually blind, overlooking valuable or important truths, and failing to take advantage of the blessings God is offering us? The simple answer is “Yes, of course—after all, we’re weak, sinful human beings.” That being the case, what should we do—how can we allow God’s grace to help us overcome our blindness? The Gospel of Luke (24:13-35) offers three very basic and useful suggestions.

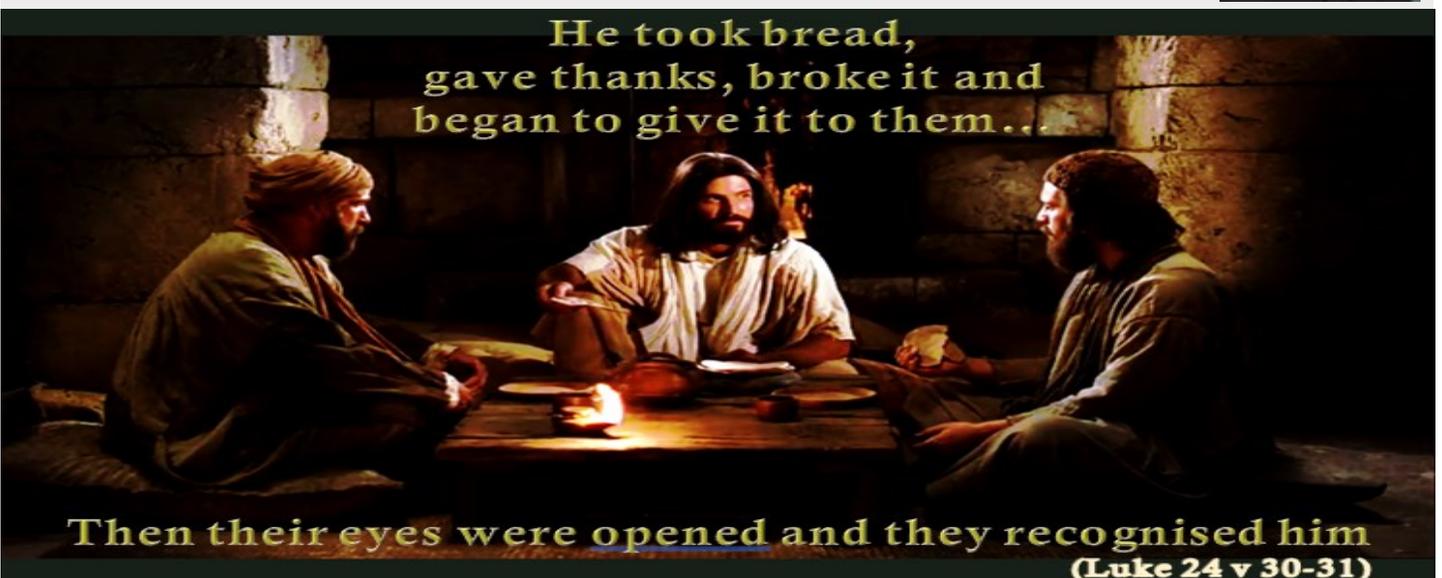
First of all, we must open our hearts to the Bible, and to other written sources of the truth, such as the teachings of the Church and good spiritual reading. The instruction Jesus gave to the two disciples journeying to Emmaus was rooted in the Scriptures. God’s Word must also play a definite role in our lives; setting aside time to read the Bible will make it easier for us to recognize the truth when we hear it, make good decisions, and discover the Lord’s will for us. Secondly, we must practice spiritual hospitality, as the two disciples did when they invited Jesus to stay with them. Our Lord was not going to force Himself upon them; it was necessary for them to take the initiative in welcoming Him. In the same way, we never know when Jesus is coming to us in disguise, so we must be willing to welcome everyone in His Name—including the people who irritate or annoy us, or whom we tend to underestimate or take for granted. Loving and accepting others often allows God to bless and enlighten us in unexpected ways. Lastly, the disciples finally recognized Jesus when He blessed bread, broke it, and gave it to them—the same ritual He used at the Last Supper. Regularly and actively participating in the Mass is the most important thing we can do to be nourished, guided, and molded by and in God’s saving truth. The more we worship Jesus, and receive Him, here in church, the more we will be able to see with His eyes, hear with His ears, and love with His heart.

When we die and review our lives with the Lord, we are going to be amazed at how many things were happening all around us of which we were unaware, how many opportunities passed us by unrecognized, and how many spiritually important moments occurred without us realizing it. None of that will be held against us, however, as long as we are least honestly desiring and trying to discover and live by God’s truth. The eyes of the disciples were opened, and they recognized Jesus as the Risen Lord—and our Savior is willing and eager to bestow this same life-changing blessing upon us.

REVEREND JOSEPH M. ESPER is a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit and pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Anchorville, Michigan. He received his Master of Divinity degree from St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. Through the years, Father Joe has lectured at Marian conferences, appeared on EWTN, spoken on Catholic radio, and written more than a dozen articles for This Rock, The Priest, Homiletic and Pastoral Review, and other publications. He is also the author of numerous books, including Sainly Solutions, More Sainly Solutions, After the Darkness, Lessons from the Lives of the Saints, and Why Is God Punishing Me? In addition to Amazon, many of his most recent books are available through Queenship Publishing.



He took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and
began to give it to them...



Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him
(Luke 24 v 30-31)

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

Are you living a busy life and don't really have time to talk to your spouse? We have a gift to share with you; it's called a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The Weekend will give you the opportunity to examine your lives together. A time to share your feelings, hopes, joys and frustrations without the interruption of family commitments, TV, internet and phone calls, rather it is a time to get to know your spouse all over again and rediscover your deep love for each other. Future Marriage Encounter Weekends will be at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis, from 26-28 April and from 1-3 November 2019, and at Mount Saint Francis Centre for Spirituality, New Albany, from 1-3 February 2019. Visit www.wwme.org for further information.

Quote from a couple who made a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: "Thank you for the most rewarding Weekend of our lives. We are looking eagerly to many exciting years together. We wish every young couple could have a Marriage Encounter Weekend."

As Christian stewards we are called to devote a regular portion of our time to God in prayer. Perhaps we find it intimidating to find the right words when approaching our perfect and all-holy God.

Today's Gospel shows us we need to have our "act together" before we can spend time with Him in prayer. In this passage from Mark, we see that Bartimaeus received a powerful answer to prayer at a very low point in his life. There, he sat, begging at the side of the road in a very undignified manner. His posture wasn't exactly reverent, and his prayer wasn't eloquent, just a desperate, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."

But it was a sincere cry from his heart. And Jesus, though surrounded by a sizable crowd, heard it, and called for Bartimaeus to come to Him. Folks from the crowd called to Bartimaeus, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." And right there on the spot, Bartimaeus experienced a profound moment of personal encounter with our Lord and the healing of his vision he desired.

How simple it is to encounter Jesus! All we must do is reach out to Him in prayer and we can be assured that He will hear us and call us to Himself. So let's all take courage this week knowing that Jesus is calling us right now to spend time with Him just as we are, in all our weakness and brokenness. Tell Him, the great High Priest, what your needs are and then, like Bartimaeus, follow Him, and keep on keeping on in this stewardship way of life. It's a life with the ultimate happy ending.

SUNDAY OFFERING: \$7534

WMS: \$2173

"FIND OUT HOW MUCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, AND FROM IT TAKE WHAT YOU NEED; THE REMAINDER IS NEEDED BY OTHERS"

ST. AUGUSTINE



SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 3, 2018—5:30-8:00 P.M.

ST. ANN MEMORIAL HALL

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>GROUPS, CONTACTS AND ACTIVITIES: FINANCE COUNCIL, STEVE SCHILLING-steve_schilling@hotmail.com LEGION OF MARY, (LOM)PEGGY MARVIN pegmarv7@aol.com CHRIST RENEWS, RYAN DOUGLAS ryandouglass92377@yahoo.com PARISH COUNCIL, SANDRA MCMAHON ssmcmahon1@comcast.net RCIA, TOM MATTINGLY tpmatt@gmail.com ACTION COMMUNITY, ROSE KILLIAN ALLENDUF killianrm54@gmail.com HOMEBOUND kshatke@yahoo.com RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, FR. DOMINIC dominic@stannli.comcastbiz.net</p>				<p>1 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION-ALL SAINTS MASSES: 7AM/NOON/5PM LEGION OF MARY NOON BT RCIA 6PM BT</p>	<p>2 FIRST FRI-DAY DEVO-TION 5PM CH</p>	<p>3 CHILI SUPPER 5-8PM</p>
<p>4 31st. SOT SRE & ADULT ED</p>	5	6 SAA 6PM BT	7	8 LEGION OF MARY NOON BT RCIA 6PM BT	9	10
<p>11 32nd. SOT SRE & ADULT ED</p>	12	13	14	15 LEGION OF MARY NOON BT RCIA 6PM BT	16	17 HOLIDAY BAKE SALE AFTER ALL MASSES
<p>18 33rd. SOT-B'FAST-NO SRE</p>	19 HOMEBOUND MTG 6PM BT	20	21 PARISH COUNCIL 6PM BT	22 	23	24
<p>25 SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING NO SRE T'GIVING BREAK</p>	26	27	28	29 LEGION OF MARY NOON BT RCIA 6PM BT	30 	