

Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1515 West Benjamin Holt Drive, Stockton, CA 95207

Schedule of Masses

- Weekdays: 7:00am
- Saturday (Vigil): 5:00pm
- Sunday: 7:00am, 8:45am,
10:30am, 12:15pm,
2:15pm (Spanish), 5:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Saturday: 8:30am

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- Weekdays:
6:00am - 7:00pm
- Weekends: During Mass

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

A Message from Fr. Mark

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Gathering for Mass is our greatest consolation. For Catholics, the Mass is the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price. The Mass attracts us and causes us to gather at the altar like nestlings awaiting nourishment. We are attracted like moths are drawn to lamplight. This is obviously a problem for our public health authorities! We must cooperate with our public officials as they try to find ways to stop the spread of the coronavirus. That is why our bishop has made the statement on Monday: "Earlier today, following the guidance of state and national public health officials, and out of love and concern for God's people, the Diocese of Stockton made the very difficult decision to suspend all public daily and Sunday Masses until further notice beginning on Wednesday, March 18." This saddens us, of course, but we have faith that it is God's will because the Bible teaches us that what the bishops declare on earth is valid with God in heaven. Jesus said to his apostles: "whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Jesus said this to Peter in Matthew 16:19 and to all the apostles in Matthew 18:18). God in his mercy has given us the great solace of always knowing the will of God, even when unusual circumstances arise in every age. Nevertheless, it is sad and painful for Catholics to stay away from Mass, especially those who come to Mass daily to receive the Bread from Heaven.

Instead of coming to Mass, you will have to stay home and pray as a family. Perhaps read the Mass readings for the day. At home, we can pray the rosary as a family. We can pray the Chaplet of Mercy which is similar to the Mass because it is an offering of "the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord" for the sake of the whole world. You can receive our Lord spiritually by praying the spiritual communion prayer (also printed below).

Keep in mind that the priests will continue to say their private Masses every day. Some of these Masses will video recorded and broadcast on the internet for everyone to watch. Although there will not be a gathering of parishioners, we will still offer Masses each day. From the altars of each parish, the Lord Jesus will continually plea on our behalf to our heavenly father. The world could not survive if Masses were discontinued: "...because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away... since he lives forever to make intercession for them... We have such a high priest... a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up." (Hebrews 7:24-25; 8:1-2)

Today's long Gospel reading about the man born blind (John 9:1-41) is full of allusions to profound mysteries of our Catholic faith. The fact that the man is "born blind" reminds us of

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Ministry Center Office

6715 Leesburg Place
Stockton CA 95207
Phone: (209) 472-2150
Fax: (209) 472-0541

Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

www.presentationchurch.net
media@presentationchurch.net

Presentation Parish School

1635 Benjamin Holt Drive
Stockton CA 95207
Phone: (209) 472-2140
Fax: (209) 320-1515

Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00am - 3:30pm

www.presentation-school.org
info@presentation-school.org

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Mark Wagner
Pastor

Rev. Fr. José Maghinay
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Fr. Matthew O'Donnell
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Dr. Bill Brennan
Deacon

Rev. Mr. Scott A. Johnson
Deacon

Rev. Mr. Mike Navarec, Sr.
Deacon

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Joe
Deacon

**Thank You for
Supporting Our
Parish and Diocese**

**First Basket
Weekend Collection**
March 15, 2020
\$10,312.01

**2020
Giving Envelopes**

March 22
Weekly Envelope
Red Rhino

March 29
Weekly Envelope

April 5
Weekly Envelope
Building & Maintenance

April 9
Holy Thursday - No Envelope

April 10
Holy Land - No Envelope

*“Charity cannot be neutral,
antiseptic, indifferent,
lukewarm or impartial! Charity
is infectious, it excites, it risks
and it engages! For true charity
is always unmerited,
unconditional and gratuitous!”
-Pope Francis*

Ministries

ADULT FORMATION: Maria Chadburn adultform@presentationchurch.net
Baptism (infant to 7 years old) Marriage Enrichment Course
Bible Study Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) Adult
Landings Servants of Divine Mercy
Legion of Mary Weddings

LITURGY: Katherine Andrews, PhD liturgy@presentationchurch.net
Altar Servers Funeral Ministry
Altar Society/Altar Linens Greeters
Church Environment/Decorating Lectors
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Ushers

MUSIC: Robert Hull (Music Minister) musicbvm@presentationchurch.net
Errol Respicio (Choir Director) choirbvm@presentationchurch.net
Contemporary Music Group Presentation Choir
Instrumentalists Spanish Music Ministries
Music Ministry Cantors

PASTORAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Susan Dobson..... pastoralsvcs@presentationchurch.net
5th Sunday Fund Ministry of Bereavement and Consolation
Communion to the Sick and Homebound Prayer Shawl Ministry
Food Pantry Presentation Seniors Group
Giving Tree Respect Life Ministry
Hospitality Social Justice Ministry

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (K-8): Nancy Gomez..... religioues@presentationchurch.net
Children’s Liturgy of the Word Toddler Time
RCIC

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT: Samantha Soto..... youthministry@presentationchurch.net
High School – 24 years old Youth Group

HOLY GROUNDS CAFÉ: Ron Hoverstad rhooverstad@sbcglobal.net
Open: Wednesday 7:30-10:30am and Sunday 7:30am-12:30pm

OTHER:
Charismatic Prayer Group Italian Catholic Federation
CYO Knights of Columbus
Daughters of Isabella Our Mother of Perpetual Help
Filipino Ministry Serra Club
Hispanic Ministry Vocations

Parish Staff / School Administration

OFFICE MANAGER: Norma Rodriguez 2officemgr@presentationchurch.net
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST: Julia Aguirre..... admin-assist@presentationchurch.net
MEDIA COORDINATOR: Eren Bongcaron..... media@presentationchurch.net
FACILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark Gaff..... facilitydirector@presentationchurch.net
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Maria Amen principal@presentationschool.org
SCHOOL VICE PRINCIPAL: Nicole Wright vp@presentationschool.org
SCHOOL OFFICE MANAGER: Jeana Saccomagno..... office@presentationschool.org
SCHOOL ADMIN ASST: Clariza Bermudez..... adminassist@presentationschool.org

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 23, 2020

7:00am Mass: Fr. Joe - Mariam Akinnitire - Birthday

4:45pm Confession

5:30pm Mass: Fr. Matthew - †Cynthia & †John McFalls

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

7:00am Mass: Fr. Matthew - †Rolando Uy

4:45pm Confession

5:30pm (Spanish) Mass: Fr. Mark

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

7:00am Mass: Fr. Mark & Dcn. Bill - †Nestor Evaresto

4:45pm Confession

5:30pm Mass: Fr. Mark

Thursday, March 26, 2020

7:00am Mass: Fr. Joe - †David Wilner - Birthday

5:45pm Eucharistic Adoration: Fr. Joe

Friday, March 27, 2020

7:00am Mass: Fr. Matthew

4:45pm Confession

5:30pm Mass: Fr. Mark

6:00pm Stations of the Cross (English) followed by Soup Supper

8:00pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

Saturday, March 28, 2020

7:00am Mass: Fr. Matthew - †Roxanne Saldana

5:00pm Mass: Fr. Mark - †Charles Zaiter - Birthday

Sunday, March 29, 2020

7:00am Mass: Fr. Matthew

8:45am Mass: Fr. Joe - †Ramon Bonpua

10:30am Mass: Fr. Mark & Dcn. Scott - †Bob Pemberton

12:15pm Mass: Fr. Joe - †Elena Quitoriano

2:15pm Mass: Fr. Mark & Dcn. Scott - Rita Puga - Feliz Cumpleaños

3:45pm Communion Service: TBD

5:00pm Mass: Fr. Matthew

7:30pm Communion Service: TBD



Readings for the Week

Sunday, March 22, 2020

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A/EPH 5:8-14/JN 9:1-41

OR 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday, March 23, 2020

IS 65:17-21/JN 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

EZ 47:1-9, 12/JN 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

IS 7:10-14; 8:10/HEB 10:4-10/LK 1:26-38

Thursday, March 26, 2020

EX 32:7-14/JN 5:31-47

Friday, March 27, 2020

WIS 2:1A, 12-22/JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 28, 2020

JER 11:18-20/JN 7:40-53

Sunday, March 29, 2020

EZ 37:12-14/ROM 8:8-11/JN 11:1-45 OR 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33B-45

Saint of the Week

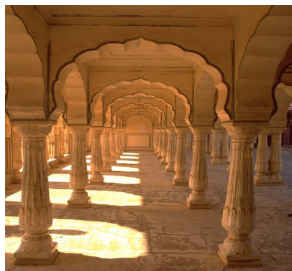
The Annunciation of the Lord Solemnity: March 25

In the US, New Years Day is January first. In other parts of the world, the new year is based on the lunar calendar. But in many parts of the world, the celebration of the new year was connected to the religious calendar. In fact, until the year 1752 (when the Julian calendar was adopted), the new year was observed on "Lady Day," or March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation.

For centuries, March 25 has been celebrated by Catholics as the "Feast of the Annunciation." Mary's fiat, "I am the servant of the Lord, Let it be done to me as you say," brought our Savior into the world. As the first disciple of Christ, Mary shows us that we must listen to and do God's will. Prayer and action therefore go hand in hand. As followers of Christ we must make time to talk to and listen

to Him in prayer. Examining all that we do, or simply "living" in the light of our prayer, is essential. Living with a heart open to God's will has enormous implications. Different people will realize that God calls them to different things. For an adolescent, it may mean resisting peer pressure to take part in drinking or unchaste activity. For the single adult, it could require offering personal time in service of a needy person. A businessman may find that honest and fairness requires a certain course of action. A married couple could realize that they should have another child. A frightened pregnant woman may understand that she needs to ask for help to resist the temptation of abortion. The sick person might have to accept his illness and join his suffering to that of Christ. Let us follow the example of Mary and call upon her to help us open our hearts to say "yes" to God!





THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

All non-essential meetings and gatherings have been cancelled until further notice.

- Holy Grounds Café Closed
- Parish School Closed
- No Religious Education (K-8) classes from December 22-January 2
- No Religious Education (High School)
- No Toddler Time and Children's Liturgy of the Word

Prayers For The Sick / Oraciones Por Los Enfermos

Quincy Vaughn, Ilene Lao Rualizo, Beatriz Gamboa, Tina Mills, Jodi Raper, Shirley Benecke, Ariel Sandoval, Jorge Fernandez, Miguel Aguilar, Kathleen Smith, Pam Makelke, Janet Kavanaugh, Mary Anderson, Dolores Chaparro, Terri Lomeli, Momoh Lahai, Lori Mock, Jim Essner, Damon Barkley, and Stan Flott

To add or remove names, please contact the Media Coordinator at 209-320-5719 or media@presentationchurch.net.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7. How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

Children's Prayer / Oración Para Niños

Prayer for Love and Forgiveness

God, the world around us is in spiritual darkness because it doesn't know You. You sent Your Son to us with a message of love and forgiveness, and everyone who accepts Him is freed from the darkness and brought into Your light. Thank You for what You did. In Jesus' name, Amen

Oración por Amor y Perdón

Dios, el mundo que nos rodea está en la oscuridad espiritual porque no te conoce. Nos enviaste a tu Hijo con un mensaje de amor y perdón, y todos los que lo aceptan están libres de oscuridad y trajó a tu luz. Gracias por lo que hiciste. En el nombre de Jesús, Amén

SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

ADDITIONAL MASS AND CONFESSION TIMES DURING LENT

Mass at 5:30pm:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday (English), and Tuesdays (Spanish)

Confession 4:45pm-5:15pm:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

CANCELLATIONS

In light of the current directives regarding the coronavirus, all non-essential meetings and gatherings have been cancelled. We ask that you continue to grow in your faith through continual prayer during this difficult time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. This text was originally published by the Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning on usccb.org. Scripture excerpt is taken from the New American Bible, revised edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC, and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All rights reserved. Picture of "The Annunciation", Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, Riksmuseum.

Ministry Spotlight Events

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Even if one cannot sacramentally receive the Eucharist, everyone should be aware of the practice of making a spiritual communion. Here is one traditional prayer:

O my Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there and
unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPERS (subject to cancellation)

Date	6 pm Stations	Soup Supper	8 pm Stations (Spanish)
March 27	Filipino Community	Filipino Community	Hispanic Community
April 3	Legion of Mary	Italian Catholic Federation	Hispanic Community

Stations of the Cross begin @ 6:00pm in the church, followed by a soup supper. Spanish Stations of the Cross will begin at 8:00pm, preceded by the soup supper. In keeping with the penitential character of Lent, these will be simple soup suppers, not Lenten dinners.

Presentation Parish School

Dear Catholic School Community:

This has been a trying time for all of us as we confront coronavirus COVID-19. The rapidly evolving news stories surrounding this pandemic have undoubtedly caused you great concern.

While there have been no confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses within any of our schools, in the interest of doing our part to slow the onset of COVID-19 and in keeping with action taken by public health authorities, numerous school districts, and other dioceses throughout the state, we have decided to suspend all onsite instruction in the Diocese of Stockton, effective immediately and for a minimum of two weeks. Classes on campus are scheduled to resume on March 30.

This closure includes any planned large gatherings that are not essential, including fundraisers, community events, and field trips. School buildings will not be open to children, parents, or community members during this time.

It is important for you to know that our schools have been working proactively for such an event. To keep our students engaged, learning, and connected with each other during this challenging time, our teachers have prepared remote learning resources. Principals will be communicating specifics about the implementation plan for your school.

We will continue to provide updates as we progress through these next few weeks. Please continue to keep all who are affected by this illness in your prayers and remain prayerfully hopeful of the work done to alleviate and eradicate this virus.

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Cotta and Marian DeGroot Graham (Director for Catholic Schools)



Enrollment for the 2010-2021 school year is open! Apply and Register now! Please visit our website at www.presentationsschool.org. Thank you for your interest in our school. God Bless.

SAVE THE DATE PARISH EVENTS

- **February 5-March 25**
Weekly Grief Recovery Workshop
- **February 25-April 21**
Financial Peace University
- **March 1-April 5**
Lenten Bible Study
- **March 22-24**
POSTPONED - Lenten Mission with Fr. Leo
- **March 24**
POSTPONED - Bake Off & Appetizer Throw Down Competitions
- **March 29**
CANCELED - Coffee and Donuts after the 8:45am & 10:30am Masses
- **April 1**
Separated, Divorced, Widowed Support Group
- **April 4**
Food Pantry
- **April 22**
POSTPONED - Presentation Seniors Casino Bus Trip
- **April 25**
Dol Charity Fashion Show

For more information on these events:

Refer to page 2 of the bulletin for Ministry Contacts.



Eventos Parroquiales

- **Marzo 22-24**
Cancelado - Misión Cuaresmal con Padre Leo
- **Marzo 28**
Misión Cuaresmal con Padre Mark
- **Abril 4**
Dispensa de Comida
- **Abril 4**
Misión Cuaresmal con Padre Mark

Eventos Diocesanos

- **Marzo 23**
Registrarse para Clases de Inglés y Ciudadanía
- **Mayo 15-17**
El Retiro del Viñedo de Raquel
- **Junio 13**
Familia Católica: Regresa a Tus Raíces

Para más información sobre estos eventos: Diócesis de Stockton 209-466-0636 www.stocktondiocese.org

Eventos Parroquiales

UN MENSAJE DE BISHOP COTTA MARZO 16

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas:

Rezo para que esto los encuentre con salud y manejando bien el paisaje que rápidamente está cambiando en nuestras vidas diarias.

Siguiendo la guía de los funcionarios de salud pública estatales y nacionales, y por amor y preocupación por el pueblo de Dios, la Diócesis de Stockton tomó la difícil decisión de suspender todas las Misas públicas diarias y dominicales hasta nuevo aviso que comenzará el miércoles 18 de marzo. Se alienta a las parroquias a abrir los edificios de sus iglesias los domingos y durante la semana para los feligreses y otras personas que desean orar y buscar consuelo espiritual. Comuníquese con su parroquia local para saber si la iglesia estará abierta y cuándo. Continuaremos publicando actualizaciones, información y recursos, incluidos los de las Misas en línea, en nuestro sitio web: www.stocktondiocese.org.

Mantengamos en nuestras oraciones a todos los que ya han sido impactados por el Coronavirus, especialmente aquellos que han perdido la vida. Oramos por todos los profesionales médicos que están y estarán tratando con cualquier persona que padezca esta enfermedad. Que nuestra Santa Madre, Salud de los Enfermos, interceda por nosotros durante este tiempo.

En la paz de Cristo
Obispo Myron J. Cotta

Eventos Parroquiales

RETIRO DE CUARESMA

Sábado, Marzo 28 de 10:00 am – 12:00pm
Sábado, Abril 4 de 10:30am – 2:30pm

Noticias Diocesanas

REGISTRARSE PARA CLASES DE INGLÉS Y CIUDADANÍA

Caridades Católicas y sus Servicios Legales de Inmigración actualmente está inscribiendo estudiantes para las Clases de Inglés y Ciudadanía que comienzan el Lunes 30 de Marzo. Las clases son cada Lunes y Miércoles de 6pm a 9pm en St Luke's Catholic School, (Sala # 5). ¡Las clases son GRATUITAS! La registración para las clases será el 23 de Marzo a las 9:30am en las oficinas de Caridades Católicas. Para información contacte nuestra oficina a 209-593-6120.

EL RETIRO DEL VIÑEDO DE RAQUEL

La Diócesis de Stockton y la Diócesis de Oakland lo invitan a asistir a un fin de semana de curación del 15 al 17 de Mayo. El Viñedo de Raquel es un lugar seguro para renovar, reconstruir y redimir corazones rotos por el aborto. Para información, contacte afterthechoice@oakdioadmin o 510-485-2574. Toda pregunta será confidencial!

Diocesan Events

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP COTTA

Monday, March 16, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I pray that this finds you healthy and coping well with the rapidly changing landscape of our day to day lives.

Following the guidance of state and national public health officials, and out of love and concern for God's people, the Diocese of Stockton made the very difficult decision to suspend all public daily and Sunday Masses until further notice beginning on Wednesday, March 18. Parishes are encouraged to open their church buildings on Sundays and throughout the week for parishioners and others who wish to pray and seek spiritual consolation. Please contact your local parish to learn if, and when, the church will be open. We will continue to post updates, information and resources, including those for online Masses, on our website:

www.stocktondiocese.org.

Let us keep in our prayers all who have already been impacted by the Coronavirus, especially those who have lost their life. We pray for all medical professionals who are and will be dealing with anyone suffering from this illness. May our Holy Mother, Health of the Sick, intercede for us during this time.

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta

Diocesan Events

ROSARY FOR LIFE WITH BISHOP COTTA

Join Bishop Cotta and fellow Catholics to pray for the change of hearts and the end to abortion on Thursday, March 26th. The prayer will begin at 10am at Family Planning Associates at 2030 Coffee Rd, Modesto.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

The Diocese of Stockton and the Diocese of Oakland invite you to attend a healing weekend from May 15-17th. Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Join the supportive and non-judgmental weekend to transform the pain of the past into love and hope. Women, men, and couples are encouraged to attend. Please contact Kim Fuentes at 209-465-5433 or email kfuentes@stocktondiocese.org.

LENTEN MISSION & CONCERT

St. Luke's invites you to their Lenten Mission & Concert with Jesse Manibusan on Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00pm. Bring family and friends for a prayerful encounter with our God, great music, and more than a few chuckles (who said you can't smile during Lent?). Jesse has a gift for getting people of all ages to laugh, pray, and open their hearts to God.

GRACE ANATOMY

On April 4th at the Cathedral of the Annunciation, discover the mystery of the human person & our vocation to love. There will be panel discussion, adoration, confession and worship. Listen to talks by John Sablan, Nichole Sablan & Diocesan priests (music by Sunday @ 5.) For information or to register, call 209-463-1305.

SAVE THE DATE DIOCESAN EVENTS

- **March 22**
Discernment Gathering (JV/Newman House)
- **March 25**
Feast of the Annunciation (Annunciation)
- **March 26**
Rosary for Life with Bishop Cotta (Modesto)
- **March 31**
Lenten Mission & Concert (St. Luke's)
- **April 2**
Chrism Mass (Annunciation)
- **April 4**
Grace Anatomy (Annunciation)
- **April 25**
Priest Talent Show (Regina Caeli Academy)
- **May 15-17**
Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Danville)

It is not known, at this time, if any of the events scheduled will continue as scheduled or be postponed. Please check with each parish for the latest information.

For more information on these events:
Diocese of Stockton
212 North San Joaquin St.
Stockton, CA 95202-2409
209-466-0636
www.stocktondiocese.org

Visit Our Website at
www.presentationchurch.net

- To register as a parishioner
- Signup for Online Giving
- Instructions on Text Giving
- Find Information About Our Various Ministries
- Links to Parish and Diocesan Events
- Photo Gallery
- Safe Environment
- Parish Bulletins

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PresentationBVMStockton

(Twitter coming soon)

Mission Statement

As disciples of Jesus Christ and good stewards, we are all called to use our gifts for the Kingdom of God.

Como discípulos de Jesucristo y buenos corresponsales, todos somos llamados a usar nuestros dones para la obra del Reino de Dios.

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our belief in original sin: that we are all born with the need for salvation from God. The fact that he was cured by washing in the Pool of Siloam reminds us of the saving waters of baptism. Siloam was actually a tunnel that brought water to a pool in Jerusalem. This represents Jesus, who himself is the channel that provides “living waters,” as we heard last Sunday in the story of the woman at the well.

Even the strange detail about Jesus spitting on the ground has significance. This represents the Divine being poured out and mixing with creation. “God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” (Genesis 2:7) In today’s Gospel, we see Jesus practically breathing life into a bit of Palestinian dust. Jesus spits on the dirt. His divinity mixes with the dust of the earth, creating a life-giving paste. This is then applied to the blind man’s eyes and he is healed. All of this makes us think of the Incarnation which is God mixing with his material world and providing salvation. Even scientists would say that our bodies are made up of the same basic elements which form the Earth, the planets and the stars. We do not know all the details of exactly how God created man. Scientists discovered evidence which they say proves the “big bang theory.”

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/discovery-bolsters-big-bang-theory-1395083404?tesla=y>

Jesuit priest Father Robert Spitzer sees proof that God exists from the fact that the universe had an absolute beginning (<https://magiscenter.com/>). In any case, we know that God caused humanity to come into existence so that he could then enter creation in the Virgin’s womb, live, suffer, die and rise for our salvation.

We congratulate our catechumens who are preparing to be washed in the saving waters of baptism! In those living waters they will be united to Christ and join the Body of Christ which is the Church!

Last in Sunday in the Gospel reading, Jesus told the Samaritan woman that there is no need to be in any particular place to worship God: “neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem”. (Cf. John 4) Therefore we can worship “in spirit and in truth” by praying fervently from our hearts and offer our spiritual sacrifices: “You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:25) We remain united and built up in Christ while we endure the effects of the efforts to slow the spread of a contagious virus. During this time may God bless all of his with perfect peace and tranquility.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.

Sincerely, Fr. Mark

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Please pray this Novena prayer every day for an end to the Clovid-19 pandemic.

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus’ pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

(Adapted by the Knights of Columbus from the prayer by Pope Francis)