

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Water is essential for all forms of life. Nothing can exist and grow without water; neither plants, animals or humans. Severe thirst and dehydration can be lethal for humans as we need clean drinking water to survive and sustain ourselves.



Today's Scripture readings remind us how God shows His love for humans by quenching and satisfying our thirst; both physically and spiritually. These readings challenge us to always trust in God in spite of our lost and dry times.

Our first reading from Exodus tells the story of how God provided water in the desert for the parched and thirsty Israelites. As the tribes of Israel journeyed from Egypt to Sinai, God challenged them to grow in faith. In today's passage they are encamped at Rephidim where they discover there is no drinking water. Ideally they should see this situation as an opportunity to display their faith by turning to God for assistance. But they don't. Instead they get angry with God and Moses. They complain, wishing that they could return to Egypt. God hears their complaints and provides them with water from a rock. By doing so, God removes their fear of death and replaces it with the assurance of life.

In our second reading from the Letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us that we have become children of the light since we no longer live in darkness but rather we live in God's light. Since we are children of the light we can be reassured that God will quench our spiritual thirst by providing us with His love and peace.

In our Gospel passage, John tells the story of how Jesus satisfied a Samaritan woman's spiritual thirst by providing her with "life-giving water" - His very self. The story of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is very creative as it is filled with high drama and extensive dialogue. On one level the story is about the process the Samaritan woman goes through to recognize who Jesus truly is. Her recognition of Jesus moves from referring to Him as simply "sir" to "prophet" and finally as "Messiah." On another level the story is about Jesus' identity as being "living water." This term "living water" means much more than just ordinary natural fresh running water. This term as applied to Jesus means that Jesus is our "life-giving water."

Water can be used as a parable for all who want to be like Jesus and be His true followers. If we want to be like Jesus and remain His followers then we must totally and completely surrender ourselves to doing God's will. We also must be of service to others. This Lenten season provides us the time and opportunity to dedicate ourselves to doing God's will and being of service to others. *(continued on next page...)*

Weekend Masses

Sat Mar 14	4:00 p.m	Jose & Alvina Gutierrez, Jim Alt, Ann Wiechart, George Donaldson
Sun Mar 15	10:00 a.m.	Kathy Sehlhorst
Sat Mar 21	4:00 p.m	Ellen, Lillian, and Richard Von Lemden
Sun Mar 22	10:00 a.m.	Rosemary Meyer

Daily Mass

Mon Mar 16	9:00 a.m.	St. Mary's
Wed Mar 18	7:00 p.m.	St. Mary's
Fri Mar 20	9:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,730.00	Loose \$648.00
Children	\$17.25	Total \$4,395.25
71 envelopes returned = 34%		



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for March 21 & 22, 2020

Money Counters: Courtney Gerten & Tonya Meyer
4:00 p.m. – *please sign the sheet in the main entrance*
Greeters: Jan Emmert and Diana Sabater
Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: Chuck Niese and Dave Siefker
Lector: Jim Kinn
E.M.: Amy Marcum, Basil Meyer, Diana Bucher
Servers:
10:00 a.m.
Greeters: Deb Buck
Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lectors: Lisa Welch
E.M.: Michelle Risner, John Schulte, Logan Welch,
Jim Tabler, Rachel Welch
Servers: Addison Businger, Makayla
Schweigruher, Izzy Stechschulte

Readings for March 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6 – 7, 10 – 13
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8 – 14
Gospel Reading: John 9:1 – 41

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Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. Children, seminarians, the sick and aged—they all depend on our generosity. Our parish goal is \$11,500, and we are currently 33% of the way there, which helps continue these programs and services! For more information or to donate online, visit toldediocese.org/ACA