

## From The Desk of Fr. Patrick

My dear friends, the Gospel from the Gospel of John (9:1–41) presents one of the most beautiful stories of healing in the ministry of Jesus. He meets a man who has been blind from birth. The disciples immediately ask the question many people ask when they encounter suffering: “Who sinned?” But Jesus rejects that way of thinking. Instead, He reveals that God can bring light even from suffering. The miracle becomes a sign that Christ is the **Light of the world**, the one who opens not only physical eyes but also the eyes of faith.

This Gospel reminds us that blindness is not only physical; it can also be spiritual. The man who was blind gradually comes to see more clearly, not only with his eyes but also with his heart. At first, he calls Jesus “the man called Jesus,” then “a prophet,” and finally he proclaims, “I do believe, Lord.” Meanwhile, the Pharisees who believe they see clearly become spiritually blind because they refuse to accept the truth standing before them.

In our daily lives, we experience something similar. Sometimes God opens our eyes through simple moments: a kind word from a friend, a powerful homily, a moment of prayer, or a community gathering that reminds us of God’s goodness. Recently many parishioners experienced that joy during the Saint Joseph Table. I am deeply grateful to **PEGGY FOSTER and ANNA LEVERT** who organized the beautiful Saint Joseph Table, and to all those who baked and contributed. Because of your generosity, many parishioners enjoyed not only delicious food but also fellowship and gratitude. In fact, the table was so wonderful that one might wish we could have a Saint Joseph Table every week!

Moments like these help us see God’s presence in our community. They remind us that faith is not only about prayer in church but also about sharing, serving, and celebrating together. The Saint Joseph Table reflects the spirit of St. Joseph, a quiet servant who cared for others with humility and love. Through simple acts of hospitality, we witness the light of Christ among us.

St. Augustine of Hippo once wrote, “The eyes of the heart see God when they are opened by love.” When we serve others with generosity, our hearts begin to see what truly matters. Similarly, St. Teresa of Calcutta taught that small acts of love reveal the presence of Christ in the world.

The healed man in the Gospel had a simple but powerful testimony: “I was blind and now I see.” That is the story of every Christian. Before encountering Christ, we often see only ourselves, our worries, ambitions, and fears. But when Christ touches our lives, our vision changes. We begin to see God’s grace, the needs of others, and the beauty of faith lived in community.

May we ask the Lord today to open our eyes. May we recognize His presence in prayer, in Scripture, and in one another. And like the man in the Gospel, may we have the courage to proclaim with joy: “**Lord, I believe.**”

-Fr. Patrick