

In a moment our Elect will enter the sanctuary for the second of their scrutiny's. Our readings have been selected by the church to help them ... to look within and see... not as man sees ... with the blindness of the world ... but as God sees ... and ... with God's help ... to be cured of their blindness ... blindness we were **all** born with: ... blindness to his will ... blindness to others' needs ... blindness to all ... except our own will ... our own desires. The Church also invites each of us to look within ... and discover those areas of our **own** blindness ... to reflect on them and **ask** ... our merciful God to cure ... **us**.

Last week ... we heard about ... the life-giving waters of Meribah and the ... "Living Water" in the story of the woman at the well ... both foreshadowing the baptism of our elect at the Easter Vigil.

We continue that theme ... of water ... as Jesus sends the man born blind to ... wash in the sacred Pool of Siloam ... and now ... we add the **new** themes of light and sight ... the healing of blindness. St. Paul challenges: "**Live** ... as **children** of light ...". This light ... this healing of our blindness is ... freely given by a generous and loving God; ... freely given ... yet not **quite** free! Paul goes on: "Take **no** part in the fruitless works of darkness." ... The message is clear: If you are to be a Christian ... you are obliged to behave like one.

And there is yet another price for this gift of God's light. You might think all would be happiness for this man ... blind from birth ... with his newfound sight. It was not to be. His parents were intimidated and harassed by the authorities ... and after faithfully witnessing to Christ ... he was thrown out of the synagogue. ... This amounted to excommunication! Living as children of light will **never** ... make us popular.

Today we ... pray with our Elect ... Cody ... Charles ... and Daniel ... that Jesus will grant them sight ... to see **within** ... in the light of true repentance for their sins ... and strengthen them with God's grace ... to protect them from the power of the evil one. And we look forward to celebrating with them in just **three short weeks** ... when **they** receive ... the "Light of Christ". ... We now invite the Elect ... and their sponsors to come forward.