

Fr. Simon Sez



“Set Ablaze” Priest Assignment Changes: After extensive consultation, Bishop DeGrood published the final pastorate arrangement maps for our diocese in the February issue of “The Bishop’s Bulletin.” We expect this arrangement to manage the number of

priests we will have for the next ten years. For our area, that means the priest assigned to Pierre will be the pastor of Pierre, Onida, Gettysburg, and Hoven with an associate priest assisting, probably living in Gettysburg. The assignment of priests affecting each respective parish in our diocese will be announced at all parish Masses next weekend, March 25 - 26, 2023. All of the priest assignments in our diocese will be published on our diocese website sfcatholic.org Monday, March 27, 2023. There will not be any parish mergers or church closings at this time.

TREASURE HUT 1/2 PRICE SALE

~ running 2 weeks ~

219 Main Street ~ Hoven, SD

Saturday, March 18th
9am - 4pm

Monday, March 20th - Saturday, March 25th
9am - 4pm

Monday, March 27th - Saturday, April 1st
9am - 4pm

Closed April 3rd - 7th to restock.

Will reopen on Sat, April 8th ~ 9am-12 noon

Shop BEFORE and DURING the sale and be registered for a chance at one of two \$25 gift certificates to the Treasure Hut!!
For each \$10 purchase, your name will be put in for a drawing to be held on April 1st, the last day of the 1/2 price sale!



Eyesight to the Blind: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Lent



1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Psalm 23:1-6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

God’s ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today’s First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. “Born totally in sin,” he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see Genesis 2:7), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see John 9:11). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means “Sent.”

Jesus is the One “sent” by the Father to do the Father’s will (see John 9:4; 12:44). He is the new source of life-giving water: the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism (see John 4:10; 7:38-39).

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God’s chosen king David in today’s First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him (see Exodus 3:1; Psalm 78:70-71), David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus (see John 10:11).

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today’s Psalm. By His death and Resurrection He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: “I do believe, Lord.”

“The Lord looks into the heart,” we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today’s Epistle, living as “children of light,” trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology (www.stpaulcenter.com)