



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL PARISH



270 South Chongqing Road, Shanghai 200025

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2017

BISHOP

We pray for Bishop Aloysius Jin, who returned to the Lord on April 27, 2013.

PASTOR

Fr. Anthony Chen
1391-778-6322
franthonychen@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL MASSES ENGLISH

Saturday 5pm Sunday 11am
First Friday Mass Apr. 7 7:30pm

GERMAN

Sunday Apr. 2, 16 & 30 3pm

KOREAN

Sundays 5pm

RECONCILIATION

30 minutes before Mass and by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

9am – 8pm Daily
Adoration Chapel (Room 111)

ST. IGNATIUS CATHEDRAL

158 Puxi Road, Xujiahui
English Mass Sunday 12 noon

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

36 S. Sichuan Road
English Mass Sunday 11am

SACRED HEART CHURCH

151 Hong Feng Road, Pudong
English Masses
Saturday 5pm Sunday 10:30am

DAILY READINGS

Mar. Reading	Psalm	Gospel
26 1 Sm 16:1-13 Eph 5:8-14	Ps 23:1-6	Jn 9:1-41
27 Is 65:17-21	Ps 30:2-13	Jn 4:43-54
28 Ezk 47:1-12	Ps 46:2-9	Jn 5:1-16
29 Is 49:8-15	Ps 145:8-18	Jn 5:17-30
30 Ex 32:7-14	Ps 106:19-23	Jn 5:31-47
31 Ws 2:1-22	Ps 34:17-23	Jn 7:1-30
1 Jr 11:18-20	Ps 7:2-12	Jn 7:40-53



"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."

Eph 5 : 8

"I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

The drama of *John 9*, the Man Born Blind, is the story of a simple man open to God's presence and arrogant men who cannot see the Christ standing right before them.

The blind man is the one with sight.

The Pharisees, those great luminaries and self-proclaimed intellectuals, are blind.

These so-called intellectuals belittle us because we are people of faith. But they cannot answer the questions that matter: What is life really about? What is the purpose for all of our struggles? Can lasting happiness ever be found?

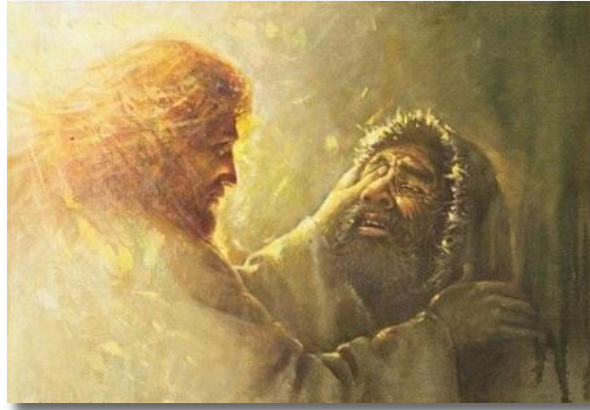
These self-styled intellectuals cannot answer these questions. But we can. Life is about God who gave us life. We exist to love, honor and serve Him. With God as our center, every aspect of our life has meaning and purpose.

His love is experienced in the love of our families, of our marriages, of our Church family. We experience His Love in each other.

There is so much more to life than the physical, the here and now. The spiritual is real. Happiness does exist. It comes from union with God.

No one can take this happiness from us. We possess the happiness that lasts. We pray every day for the strength and courage to keep us from sacrificing this happiness to the empty promises of those who do not know God.

And we pray that others might also see. Many people, including those who seem to embrace



darkness, have an intense desire to find meaning in their lives. They go through the motions of life — rejoicing at births and weddings, mourning disappointments and deaths, working hard to enjoy a day or so off a week and

a few weeks off a year — all the while wondering if there could possibly be more to life than the physical.

Many people are hurting. They are sick of living in a state of ennui, boredom with life. They are sick of being blind.

Today, we pray that they may open their eyes and see, see Jesus Christ standing right in front of them. We pray that they may focus on the Lord and find meaning. We pray that they might join us in the realization that everything makes sense when we are united to Jesus Christ.

In his exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis calls on us to help others see our joy in Jesus Christ. It is not enough for us to call ourselves Christians. We have to bring Jesus Christ to others.

Just as Jesus healed a man who was blind, we must lead others out of darkness into the Light of Christ.


"Life is about God who gave us life. We exist to love, honor and serve Him. With God as our center, every aspect of our life has meaning and purpose."



Fr. Joseph Pellegrino
St. Ignatius of Antioch Church
Tarpon Springs, Florida, USA
Used with permission.

Laetare Sunday: REJOICE!

For Pope Francis, recognizing one's frailty — both the frailty of sinfulness that needs healing, and the frailty of humanity that needs God's care — is an opportunity for hope, and even for joy, because it has the potential to lead us to a closer relationship with God. Today's complex Gospel involves a man born blind not due to sin, but whose blindness allows him to see, and the impending judgment on those saying "we see" whose sin therefore remains.



Laetare Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Laetare Sunday*, from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem").

Like *Gaudete Sunday* midway through Advent, *Laetare* reminds us of the event we look forward to at the end of the penitential season and the joy in anticipation of the Resurrection. The vestments for this day will be rose, as they are on *Gaudete Sunday* in Advent.

Catholic Fortress



Recognizing our frailty and our need for Jesus' touch, for the oil and water of our baptisms, and for Christ the pillar of fire to light our shaky candles makes Lent a time not for pulling ourselves up by our spiritual bootstraps, but for gratefully, joyfully, exultantly receiving Christ's healing touch and for sharing that touch with others.

"Sin is not a stain that I need to clean: what I need to do is to ask for forgiveness and be reconciled, not to go to the dry cleaners." - Pope Francis

<http://dailytheology.org/2014/03/29/laetare-jerusalem/>

Lenten Traditions Around the World

While Lent is traditionally a time of fasting and penance, Christians around the world have managed over the centuries to find colorful ways to participate.



DENMARK – The Sunday before Lent begins is called *Fastelavn*. Cream- or jam-filled buns are eaten and children dress up in costumes. A candy-filled barrel is beaten, much like a Mexican piñata, and the two children who break the barrel are crowned the Cat King and Cat Queen (the barrel used to contain a live cat instead of candy!).



GREECE – The Monday before Ash Wednesday is a national holiday, called *Kathari Theftera* or Clean Monday, and families go to the countryside and beaches for picnics and kite-flying. Greek Orthodox Christians give up all animal products during Lent, and eat beans, orzo and pastas. Cookies and cakes without butter are permitted.



ENGLAND – Lent is marked by making pancakes and holding pancake races and also eating hot cross buns to symbolize the Cross. In the Middle Ages, the English marked *Laetare Sunday* with the celebration of *Mothering Sunday*, so-called because apprentices were given the day to visit their "mother churches" where they were baptized.

<http://tinyurl.com/mhggd99>

TWO WAYS OF LIFE

A Meditation on God's Love – Conclusion

Just like the Israelites, we have to go through the desert of this life before we're together with Christ in Heaven.

This journey through the desert is meant to teach us about God's heart, so that we can learn to see, feel, think and love as He does — *being transformed into*

His likeness with ever increasing glory — so that at the end of the journey, we'll be ready to live and reign with God forever.

Unfortunately, most of us do not fix our eyes on Christ or His love; we fix our eyes on the desert instead! We spend most of our time "increasing our chances of survival," amassing worldly wealth, fame, reputation and glory, so that we can "keep up with other people." *Don't we realize that this world is not our home?*

If we fix our eyes on the vicissitudes of the desert, we'll certainly



remain thirsty, anxious, fearful, angry and unfulfilled. And we won't ever learn to live and love like Jesus does.

Like the Israelites, we'll start to doubt His goodness and rebel against His plan for us. And at the end of this journey, we certainly won't be ready to join Him for all eternity.

Let us realize that we are beloved in Christ. He has given us everything He has! He has not withheld even an ounce of his love, his body, his blood, his soul, his heart, his mind — these He wants to give and share with us, so that we can be joined to Him now and forever.

Dare we trust Him? Dare we walk in the desert of this life with eyes fixed on Him and His love, and not on the volatile standards of this world?

By **Audrey YU Jia Hui**, a member of St. Peter's International Parish. SPICES can see the entire essay with references at <http://tinyurl.com/AudreyYU>

I am the light of the world, says the Lord

PARISH EVENTS

March 25 - April 1

Whoever follows me will have the light of life

ROSARY
Saturdays 4:30pm
Sundays 10:30am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Sundays 12 noon (till 12:30pm)

BIBLE STUDY
Tuesdays 7pm Room 113

COMING SOON

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
Sundays 9:30am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AGES 4-6
Sundays During Liturgy of the Word

5th SPARC - April 18
Sign up today! (see below)

VOLUNTEER to help prepare for Holy Week stpetersintl@gmail.com

SACRED EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY
THE LORD'S SUPPER
April 13 7:30pm
Adoration in Room 113 till midnight*

GOOD FRIDAY
THE PASSION & DEATH OF OUR LORD
April 14 7:30pm
(day of fast & abstinence)

EASTER VIGIL
THE GREAT NIGHT OF EASTER
Saturday April 15 8:30pm
(No 5pm Mass) Korean 10:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
April 16 11:00am*

*The Adoration Chapel (Room 111) will be closed Holy Thursday at 3pm and re-open Easter Sunday at 9am.

ON-THE-SPOT ARTWORK CONTEST

SPARC invites children and families to express their thanksgiving to God through this special competition!

Artists will create original works of art on-site at St. Peter's Church on Saturday April 18 between 1pm and 4 pm

THEME: "Thanks Be to God for His Gift that is beyond all telling." (2 Cor 9:15)

Get SPARC registration forms and contest rules at the Help Desk or the SPC Great Wall (1st Floor)



Lenten Traditions (continued)

MEXICO – In Oaxaca, on the fourth Friday of Lent, *aguas frescas* (special fruit drinks) and ice cream are given to passersby in honor of the Samaritan woman who gave Jesus water at the well. All over Mexico on the final Friday of Lent, "Friday of Sorrows" altars are set up in churches and homes in honor of Our Lady.



BULGARIA – On Palm Saturday, spring and young girls are honored with the *Lazarouvane* festival, which is a kind of debut for the girls, who gather to decorate the village gates with willow twigs and walk through the village singing. The next day, they make Palm Sunday wreaths. Young girls who refuse to take part will never find a husband, according to superstition.