

## Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of March 11, 2018

### Sunday, March 11

9:00 am – Beverly Mills (John and Donna Lyons)  
11:00 am – Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

### Monday, March 12

No Mass

### Tuesday, March 13

6:00 pm – For the Success of the Capital Campaign

### Wednesday, March 14

6:00 pm – For those in RCIA

### Thursday, March 15

6:00 pm – For the Success of the Capital Campaign

### Friday, March 16

6:00 pm – For the Success of the Capital Campaign

## Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Thank you for your willingness to serve to make our Mass Successful

### Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

**March 11** – 9 am – Skip Camerucci, Joyce Schneider

11 am – Gretchen Rivera, Andy Randel

**March 18** – 9 am – Mary Jo and Sam Hulett

11 am – John Nunn, Stephanie Good

### Servers

**March 11** – 9 am – Frank Schneider, 11 am – Nolan Rothrock

**March 18** – 9 am – Chris Paisley, 11 am – OPEN

### Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

**March 11** – 9 am – Bob Geoghegan, 11 am – OPEN

**March 18** – 9 am – Skip Camerucci, 11 am – Julie Byrne

### Lectors

**March 11** – 9 am – Louisa Celebrezze, Emily Wu

11 am – Will Brenner, Julie Byrne

**March 18** – 9 am – Cecilia McAdams, Joyce Schneider

11 am – Tim Feran, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy

### Eucharistic Ministers

**March 11** – 9 am – Frank Conway, Chris Paisley, J. Capestany

11 am – Mark Coleman, Marilyn Smith, Lori Toczorzc

**March 18** – 9 am – MA Kerscher, F. Schneider, L. Celebrezze

11 am – Joanna Nunn, Lori Toczorzc, Sandy Glasner

**Gluten "Free"/Low Gluten Hosts**...are available for those who wish to receive them. If you would like to receive a low-gluten host at Communion, please notify one of the greeters before Mass. This will allow us to observe and maintain safety protocols for those who are sensitive or allergic to gluten.



## Calendar of Events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Please check the St. Francis website for the full calendar of events

### Sunday, March 11

- ▶ 12:30 pm – First Communion Preparation
- ▶ 2:00 pm – St. Francis Seniors
- ▶ 7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

### Tuesday, March 13

- ▶ 4:00 pm – Finance Executive Committee Meeting
- ▶ 6:30 pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### Wednesday, March 14

- ▶ 6:30 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
- ▶ 7:45 pm – RCIA

## Parish News and Information

### Travel with Fr. Fritzner Valcin to the Holy Land

Where: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Via Crucis, Last Supper, Gethsemane, Dormition, Nativity Church, Capernaum, Tel Aviv

Trip Dates: Oct 17-27, 2018 Cost:

\$4,000.00 Airfare and ALL-Included. To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com).



For any questions or concerns please contact:

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### Call for Nominations for St. Francis Pastoral Council - The

St. Francis Pastoral Council will soon have 3 seats open. We hope you consider serving on the council or that you have someone in mind you'd like to nominate. The seats are 3-year terms and meetings are held 9 times a year, the first Tuesdays of each month. **Note:** If you are nominating someone else, you must check with them and be sure they agree to serve if elected. For details email [pastoral@sfacolumbus.org](mailto:pastoral@sfacolumbus.org).

### Lenten Soup Suppers - Wed. March 14 at 6:30 pm



We're taking a break from the serious and moving to the fun this week. Bill Keller, our premier grounds keeper, has devised a game of "Catholic Jeopardy". It may be challenging or easy-peasy, but it's sure to be entertaining! If you haven't joined us yet, you are missing some FANTASTIC SOUPS AND BREADS. But the most

important reason to come is that

"We are f.a.m.i.l.y., sisters and brothers are we! Any questions please contact Andy Randel at [andy402randel@yahoo.com](mailto:andy402randel@yahoo.com)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** - Following the 11:00 am mass on Sunday, March 18 two priests will be available to hear Confessions for those who desire to receive the sacrament of reconciliation this lent.



**First Communion** – On Sunday, April 22 at 12:30 pm, we will be celebrating First Communion with 12 children from our parish. Please plan to join our kids as they take the next steps on their Catholic journey. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this important sacrament.



## Gospel Reflection ~ March 11, 2018

The Gospel begins with Jesus seeing a man (*anthropos*) blind from birth. The noun *anthropos* means a human person, and according to St. Augustine, the blind man stands for the human race, blind from birth. Regarding the blind man from a cultural perspective, Jesus' disciples ask him whose sin was responsible for his blindness. A common notion of the time was that illness of any kind was caused by sinfulness. They presumed that the person had either inherited blindness due to the parents' sin, or that persons born blind were guilty themselves - an unusual, otherwise unattested notion. Their questions and misunderstanding, frequent in the Fourth Gospel, is an occasion for Jesus to teach. ON this occasion, he will teach not only by his words, but also by his act of healing. In both ways, he reveals his identity as the light of the world, transforming blindness to sight, darkness to light, ignorance to understanding.

Sometimes Jesus heals people simply by a word. This time, he does several actions, and even gets the blind man involved in the healing. First, Jesus spits on the ground, and makes clay with the saliva. Turning around the Jewish understanding that any bodily fluid, including saliva, was unclean (as in Leviticus 15:8), Jesus uses it for healing. He makes something "unclean" into a new substance that heals. The evangelist says that Jesus then "smeared" the clay on the man's eyes; the word he uses here is *epichrio*, based on the word "anoint" (*chrio*), giving a possible baptismal symbolism, as does the man's washing in the pool of Siloam. The pool's symbolic meaning, "Sent," means that the man is to be washed in the "One-who-is-Sent," washed in Jesus himself, the living water.

The healing in this story has long been interpreted as a new act of creation; Irenaeus, for example, wrote that it was the same hand of God in Jesus' actions that had formed humanity in the beginning. Jesus had told his disciples that he did the work of God, and in his actions is displaying God's own work. The clay Jesus uses in his work has a striking biblical resonance: "O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are the work of your hands" (Isaiah 64:7).

As the Gospel continues, the man having received his physical sight continues to develop his insight, his eyes of faith. When he is first questioned about who has cured him, he replies simple "the man called Jesus." Questioned further, he identifies Jesus as a prophet, later affirming that Jesus must be from God, or he could do nothing. The man is not afraid to admit what he doesn't know, and to ask questions. In the final scene, the man has another encounter with Jesus, and identifies him as *kyrios*, "Lord," professed "I do believe," and worships him.

As the once-blind man gains deeper insight, the evangelist sets up an intriguing contrast. The Pharisees, who think that they can see, grow more and more blind. They state confidently that Jesus is not from God, and that they know he is a sinner. They do ironically hit on the truth when they ridicule the newly sighted man. After telling him that they are disciples of Moses, they say of Jesus, "we do not know where this one is from." Yet the *Anthropos* knows that Jess is from God, while the Pharisees remain in blindness and sin.

Source: Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word.

## Next Sunday's Readings

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

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



## Capital Campaign

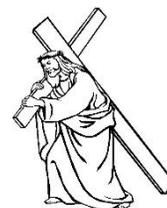
WOW! Several weeks ago we had commitment Sunday, when we asked parishioners to make their pledges for our Capital Campaign – Honoring the Past, Serving the Present, Preserving God's Gift for the Future. The response was phenomenal and this truly is a community planning for our future! Our goal is \$292,000, and to date we have \$170,047 paid. Thank you to those who have responded so generously. If you have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so, so that you, too, can take ownership of this project.

## RCIA

**The Second Scrutiny with the Elect** - This morning at the 9:00 am Mass, we will celebrate with our Elect – Josh McNamee – the Second Scrutiny. The prayers offered in this rite asks for God's protection on those who will soon become full members of the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The language of the scrutinies is pastoral, yet there is always an edge and an urgency to the scrutinies, a sense that matters of life and death hang in the balance. This emphasis is consistent with the texts of the baptismal liturgy itself: the litany of saints, blessing of water, renunciations and promises. Please hold Josh, Samantha and Mark in your prayers as we draw closer to Easter Vigil.

## Around the Community

Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross - Many facets of faith and justice will be the focus of the annual Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross. The walk begins with opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, at 8 am, Friday, March 30. Hundreds of participants from across the diocese will process to locations throughout downtown Columbus to recognize Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion as well as to reflect on current areas of social concern.



**St. Ladislav Parish Annual Spaghetti Dinner** – On Sunday, March 11 St. Ladislav will be having its annual spaghetti dinner from 12:00 – 5:00 pm. Tickets will be \$9.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children/seniors. Carry-outs will be available. The dinner includes, spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Along with dinner there will be a raffle.



St. John Chrysostom Church, [5858 Cleveland Ave.](http://www.5858clevelandave.com), is holding their annual Pascha (Easter) Foods Sale on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 11:00am until 1:00pm.

We will have Pascha Bread loaves for \$13 each; 11" nut, apricot and poppyseed rolls for \$12 each; pirogi sold in packages of one dozen for \$6 per package. We will have other Easter goodies as well, prices as marked.



**Diocesan Jail & Prison Ministry Conference** - Living as Missionary Disciples. Saturday, April 28, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd. For both experienced prison ministers and those interested. Keynote speaker is Ron Zeilinger, Executive Director of Dismas Ministry, a national Catholic prison outreach. Conference topics include restorative justice, models of ministry, reentry ministry, and advocacy. Cost: Free. Register by April 24 at [www.columbuscatholic.org/prison-ministry-criminal-justice](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/prison-ministry-criminal-justice) or call 614-241-2540.