



Humor: It's the Blind Man: Mrs. Smith was stark-naked and just about to step into the shower when the doorbell rang. She hollered, "Who is it?" He shouted back, "It's the blind man." She figured it was safe, so she opened the door. He looked at her in shock and asked, "Where do you want me to hang these blinds, lady?"

Why Did God Allow That to Happen? - John 9:1-41

Tragedy can strike so quickly and capriciously. While going about our everyday lives, in a moment, in the blink of an eye, the world can be changed. As a nation, we've been living with that awful reality since 9-11. Thousands killed for no reason by complete strangers, who assumed, somehow in their mind, they were doing some good for this world. Then there are natural disasters: tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes . . . If you have avoided tragedy at this point in your life, thank God that you have been spared, but consider yourself lucky as well. And now as a world we are dealing with the COVID-19 virus (Coronavirus) and the uncertain nature it has brought to our everyday lives. Recognize it is only a matter of time.

I want to let all of you know that, in regard to this Coronavirus, we are at WAR with this virus, and each one of us is a soldier, we are in this together. We are going to try and fight this enemy together as soldiers do at the battle front. It's not only to save our lives but to save each other's lives. This can be done by practicing those hygiene measures suggested by professionals to prevent it from spreading: covering your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing with a medical mask or with a flexed elbow; avoiding contact with those who are unwell; washing regularly with soap and water; staying home when you feel unwell.

Let's pray together regularly the "Coronavirus Prayer" we have printed on the next page in the bulletin this weekend. You can also stop by the Church office and pick it up. I will also send it electronically to your email if we have it on file. I intend to broadcast Mass for each weekend through Facebook during these times when we can't get together as a family. Feel free to call the Church office and select the emergency number if you want to talk to the priest any time of day.

Haven't we all asked this question at one time or another in one form or another: why did God allow that to happen? Most of us know that God does not CAUSE tragedy. The Bible states clearly that God does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men (Lamentations 3:33).

The greater problem for most believers is this: Why does God ALLOW such awful things to happen?

Jesus' disciples asked our Lord this thorny question 2000 years ago. They met a man one day who had been born blind. In the first century, most people believed that all suffering was the result of sin. So the disciples asked Jesus, "Who sinned in this case, this blind man or his parents?"

There was even one school of thought that believed that a person could sin prior to birth, while still in the mother's womb. Imagine that! "Tell us, Jesus," they begged, "why was this man born blind?" Jesus did not respond with a neat, simple answer to the problem of human suffering. And I am not going to serve you a simplistic batch of biblical stew that will cause you to declare, "Aha, finally I have solved the mystery of evil and suffering in this world."

I am suspicious of anyone who talks too glibly about this age-old mystery. I recall a humbling episode from a British movie entitled, "Whistle in the Wind." A group of kids had experienced the death of their pet kitten. They had prayed fervently that the cat would get well, but instead it died. They couldn't understand this. So, they went in search of the local vicar or pastor.

They found him in a tea shop, taking a morning break, enjoying his tea and newspaper. They asked him, "Why did God let our cat die?" The good pastor was not delighted to be interrupted with the matter of a deceased cat.

But out of duty he laid aside his paper and launched into a long, complex, theological response to this question. The children stood and listened intently. When he finished, he wished them well and went back to his newspaper. The children walked away somewhat bewildered. One little boy, holding his older sister's hand, looked up at her and said, "He doesn't know, does he?" How perceptive children can be. Never in this world will we understand all the mystery surrounding suffering. But with God's help we can gain some helpful insights. That is my purpose this morning.

May the good Lord continue to bless the work of your hands.

Fr. Mark Kalema, Pastor

If you wish to receive the weekly St. Ann church bulletin electronically, please send your name and email address to jeng@saintanncatholicparish.com or subscribe here:

<https://www.jspaluch.com/BulletinSubscribe.aspx>