

LENTEN

GOSPEL

REFLECTIONS

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | Fourth Sunday of Lent | [John 9:1-41 \(or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38\)](#)

Friends, today in the strange and strikingly beautiful account of the healing of the man born blind in John's Gospel, we find an iconic representation of Christianity as a way of seeing. Jesus spits on the ground and makes a mud paste, which he then rubs onto the man's eyes. When the man washes his eyes in the pool of Siloam as Jesus had instructed him, his sight is restored.

The crowds are amazed, but the Pharisees—consternated and skeptical—accuse him of being naïve and the one who healed him of being a sinner. With disarming simplicity, the visionary responds: "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

This is precisely what all Christians say when they have encountered the light of Christ. It was St. Augustine who saw in the making of the mud paste a metaphor for the Incarnation: the divine power mixing with the earth, resulting in the formation of a healing balm. When this salve of God made flesh is rubbed onto our eyes, blinded by sin, we come again to see.

Bishop Robert Barron



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WHAT IS DENIAL...

To deny self is to step out of those places of safety and convenience where we like to hide, and to make ourselves vulnerable for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We do that as we stop protecting our privacy and stop worrying about our reputation, allowing God to work through us.

We willingly put ourselves at risk for criticism and judgment of others, even from those within the church.

We do that as we make the gospel of Jesus Christ more important than what people think of us.

We do that as we work for justice for the poor, and by meeting human need, even the salvation of lost souls, and by encouraging and challenging the church into new ways of thinking and acting.

Self-denial is usually more about self.

LENTEN PRAYER



God of peace, you do not want us to know relentless worry but rather a humble repentance of heart.

It is like a surge of trusting that enables us to place our faults in you. And then, by the inner light of forgiveness, little by little we discover a peace of heart.

Christ of compassion, through your Gospel we discover that measuring what we are or what we are not leads nowhere. What matters is the humble trusting of faith. By it we are led to glimpse the innocence of God And to understand that "all God can do is give his love."

Holy Spirit, even when we can feel nothing of your presence, you are always there. You remain continually active in us, opening little ways forward to escape from our dead ends And to move towards the essential of faith, of trust.

May we ever keep safe in all its fullness the gift your love once gave and your mercy now restores.

Amen

— Talzé, adapted

