

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A Readings Used

Jesus,
Light of the world,
heal me of envy,
selfishness, anger,
and all that keeps me
from seeing as you see.

Help me to walk
as a child of the light,
seeing others as you see them,
and sharing the light of faith
with all.

Amen.



Sunday Word

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Psalms 23:1-6

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



1. **Sent**—the Anointed One, the Christ, to whom we are joined in Baptism.
2. **Washed**—healed; made clean and whole in Baptism.
3. **The heart**—where God speaks to us.
4. **Blindness**—the willful stubbornness that turns us away from God.
5. **Sight**—the ability to hear and to recognize God's calling.

Key Teachings



Judging from the Outside

Too often we judge others by what they wear or how they look. We see what is only on the outside. It takes time to really get to know someone—to look beyond the outside and to learn what another person thinks, believes, likes, and feels.

Have you ever been judged based on what is on the outside? If so, what happened? How did you feel?

Have you ever judged someone based on what is on the outside—their clothes, how they look, how they act, or how they talk?

God Sees Into the Heart

God looks beyond the outside, into the heart. God sees and knows who we are: our habits—good and bad—our talents, and our dreams. While we cannot know someone else as well as God does, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us see others as God sees them. We can ask for God's help in accepting and not judging others.

Reflection



This week, keep thinking about Christ, the Light of the world. Talk with him about what you are feeling and about what you need. Ask him the questions that are on your heart. Be still and listen to what he says to you.

What habits or attitudes do you need to change in order to walk as a child of the light?

With whom can you share the light of Christ this week?

With My Family



We Listen

In today's Second Reading, we are invited to "[t]ry to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." Think about your journey in the OCIA so far. What have you learned about what is pleasing to the Lord? Share your thoughts with your family. Then, as a family, design a poster naming ways to please the Lord. Hang the poster in a place where all family members can see it and be reminded to do what pleases him.

We Believe

In today's Gospel, Jesus performs a miracle. He heals the man born blind by restoring his sight. We believe that a miracle is a sign of God's presence and power at work in our world. God invites us to believe and trust in him through miracles.

We Live As Disciples

We are called to live as children of light, to turn from works of darkness, and to follow the way of Jesus, the Light of the world. In these final days of Lent, make a special effort to share the light of Christ with others by your words and by your actions.

We Pray

Place a special candle on your kitchen or dining room table. Each night at mealtime, light the candle and pray:

Jesus, Light of the world, make us children of light. Help us choose to do what is good, right, and true. Amen.