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**March 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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### **Gospel Reading**

*John 3:14-21 – Jesus is the Light of the World*

#### **Reflection Questions:**

1. In this reading, John states that “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” If we believe in God, and if we strive for Christ-like behavior, why then do some people judge or look down on others whose experiences they don’t know and haven’t lived? God was not seeking to condemn the world, but to save it. Is it possible that in order for us, as believers in God, to do God’s bidding and help save this world, we should seek to understand others and lend a hand rather than judge or condescend? How would doing so bring you closer to God?
2. Consciously or unconsciously, are you quick to judge or look down on those to whom you don’t relate or understand because of their race or ethnic background? What can you do to promote interracial healing between yourself and those with whom you believe you share little in common?

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**March 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**SCRUTINIES - YEAR A\***

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**Gospel Reading**

*John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 – Jesus heals a man born blind*

**Reflection Questions:**

1. In this reading, Jesus tells the Pharisees that “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.” The Oxford dictionary explains that the Pharisees were members of an ancient Jewish sect that “followed strict observance of the traditional and written law, and [were] commonly held to have pretensions to superior sanctity.” Jesus bluntly tells the Pharisees that the very fact that they believe they can “see” tells him that they really don’t see anything. Though they believe they are superior, Jesus conveys to them that their belief in their own superiority is exactly what makes them inferior. In relating this reading to the current day, ask yourself how Jesus would view your belief in what you see and how you relate to others who are of a different race or ethnicity than you?
  
2. Jesus describes himself in this reading as the “light of the world.” The light was standing right in front of the Pharisees and still they did not see what Jesus wanted them to see. What can you do to better see what Jesus wants you to see? We all come with our own biases and it affects what we see and what we do. How do your biases affect how you treat people who are of a different race or ethnicity than you? What in your behavior and/or your attitude can you change in order to see the light of the world through Jesus?

*\* During the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, parishes often celebrate the scrutinies with the RCIA catechumens at one of their liturgies. The readings and gospel readings from those Masses are always from cycle A.*