

HOMILY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT -A-  
I am the Light of the World

Sunday Homily for Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Peter the Apostle Parishioners

The Holy Bible is filled with references to “the Light.” “Let there be Light” is found in the first chapter of Genesis. In the Book of Exodus, after Moses met God, his face shone like the light and God's presence with the people was seen by a cloud by day and fire at night. The chosen apostles saw Jesus Transfigured before them surrounded by light in Mt. 17 and in the Acts of the Apostles Saul came to believe in the Risen Lord as a blinding light threw him off his horse. The frequent use of “sight” and “light” in Holy Scriptures is more than a mere literary figure of speech. St. John, in his Gospel, uses the word Light 23 times. It's use has a significant spiritual meaning. That meaning is brought to Light in the passage of the blind man in today's Gospel.

In a sentence of self revelation, Jesus utters a most beautiful and profound phrase: “I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD,” using the opportunity of the cure of the blind man to teach His followers who He really is and what kind of “Light” He brings into our world. The other meaning of light makes itself clear with another profound phrase, this time uttered by the blind man at the end of the story, “I do believe Lord.” For Jesus, placing our belief in Him is the gift of Light, while those who lack faith remain in the dark and cannot see even if they say, “We can see.” Two miracles were performed for this poor man in today's Gospel-receiving the gift of sight AND the gift of faith, one gift strengthens the other. When He first sees Jesus, he falls on his knees and worships Him.

All of us, without exception are blind to a certain extent that often has nothing to do with our eyesight. For us, disciples of the Lord and people of faith, Lent is the time to honestly examine the extent of our own blindness. This kind of sight, I believe is given to us by the Holy Spirit. The more we receptive to His gifts, the more we see, if we choose to close our eyes to Him, we remain blind. In this weekend's second reading to the Ephesians, Paul tells us how we are blind or if we see. If we choose works of darkness- evil, sin, hatred, prejudice, cruelty, etc, we are blind. But, like the blind man, we have been washed in our Baptism and filled with Light which produces every sort of goodness, righteousness and truth. For our decisions and actions betray our status.

During this time of political uncertainty combined with a major national health crisis, all of us in Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet and Eastham are called to reject the darkness and make choices for the Light, for we too, “were once blind but now we see.” This is the time for us to seek out the Lord so that He may help us fully see.

Mass is Broadcast Daily on three channels:

Boston Catholic TV and EWTN and  
Sunday Mass at The Cathedral of St. Mary  
Fall River, MA.

Celebrated by Bishop DaCunha, S.D.V.  
11 AM WLNE TV-Channel 6

Instead of Attending Church this weekend, suggestions to show His Light:

- +Check in on your neighbor
- +Give a call to an elderly or disabled friend, do they have enough food/supplies
- +Offer to help a single parent in home schooling the kids
- +Drop off some extra food in a local food pantry
- +Babysit a favorite pet, while the owner needs to go to the Health Care Center
- +When out in public, make an extra effort to be kind and patient with strangers
- +Privately perform the three traditional disciplines of Lent
  - Spend more time in prayer, study and reading
  - Penance-restrict time on the computer and phone combined with above
  - Make a financial donation to a favorite charity

I am the Light of the World-Let us stand in and be His light for our communities today.