

# Resurrection Weekly

Volume 1 Issue 4

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

www.resurrectionparish.ca

Resurrection Weekly is resolved to bring you the most current and up to date details on this year's catechumens. Each week we will be doing an exposé on three of our newly elected Elect. If you would like help write a story that covers how you see God working in their lives please send your stories to Tashia: sacraments@resurrectionparish.ca

## Healing of the Man Born Blind

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny is the **Healing of the Man Born Blind** – John 9:1-41. In this week's Scrutiny we are asked by the Church to reflect on where we remain blind in our own lives. Jesus' disciples are curious who is to blame for the man's blindness, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (v.2). This would have been a common understanding that if you were ill or had some kind of prolonged disease or physical handicap that this was a direct cause of some sin of either oneself, ones parents, or grandparents. Jesus, through the action of curing the man's blindness, is also forgiving his sins. This is an action that is reserved for God alone and so points those present for this miracle to Jesus' true identity – The Christ.

When Jesus cures the man's blindness he moves both that man and the disciples from darkness into light. This miracle serves in the gospel of John as one of seven so that the glory of God may be revealed. Jesus responds to his disciples earnest question "who sinned this man or his parents?" by telling them that, "neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born

blind so that God's works might be revealed in him" (v.3).

Jesus gives us a directive that "we must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work" (v.5). From these words, three things are made known. First, through the miraculous healing of the blind man, Jesus identifies himself as the Divine Light. Secondly, through the words, "we must work," Jesus reminds all his disciples that it is also their duty to perform the works of God. We baptized are called to follow this same directive today, right now. Thirdly, by stating, "while it is day," Jesus is indicating that the grace of God is at work while the Divine Light is present, therefore facilitating the conversion of those who are present. When the grace and the Light of God are no longer present, nor the light that is being carried by Christians, there is spiritual darkness.

Those who are in spiritual blindness are identified later on in the gospel story as some of the Pharisees. "Some of the Pharisees said, 'this man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.' But others said, 'how

can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided" (v.16). Some of the Pharisees are able to walk in the light and to be cured of their spiritual blindness, while others are more comfortable in their blindness and are unable to see the Messiah, the one they have been waiting for, right in front of their eyes!

The man born blind who is accused, unjustly of being a sinner, is the one who is most able to see Christ for who he is. He acclaims to the Pharisees that, "he is a prophet" (v.17). Jesus speaks to him after being thrown out. The man born blind comes to know the full truth that Jesus is not a prophet but, "the Son of Man." We are called to leave our spiritual blindness so that we can acclaim with the man born blind, "Lord, I believe!" (cf. v 36, 38).

The Second Scrutiny invites all of us, most especially our **Elect**, and **Candidates**, to reflect on where in our own lives we are blind to Christ active in our lives. Where do we refuse to see the glory of God breaking through to us and our community? Who are the "blind men" in our lives who profess the good news of the Son of Man but we refuse to listen to?

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## Up Close and Personal: The Candidate Edition



Anthony Wood is one of our candidates and he comes to us from the small town of Rugby in the county of Warwickshire, England. Wood was then raised in Erkrath, Germany, until age three. His family moved back to Stockton on Tees, England until age eight. The Wood family then moved to Lutterworth, Leicestershire, England where Wood lived until age 25.

He first came to Canada as part of the Rotary Exchange Program in 1995. It was on this exchange that he met Tricia, his now wife. They have made Regina their home with their two beautiful children Gemma and

Simon John lovingly called SJ.

Wood moved to Regina in 2004, after bumping into Tricia in the UK in 2000. Wood was returning from Australia and by chance bumped into each other. Tricia is a Ukrainian Catholic and so their children were baptised in the Catholic Church. This experience served as a catalyst for Wood to seek out the RCIA process for himself. "I look forward to the joys and challenges that come with welcoming the love of God into my life and my family's lives."

Grace Ehiwere is in our youngest candidate here at Resurrection Parish. Ehiwere has spent a serious amount of time developing her relationship with Christ. While on faith journey it became clear to Ehiwere that she



needed to receive all of the **Sacraments of Initiation.**

Ehiwere has yet to be confirmed, but is excited to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church this Easter Vigil!

"I believe God has a purpose for my life. I am taking this step to receive the seal of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of confirmation so that I may better hear God speak to me," Ehiwere recently stated in an interview. Ehiwere finds inspiration to live in the footsteps of God from her wonderful nieces, Melissa and Michelle.

## Your Lenten Chuckle

