

Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church



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Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,
Administrador Parroquial

Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial

Confesión el Sábado:
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)

Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María—3:20pm

Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.

Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María— 9:40am

Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.

Liturgia en los Días de la Semana

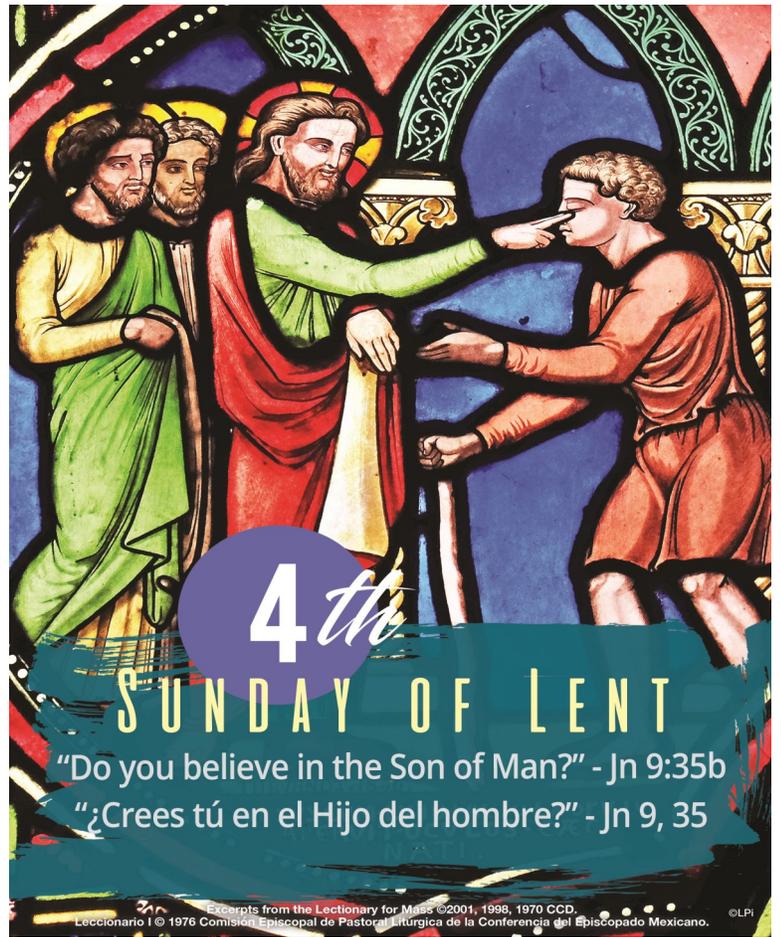
Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Lunes: Adoración 7:00am y Misa a las 7:30am

Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:
Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz con
Adoración

Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am
Misa en Honor de Virgen María



March 19th, 2023

Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar

Confession on Saturday:

By appointment English/Spanish

Saturday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary - 3:20pm

Saturday Mass (Vigil): English -4:00 p.m.

Sunday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

Liturgy of the Weekdays

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Monday: 7:00am Adoration & Mass 7:30am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am

Friday: At 6:00pm Rosary of Queen of Peace with
Adoration

Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass
In Honor of the Virgin Mary

In the first reading from the book of Samuel, we hear that Samuel was instructed by the Lord to go to the house of Jesse. There, the Lord would choose one of Jesse's sons to replace Saul as the anointed king of Israel. One by one Jesse's sons were brought in to stand in front of the prophet. Each son seemed to have all the physical traits that one would expect for a king. And looking at each, Samuel thought, "Surely this one is the one." However, after each of the seven sons came before Samuel, the Lord said, "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the LORD looks into the heart."

Finally, Samuel asked Jesse, "Do you have any other sons?" To which Jesse replied, "Yes, there is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." So the youngest son, David, was brought in before Samuel. Having just made the point that God doesn't see as humans see, it is interesting that Scripture reports that "David was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and made a splendid appearance." It seems, after making such a strong point that humans don't see as God sees, that the writer of the Scripture would have said something like, "He was young and small and nothing much to look at, but the Lord saw something special in him!" But the Scripture doesn't say that. It says that David made a splendid appearance. It seems that while it is true that humans don't see as God sees, it may also be true that God sees as humans see. Or, put another way, it is possible for us to see as God sees.

How do we see as God sees? How is it possible to see as God sees? What kind of work do we need to do to see as God sees?

Many of us are familiar with Michelangelo's statue of David which stands boldly in Florence. Michelangelo's statue stands tall. David is portrayed having a body that is strong and muscular. He is self-possessed and sure of himself. Certainly, Michelangelo's was not the first statue of David that had appeared in Renaissance Florence. Statues of David that were produced before Michelangelo's portrayed him as having a slender, un-muscular body.

One statue portrays David picking up the sword of Goliath and you are left asking yourself, "How did that kid pick up that sword?" The sword is as tall as he is! These earlier statues portrayed David as other people saw him. But Michelangelo portrayed David as God saw him: full of faith, full of possibility, full of potential to do God's will. This is the way of seeing to which God calls each of us. When we look at one another, we are not to look at the other's sin, but their possibility to do good.

To see as God sees requires that we radically believe that God's goodness is in every person. To see as God sees requires that we abandon anything in us that might get in the way of encouraging another's goodness, whether that is jealousy, anger, or fear.

When I was a college student, I took a class in public speaking. The teacher was remarkable for always noticing the potential in us. Sometimes, when students would rise to give a speech or to read publicly, they would stutter or mispronounce words because they were so nervous. But no matter how horribly the student performed, this teacher would always find something positive on which to compliment the student. Then he would say, "And if you want to make that even better, then you might consider this or that." He didn't berate the student at all. He taught by building on the foundation of what was good. He understood that his role as a teacher was to help students recognize their talents and help them improve on them. It seems that this is a real Christian approach. We are not to berate people for their sinfulness, like the chief priests berated the blind man. We are to recognize the potential of every person to follow Christ. Just as Jesus gave sight to the blind man, so Jesus gives us sight. Jesus gives us sight to recognize the potential in others to follow Christ even more closely.

The Good News is that Christ shows us how to see as God sees!

Fr. Edward Linton

Fr. Victor's Schedule

Fr. Victor is scheduled
to be at "Our Lady of the Desert"
the 4th Sunday of every month.
(Dates are subject to change)

Worship & Meditation

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

God asks a rhetorical and slightly sarcastic question to Samuel, the prophet: **"How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as king of Israel?"** Like us, Samuel is depressed that the old king failed. It's painful to admit that the old regime is done. But God won't let us wallow our pity-party forever. **"I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,"** announces the Lord, **"for I have chosen my king from among his sons."** Samuel finally goes and anoints the young David as the new king. And his kingdom is glorious; it's the golden age of Israel's earthly history.

How discouraging to see that my own selfish ego is no longer in charge! How long will I grieve that money, power, pleasure, and reputation have been rejected as the ruler of my life? How wonderful that God has a new future in store for you and me. He is sending us to Bethlehem to anoint the new David as our king. His kingdom won't fail us. He'll slay our goliaths, unite our dispersed energies, and build a Temple where God himself will dwell.

So how long will you grieve? How long?

— *Father John Muir*

Readings for the week of March 19, 2023

- Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd 14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21 22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7 8a,8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38
- Next Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD
rushed upon David. (1 Sm 16:13)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
(Ps 23)

Second Reading:

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light." (Eph 5:14)

Gospel:

He spat on the ground
and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him,
"Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means
Sent — .
So he went and washed, and came back able to
see. (Jn 9:6-7)

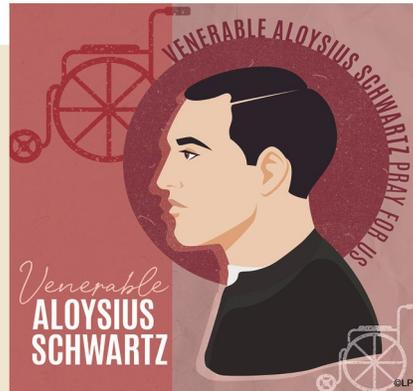
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The blind man showed great bravery by speaking of Christ's miracle in the face of the Pharisees' disdain. But then, how could he ignore the truth, once he had seen it? It would be a form of blindness worse than the absence of physical sight. To deny Christ would be a blindness he chose for himself.

Observances for the week of March 19, 2023

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Lent
- Monday:** St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Thursday:** St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Saturday:** The Annunciation of the Lord
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

Venerable Aloysius Schwartz (Father Al) spent his life embracing poverty, building hospitals, and supporting orphans in war-torn Korea, the Philippines, and the Americas. His legacy lives on through the religious orders he founded — the Sisters of Mary and the Brothers of Christ.

Prayer

Prayer for Venerable Aloysius Schwartz's intercession

Almighty, ever-living God, giver of good gifts, You have filled Msgr. Al with an ardent love for You and for souls. You have inspired him to dedicate his life to relieve the suffering of the orphans, abandoned, the sick and poor, especially the youth, which he did with all humility and courage until the end of his life. May his holy life of love and service to the poor be recognized by the Church through his beatification and canonization.

For Your honor and glory, we pray that the life of Msgr. Al. be an inspiration for us in striving for perfection in the love of God and service to others. I ask You to bestow upon me, through the intercession of Fr. Al (your intention).

I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, and the maternal aid of Mary, the Virgin of the Poor.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Not As Man Sees

I don't know Fr. Stu personally, but I've heard a fair number of his homilies. I think it is safe to assume that if he and I were to get into a discussion on any number of things, from church history to liturgical music to stand-up comedy, each of us would cringe at the opinions of the other.

But Fr. Stu happens to offer just about the only confession time within 20 miles of me that consistently works with my schedule. That means that, quite by accident, Fr. Stu is my regular confessor. For years now, he's sat patiently on the other side of the grille, listening to me pour out the details of my transgressions, from the pathetic to the embarrassing, and he absolves me of my sins.

In the Gospel, Christ links vision with humility and pride with blindness. We see again and again in Scripture how God delights in surprising us, in revealing himself through people, places, and experiences we not only didn't expect but perhaps had totally written off.

We are right to be proud of the truth, but we are wrong if the truth causes us to be proud of ourselves. The truth no more belongs to the one who believes it than sight belongs to the blind man in the Gospel. A gift does not reflect on the recipient. It reflects on the giver.

After a great deal of thought, I've decided to be grateful that God contrived to give me a confessor whom I strongly disagree with on so many things. It's a powerful reminder of how much I must receive from other people, even those I may think are wrong. In that confessional, Fr. Stu is only a priest, and I am only a sinner.

"Not as man sees does God see." — 1 Samuel 16:7

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What can I do to help our family practice our faith each day?

Answer:

Some families practice their religion together as just another event on their schedule: go to church, observe Lent, help at the parish picnic, go to a meeting, volunteer time, make your confession, use your envelope... But the focus needs to be on who we are—God's people, in relationship with him, loved, forgiven, and redeemed, and called to live and proclaim the Gospel. Our awareness of God's presence and our sense of mission are supported by the daily rituals, celebrations, and traditions that help us stay focused. Sharing our faith strengthens us and clarifies the beliefs and values of Christian living.

Daily family practices include time for prayer—before meals, before bed, before important meetings and activities. Attend Sunday Mass together and discuss the homily afterward. Create family celebrations for holy days and holidays. Make religion a regular part of your discussions. Include others, especially the elderly and the less fortunate, in your activities and charitable efforts. By applying the virtues of faith, hope, and love to each day, faith becomes part of who your family is. It influences how you act towards others, what you value, and how mindful of God you are. Faith is the leaven of life that helps all of us rise to our calling and dignity as God's people.

Our Lady of the Desert



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