

**March 21-22, 2020**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**First Samuel 16:1-13**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

**John 9:1-41**

There is some degree of comfort in knowing that we humans were as screwed-up thousands of years ago as we frequently are today...or just as screwed up TODAY as our ancestors were two millennia ago. In this weekend's Gospel we hear of 'the man born blind' and the accompanying confusion his Jesus-encounter/cure had on his fellow villagers. Of particular note is the response of the Pharisees who immediately discounted Jesus' miraculous powers because he healed the man on the Sabbath...a day on which people were forbidden to work. Nothing has changed...how quick we are to discount or dismiss something that does not fit in with our preconceived notions of how things should be. While the curing of the blind man is stupendous, the BIGGER issue is about BEING ABLE TO SEE...and we are not talking about the process that allows eyesight to work. Sometimes we SEE with the help of our ears, through the touch of our fingers, with the help of our nose as an aroma wafts through a room. Each of our senses opens our mind to THE BIGGER PICTURE of REALITY...and not just what a few people want us to see according to THEIR OWN prejudice. An example of this surfaced recently when talking with Mr. Gideon Bernstein, one of our former Good Friday Guest Speakers (before we had to cancel our Good Friday Prayer Breakfast because of the Corona Virus.) His son was brutally murdered by a youthful participant with a neo-nazi organization-atomwaffen. That neo-nazi organizations exist both puzzles and dismays me...did we not fight a war to eliminate their ideology? Were the former nazi leaders not tried, convicted and executed/eliminated in the 1940's War Crime trials/convictions? I am puzzled and unsettled that, even here in America, there are small-minded individuals who embrace the twisted thoughts of long dead nazi participants. That the neo nazi's are blind is obvious...what is more frightening is that their existence is greeted with a giant yawn by many in our society, a society that DOES NOT WANT TO SEE what they don't want to see. Do we yawn when we discover cancer cells in our body? Do we not seek to root out and destroy the things that suck energy and life from our existence? There is truth in the saying: 'many people see things the WAY they want to see them...not as they really are.' This is the foundational message in this weekend's Gospel; how many times have we purposely chosen to be blind (happily justifying our disability) so that we do not have to be troubled by the afflictions affecting other people? What happens when OUR world is shown to be delusional, a fiction, or perhaps even criminal? Do we really want to SEE the world as it REALLY is...or do we just want to live amid our blind delusions?

The FIRST weekend of Spring has dawned, another harbinger of the Easter experience awaiting us within fast-approaching April. Thank you for sharing this weekend with our Santa Clara community, please take a Bulletin home with you for upcoming schedules and news. Having postponed our IRISH celebrations from last week due to the rains, we are happy to lift a toast to all things Emerald Isle on this weekend FOLLOWING St. Patrick's Day, please join us after any of the Masses for a tippie of Irish holy water. As Spring unfolds and beckons us toward Summer, please remember, you are loved. FKB