

# Spiritual BLINDNESS

— John 9:1-41 —

## SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Joseph Parish,

Today we have the second scrutiny 2026 - an exorcism prayer based on Jesus healing the blind man. It begins this way:

*"As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth."*

The man represents humanity born with original sin, a curious kind of blindness. We easily see other people's defects, their blind spots, but we have difficulty recognizing our own blindness. We need Jesus radical healing. He does it in a way that might cause to recoil:

*"he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes."*

The ancients believed that saliva had healing power. Indeed, scientists today know saliva has antibacterial agents. According to Augustine, the combination of saliva and earth represents Jesus joining humanity with divinity.

Some cannot see it or even imagine it. Jesus' healing upsets the Pharisees. Although they have physical sight, they are spiritually blind. They know everything, but they cannot see what is right in front of their eyes. They have put Jesus in a box. They think he's a "sinner" - someone they can write off. The man born blind gives a simple response:

*"If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."*

In honor of that man, it's appropriate that today we wear rose - the color of rejoicing. We rejoice with the candidates who receive the exorcism prayer asking for sight: Not to see through other people, but to see them. Above all to see Jesus:

*"Lord Jesus, you are the true light that enlightens the world. Through your Spirit of truth, free those who are enslaved by the father of lies. Stir up the desire for good in these elects, whom you have chosen for your sacraments. Let them rejoice in your light, that they may see, and, like the man born blind whose sight you restored, let them prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to the faith, for you are Lord for ever and ever. " Amen.*



Have a Blessed Fourth Sunday of Lent 2026!

*Fr. Rafal Ligenza*

Pastor