



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY March 26 & BEYOND

The Search for Meaning



As human beings, we all have at our deepest level a desire for understanding. From the biggest philosophical questions to the most mundane, we want to know “why?” The reason is that it gives us some control – not necessarily of what happens in our lives, but of how we experience it. With the right meaning or purpose, we’re Braveheart, willing to suffer and make all kinds of heroic sacrifices. Without it, the most minor things can easily ruin our day or week, but it’s even worse than that. If we can’t make sense of some major suffering, it can create wounds of hurt, bitterness, or resentment that can poison our whole lives. This Sunday’s gospel lesson shows us why God has put this natural search for meaning in us.

As they’re walking, the disciples attempt the condition of a man born blind by applying a notion of the time: that suffering came as the result of sin. But Jesus debunks that theory, saying that the man was born blind “that God’s works might be revealed through him,” and heals him. While this does provide important evidence of his Messiah-ship, this man’s suffering wasn’t just an opportunity for Jesus to show off. God always intends for his works to reveal that he loves us and wants us to be with him, though that’s not always clear right away. This is why Jesus doesn’t say that the man was born blind because “God loves him and all of us.” It can take us a while to get there and we see that played out in the rest of the story.

The man’s healing creates wonder and confusion in the people around him, and so they question him to try and make sense of what’s happened. Through this interrogation the man begins to work out for himself who Jesus really is, until eventually he’s driven out of the synagogue for his

steadfast testimony. It's at this point that he's ready to be found by Jesus, and every moment of our lives is preparing us for the same thing.

Just like any good father, God wants us to fulfill our greatest potential, which comes from knowing his love and making it known, and so all the events of our lives have that love as their purpose. Of course, God also knows that in the midst of painful circumstances what we really need is to experience that message, not hear it. That's why Jesus came to be with us in our misery and show us through his own life that no cross is greater than the love it produces.

Think about the various circumstances of your life and how you experience them. Do you ultimately judge them based on whether they're pleasant or whether they've brought you closer to God? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to cooperate with what God is doing in your life and how to be present with those struggling over the same question.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:1-14 John 9:1-13, 28-38

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew (Fireside Room)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)
6:00p Stations of the Cross, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Soup Supper

AA Meetings

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

Men's Group (Parish Hall)

8:15p

SATURDAY: 11:00a Rosary in St. Mary's Chapel
11:30a MASS in St. Mary's Chapel
Noon Potluck Luncheon in the Parish Hall