

Homily for Sunday Mass  
March 15, 2020  
Year A – John 4:5:42  
----Father Michael Grant George Cadotte----

To our parish family, and to you who may be visiting our parish for the first time via this internet broadcast, I bring warm greetings of love and peace from all the clergy and leadership at Christ the Good Shepherd. An Old Catholic Church where we know no barriers between all of creation and our Creator. The small church with a big heart.

This Mass marks a first for not only our parish but for our society in many ways as we travel together through this challenging time of pandemic and efforts to slow the spread of illness. So, challenging that for the first time in 7 plus years we felt the need to suspend our public prayer, our Mass in an effort to keep each of you safe and healthy. We know it was the right decision but not being together physically does bring us sorrow and pain, for it is joining with each of you in weekday and Sunday Mass as one family of God that gives us such amazing energy and strength. As Christians journeying through Lent we should not lose sight of the fact that we find ourselves suffering the momentary loss of our fellowship for the greater good of each other and how that connects us to Christ's suffering the loss of his mortal self for the greater good of us all – that is our salvation.

I would also like to give thanks to Msgr. Harry for his leadership during this pandemic, Fr. Charles who is concelebrating as well with me this evening, our music minister Chris and our sister Debbie David who is giving of her time to get this Mass recorded and posted to the internet for us all. Thank you.

We have been talking about the concept of journey this Lent and we find in our readings that same theme. In our first reading from Exodus, the Israelites have journeyed through the parted waters from persecution and suffering to a promised land which is reminiscent of our own baptisms through water. But now they find themselves in the desert thirsty as their bodies call out for hydration and their faith in God begins to be challenged.

Our Gospel reading also has a water-based travel story as a Samaritan woman in the heat of the day goes to get water and at the same time avoids contact with her contemporaries that most likely shun her for the way she has, and is, living her life. She seeks water to nourish her body, but she also must be seeking spiritual nourishment for the lonely, challenging, and broken spirit she finds herself in. At the same time, Jesus appears at the well and talks to her as an equal – this is something that would never happen in proper society at the time and punishments would be socially extreme for those that did. Jesus does not care as he does not see a lesser person or an enemy of his people, but rather a child of God created in the image of God and beautiful and wonderful just as she is in all her failings and humanly needs. She is each of us – and each of you are just as beautiful and worthy of the Savior's love as the woman at the well all those centuries ago.

This amazing story, only found in John's Gospel, offers us a wonderful image of Jesus in his humanness. Traveling, tired, maybe a bit 'over' the disciples, he takes his leave of them for a moment to sit and rest at Jacob's well. He calls out to a woman for help and nourishment in the most humbling of ways as to remind us that he loves us in all our failings and beauty. He comes

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to us knowing exactly who each of us are and looks past all of it to ask for our loving hand for his in return.

Like that woman we find ourselves in various states of worry, anxiety, concern, fear, panic, illness, sorrow, confusion, and doubt. We start to question our path forward or even forget what our path is or should be. Know this my friends, Jesus is right there with you. Sitting there as your brother offering you his unconditional love and acceptance. He is also asking not just your love and acceptance of him in return, but of all his sisters and brothers – that is all of humanity. With a simple smile to a fellow person passing you by while shopping for supplies, or giving way to a car before you, or helping a stranger, or calling on a loved one to just make sure they are okay and not feeling alone, Jesus is asking for your help. Your help to once again connect your humanity with that of another in times of trouble like these. To allow your love to rise up over your fear and find and give beauty back into your life and in this world.

As we move forward in these uncharted times let us not allow anxiety and fear to consume us and pull us away from God or each other. The evil one will use this exact moment to give you every right and justified reason to go internal and ignore the call of God to be his presence in the world. Even as we socially distance ourselves, we can have compassion and care for others. A smile to the stranger we pass, an instant message or phone call to check in on a loved one, friend, or neighbor to make sure they are okay. Even these simple acts can have a profound impact on others and maybe even help lift them from their fear and stress and provide for them that refreshing drink of living water Jesus asked for and gave back in return to the woman at the well. May God bless each of you now and always. AMEN

---Citations---

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