

## RCIA - THE SECOND SCRUTINY

On the fourth Sunday of Lent, St. Augustine Parish will celebrate the Second Scrutiny with our three Elect - Ruth, Anthony, and Julian -- at the 11:30 Mass. The Second Scrutiny is a continuation of the three week process of prayer and self-examination for the Elect as they scrutinize their lives to uncover and heal whatever is sinful in their hearts and to strengthen all that is upright and good. Each of the three Scrutinies follows the same basic rubric: the Elect are called before the celebrant as we silently pray for them and respond to a series of intercessory prayers for them; a prayer of exorcism is prayed so that the Elect may be freed from the power of Satan followed by the celebrant's silent prayer as he places his hands on each of the Elect and invokes the Lord's protection and presence in the coming weeks.

While last week's images, based on St. John's Gospel account of Jesus with the Samaritan woman, were of thirst and water, this week's Scrutiny readings are all about vision and light: seeing as God sees and recognizing Jesus as the light of the world. Our first reading relates the story of the Lord's selection of David as His anointed one. The Lord rejects each of the sons of Jesse that Samuel proposes to anoint, reminding Samuel that "not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart" until David is brought forward and selected by the Lord as His anointed.

In our Gospel reading, St. John's account of the Man Born Blind, we see Jesus give sight to the blind man by "anointing" his eyes with clay made from Jesus' spittle and dirt so that "the works of God might be made visible through him." In the ironic dialogue between the former blind man and the Pharisees, we see that it is the Pharisees' hardness of heart and lack of faith that makes them truly blind; they see only as man sees and are blind to the light of the world who is standing right in front of them.

As the Elect prepare for their anointing at the Easter Vigil, may they, and we, begin to see as God sees, recognize Jesus as the light of the world, and bring that light to those we encounter each day.