



March 19, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a | Eph 5:8-14 | Jn 9:1-41

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

**GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

**GROW:** Five days, five minutes of sunshine: That’s how the city where I live greeted 2023. As the month wore on, the gloom seemed unrelenting with only momentary breaks in the clouds. When the sun did return, people posted photos on social media with a combination of joy and relief. That experience hints at the effect Jesus had on St. Paul and the early Christians. As he writes, **“Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.”** Today, just as then, Jesus brings light and healing to the darkness within us and within our world. Unlike the elusive sun, we can see the light of Jesus every day – in the people we love, the kindness of strangers, moments of prayer, unexpected joys. In turn, St. Paul encourages us to **“live as children of light”** by being the face of Jesus to others.

**GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

**GO:** Even in the midst of Lent as a penitential season, the Sunday readings offer us much hope. Consider today’s familiar story of Jesus healing the blind man. He doesn’t just tell the man to open his eyes. Instead, Jesus smears clay on the man’s eyes and has him wash in the Pool of Siloam; only then does the blind man see. He was transformed through Christ. Through our baptism we, too, have been transformed and “enlightened,” becoming sons and daughters of light (CCC 1216). As we continue to observe Lent, perhaps we’re working on areas in our life where we have been spiritually blind – or at least not seeing 20/20. Through our baptism and the sacraments, we can be healed and transformed by Jesus, the “light of the world.” In turn we can share that light with others, as we continue to grow in the virtues of **“goodness and righteousness and truth”** of which St. Paul speaks.

**PRAY:** Psalm 23 is a favorite of many and for good reason. Read or listen to it this week as encouragement on your Lenten journey:

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.*

**Mass Intentions | Mar 19-25, 2023**

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| Mon, Mar 20 - Maria Priscilla Canedo (+) | Thu, Mar 23 - Veronica Decena (INT) |
| Tue, Mar 21 - Monette Ledesma (+)        | Fri, Mar 24 - Felix Caoile (+)      |
| Wed, Mar 22 - Francis Calasan (INT)      | Sat, Mar 25 - Gloria Tan (+)        |



**ST. MONICA PARISH**

12011 Woodhead Road, Richmond, BC V6V 1G2

Tel. 604.278.0844 Fax. 604.279.0334

Website: [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca) Email: [parish.smon@rcav.org](mailto:parish.smon@rcav.org)

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**  
DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday

**9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**



**MASS SCHEDULES**

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

**CONFESSION SCHEDULES**

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm—4:55 pm**

10 minutes before Daily Mass

**BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL,  
HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL**

Please call the Parish Office

March 19, 2023

**4th Sunday of Lent**

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**Liturgy of the Word**

*Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness.*

God sends Samuel to anoint the new king of Israel. Samuel surprises everyone by calling for and anointing David, the youngest of Jesse’s sons. The Lord’s Spirit rushed upon David. Saint Paul tells the Ephesians to live as children of light and expose darkness. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a blind man on the sabbath, breaking the sabbath rules.

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**Today’s Readings:**

*1st: 1 Samuel 16.1b, 6-7, 10-13*

*Psalm: 23*

*2nd: Ephesians 5.8-14*

*Gospel: John 9.1-41*

I WAS BLIND BUT NOW

**I SEE**

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### **Lenten Confessions – Mark your calendar!**

There will be three priests here on Wed, March 22 at 6:30pm for our parish Lenten confessions. Please come and prepare yourself for the Easter celebration.

### **Reading and Taizé at St. Monica's**

As March is the month traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph, young adults are welcome to join us for an afternoon of discussion on Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart") on Sunday, March 19 at 4:00 p.m. Selections of the text will be read, with a time for sharing and refreshments. Right after at 5:00 p.m., all are welcome to join in prayer and singing the songs of Taizé, an ecumenical monastic community founded by Brother Roger Schütz in the 1940s. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events).

### **Shared Lent Campaign**

"Create Hope, Stand for the Land" is the theme for Share Lent this year. On March 26, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, please respond to this appeal from Development and Peace – *Caritas* Canada to aiding our needy brothers and sisters in Global South: Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

### **Standing for the Land in Honduras**

Honduras's diverse ecosystems, fertile lands and rich natural resources attract many profiteering enterprises that overexploit the land to no benefit for local communities. Development and Peace — *Caritas* Canada supports *Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación* (ERIC, Reflection, Research and Communication Team), an organization that helps communities in their struggle for land and territory and investigates human rights abuses. This Lent, meet our solidarity visitor Elvin Hernández, a human rights investigator at ERIC. Learn more at [devp.org/lent](http://devp.org/lent).

### **The Impact of Technology on Relationships: Should We Worry?**

Social scientists across multiple disciplines now have mountains of evidence about the ways digital and social media are affecting and changing nearly every aspect of human interaction. In this dynamic presentation, Dr. Carol Bruess, PhD will address the current state of our relationship to technology and provide practical approaches to help each of us re-evaluate our relationships both to each other and to the devices we adore. Join the lecture in-person at St. Mark's College or online via Zoom on Monday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

### **40 Days for Life - 2023 Lenten Campaign, Nightly Rosary, and Prayers**

Pray to end the injustice of abortion. Join the *40 Days for Life* Lenten campaign daily at 8:00 p.m. until Palm Sunday, April 2, on Zoom. Learn more at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events).

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### **A Stewardship Moment**

Saint Paul gives us a wakeup call. As stewards of the light of Christ, we are to reflect that light with the help of the Holy Spirit. If Christ's work has transformed and illuminated our lives, there should be a change. The light of Christ's active presence should be at work in us. And as the light shines within us, we take on the properties of that light and we shine too. We are used by God to shine the light of Christ in the lives of others. A challenging Lenten reflection: Is the light of Christ shining in our hearts? Is the light of Christ reflecting out from us to others?

### **The Eucharist & Life of Prayer**

Join Sts. Peter & Paul Parish's half-day Lenten Recollection on *The Eucharist & Life of Prayer*, presented by Fr. Emmerich Vogt, OP. On Saturday, March 25, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the parish by phone at [604-261-3535](tel:604-261-3535) or by email at [parish.sspp@rcav.org](mailto:parish.sspp@rcav.org)

### **Interfaith Food Bank Drive**

This year's 2nd annual partnership -- we are invited to participate in the Ramadan / Easter Interfaith Food Bank Drive, from March 22 to April 20th.. A box is in the foyer for your donation of dried-goods.

### **The Man of the Shroud Exhibition**

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Vancouver invites everyone to this extensive exhibit on the history, significance and scientific aspects of the Shroud of Turin, widely believed to be the authentic burial cloth of Jesus. Come and see how and why, for centuries, this mysterious and controversial artifact has captivated scientists, scholars, and people of various faiths all over the world. There will also be lecture talks by renowned Shroud specialist and scholar Dr. Cheryl White. Starting on Wed., March 29, until Sun., April 2. Learn more and view the complete schedule at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

### **Stations of the Cross**

On Fridays during Lent, we'll have the Stations of the Cross following the 9am Mass. All are welcome!

### **The Pope's Prayer Intention for March**

*For victims of abuse:* We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

*There are many saints to whom God has given the power to assist us in the necessities of life, but the power given to St. Joseph is unlimited: it extends to all our needs, and all those who invoke him with confidence are sure to be heard. –St Thomas Aquinas*