

in Samaria.

The Church sees at least three elements of Christian Baptism in this passage:

1. The overture of God to the sinner. Jesus takes the initiative in addressing the woman. Jesus offers salvation to a person who needs it very much, all the while perhaps being unaware that she needs it. Her thirst for God has led her into a life that was less than honorable, even among Samaritans. The fact that she comes to the well at noon, when no one else is likely to be there, may be due to her having been rejected by the other women of the village.

2. The faith-response and subsequent conversion of the sinner. The woman asks Jesus to give her the water that will satisfy her thirst. She yearns for more than she has now in her life. She is open to what God can give her. Her multiple marriages have not only alienated her from the other people in the village, but she has become alienated from herself in self-rejection and hostility. She attacks because she is so insecure.

3. The mission of the disciple to proclaim the Good News to others. She goes to tell others about the one she has found who will provide for all their needs. Having heard the truth about herself, her life, and about God, she hurries to share it with other people. Having been healed of her sinfulness, the woman becomes an evangelizer: she calls others to Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Water in John's Gospel always alludes to the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that gives life to the soul of the sinner who seeks to be reconciled with God. The Spirit comes with salvation for the person who enters the water, the person who allows the Spirit of God to wash over the heart and the soul. The thirst of the sinner is quenched by the living water that Jesus gives. Comfort and consolation come to the person who allows God's love to sweep into his/her very being. Thirst may have taken us far from God, seeking satisfaction in what is not God. That same thirst will lead us back to God. The side roads we have taken into sin lead us back to the God who is our only destination.

After Mary, Mother of Jesus, the Samaritan

woman is portrayed as the first woman to urge people to come to Jesus. Mary said at Cana, "Do whatever he tells you." This woman says, "Come and see this man who has told me all my sins and has forgiven me."

Conclude with the Closing Prayer

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
For when Jesus asked the Samaritan woman
for water to drink,
he had already created the gift of faith within her
and so ardently did he thirst for her faith,
that he kindled in her the fire of divine love.
And so we, too, give you thanks and with the Angels praise your
mighty deeds AMEN

(source: *The Preface for Eucharistic Prayer for the weekend Mass found in The Roman Missal, Third Typical Edition*)

Credits

Opening Prayer. *Missale Romanum, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008. Roman Missal, Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York, 2011.*
Readings for Mass. Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC.
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Catechism of the Catholic Church

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS BY OUR YOUTH



Youth of the Parish of the Holy Eucharist are doing the Living Stations of the Cross at 3 locations within the parish.

Fridays during Lent

March 28 at St. Gregory
April 11 at Holy Martyrs

Come and pray with our youth as they



Parish of the Holy Eucharist

Small Group Faith Sharing Material
3rd Sunday of Lent—March 23, 2014
Sunday Readings



Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

The Word of the Lord

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Why are the Israelites complaining to Moses that he should never have freed them from slavery?
2. Why is this a story of the people testing God?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What struck you in the reading?
2. What new insight do you have from the reading?

Opening Prayer

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever.

(source: *The Roman Missal, Third Typical Edition*)

Mass Readings

Reading 1

Ex 17:3-7

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!" The LORD answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." This



**Think about going to DAILY MASS
during Lent for extra prayer time**

5:30 PM—HOLY MARTYRS
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday

Mass for individuals and families after work and school During Lent, there will NOT be a 7:30 AM Mass at Holy Martyrs.

On Fridays, Mass is followed by a simple meatless meal in the church hall and Stations of the Cross in church.

8:00 AM—ST. GREGORY
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:15 AM—SACRED HEART
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday

On Fridays, Mass is followed by the Stations of the Cross

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reading 2

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

The Word of the Lord

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. How are we justified by faith?
2. How did God prove his love for us?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What struck you in the reading?
2. What new insight do you have from the reading?

Gospel

Jn 4:5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” — For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will

worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.” At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, “What are you looking for?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?” They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” So the disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘In four months the harvest will be here’? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work.” Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me everything I have done.” When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to

believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. How does the woman misunderstand Jesus’ references to water?
2. How is this a story of conversion and evangelization?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What struck you in the reading?
2. What new insight do you have from the reading?

Watch the Video

Please watch the reflection on the weekly readings prepared by the staff at Parish of the Holy Eucharist. It can be found on the parish website at www.pothe.org or you may obtain copies of the DVD at the parish office.



**Commentary—Echoing God’s Word
by Fr. Clem Thibodeau**

The Church has long valued this passage from John’s Gospel as one of the major teachings to be shared with the Catechumens in their final approach to the Vigil of Easter when they will enter the waters of baptism and find new life in Christ Jesus. The thirst of the Samaritan woman finds its echo in all of our souls as we yearn for a closer relationship with God. The process of conversion from sin to godliness is well-described here for all, both the baptized and those to be baptized.

Samaritans were a mixed breed of people, despised by the Jews. They were descendants of the remnants of Israelites left when the Northern Kingdom was devastated by Assyrian invasion in 721 BCE. Inter-marriage between Assyrian and Israelite people led to a hybrid kind of religious faith in which only the first Five Books of the Bible (Torah) were accepted as Scripture. They did not worship at Jerusalem as did the Jews but had their own Temple on Mount Gerizim



Exposition and Adoration on Mondays at Holy Martyrs

Be still and know that I am God. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration are available every Monday from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Holy Martyrs. In this very noisy world, consider spending some quiet time with the Lord during this Lenten season. One hour a week in quiet prayer, reflection and spiritual reading can till the soil of our souls to open ourselves up to God. Divine Mercy Chaplet is recited at 3:00 PM.



Remember the Crucifixion of Jesus on FRIDAYS with The Stations of the Cross

On Fridays during Lent:

- 8:45 AM at Sacred Heart following Mass
- 5:30 PM at St. Gregory followed by a simple meatless meal in the hall
- 5:30 PM at St. Jude followed by a simple meatless meal in the hall
- 6:30 PM at Holy Martyrs after the 5:30 Mass and meal in the hall

Family’n Friends



Consider watching the movie
JESUS OF NAZARETH



Go to our parish website for material that may be helpful in watching the Jesus of Nazareth movie.

Go to www.pothe.org for more details