

March 15, 2020

**Lent**  
**Third Sunday**



**Living Water**

**The focus on the Reading from Exodus is God's response to the vacillating Hebrews. The Reading points toward growth in faith that God's providence is greater than the things we fear. The challenge for people was to put their faith in God's power to do the unimaginable. In asking for Jesus' living water, the Samaritan woman ventures beyond the confines of her tradition. When she realized Jesus is the messiah, her faith comes to fullness. Trusting Jesus, she left her water jar and went to report what she had seen and heard.**

Today's Bulletin is printed in memory of  
**Robert Simper & Sheryl Janak**  
sponsored by their family.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Wednesday, March 18  
8:00 a.m. Lydia & Joe Raab  
Thursday, March 19  
8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Koranek  
Friday, March 20  
8:00 a.m. Sophie & August Kasper  
Saturday, March 21  
6:30 p.m. Daniel Brom  
Sunday, March 22  
6:30 a.m. God's Deliverance From The Corona Virus  
9:30 a.m. The Welfare of Parishioners

**PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY**

Next weekend is *The Fourth Sunday of Lent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.  
**First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**  
**Responsorial Psalm: 23**  
**Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**  
**Gospel: John 9:1-41**

Remember the sick in your prayers this week,  
especially Irene Portales.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week  
in memory of Christine Dierschke.

**LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD**

**Second Collection Today - Rice Bowl**

Today as we hear the Israelites grumbling that they will die of thirst and Jesus offering living water to the woman at the well, we remember the more than 844 million people throughout the world who do not have clean/safe water to drink. Consider sharing your blessings with those in need of the basic necessities of life. *Use your Rice Bowl envelope to help make a difference. Be generous.*

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for an hour after Mass for adoration and personal prayer on Fridays of Lent.

**Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent, 6 p.m.**

Make an effort to join the Parish Family in Church.

**Lenten Food Drive:** Leave your canned goods for the needy at the main entrance to Church.

**Support the Lenten Fish Fry - \$10 Per Plate**

**Drive Through or Dine In:** Help us support our Church's Charities - those who need our help. 277 plates served last week. Thanks for your support. *(see insert)*

**Our 2019 Charitable Donation Recipients:**

- Donations to Local Individuals/Charities
- Christ's Kitchen, Victoria (Serves 98,000+ meals a year to the hungry.)
- L.A.M.B., Hallettsville (Lavaca County Assistance Ministry)
- Perpetual Help Home, Victoria (Helps transition vulnerable women into the work force.)
- Apostles of the Interior Life (Sisters who minister to young people.)
- FOCUS, Texas State (Ministry to college students.)

Total Amount Donated - \$ 6,600

**Next Friday's Menu:** Fish, Hush Puppies, Roasted Red Potatoes, Beans and Dessert. We need at least 25 desserts each Friday. Contact the parish office to help.

**Fish Fry Donations: Anonymous Donor - \$100**  
**Margaret & Kenneth Rebecck - \$25**

**Diocesan Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive:** The Moulton KCs will be set up after the 9:30 a.m. Mass today.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

MON. - No Gold Star Club Meeting (Spring Break)  
TUES. - Catholic Daughters Rosary & Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Family Room  
TUES./THURS. - Quilting Group Meets, Quilting Room  
WED. - Champions Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC  
- Lenten Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., YMC  
- Knights of Columbus Meeting, Parish Hall  
THURS. - KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall  
FRI. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament After Mass  
- Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m. Church  
- Fish Fry, serving begins at 5:00 p.m., Social Center  
- Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral Needs call the Parish Office at any time.

## REFLECTION

### *Journey of Faith To a Destination Unknown*

Today, we hear the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus proclaimed again in our hearing. We are reminded that her experience is also our own. Washed with living water at baptism, blessed with the holy waters of the Easter vigil, we are washed, forgiven and transformed as she was.

Unfortunately, however, some of us continue to doubt that such a radical transformation is possible and we enter hesitantly into the life-altering season of Lent. To guide, prompt and prod us on our way toward the goal, Henri Nouwen once offered the following encouragement: "Do not despair, thinking you cannot change yourself after so many years. Simply enter into the presence of Jesus as you are and ask him to give you a fearless heart where he can be with you. You cannot make yourself different ... Let Jesus give you a new heart, a new spirit, a new mind ... let Jesus transform you by his love."

This is what the woman of Shechem did. Let us follow her lead.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mar. 15 – Benjamin Siegel  
Mar. 16 – Jerry Fojtik, Lorene Koncaba, Hannah Perez,  
Dalton Thomas, Jeanette Tousek  
Mar. 17 – Ann Koncaba, LaSae Rother  
Mar. 18 – Donna Perez, David Rothbauer  
Mar. 19 – Mary Michalec, Lynette Okruhlik  
Mar. 20 – James Anders, Fr. Gabriel  
Mar. 21 – Robert Fojtik, Grant Geissen, Michael Janecek

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Mar. 20 – B. & Lee Whittenborn  
Mar. 21 – Stephanie & Robert Fojtik

### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

**Today** – No C.C.D. (Spring Break)  
**Mar. 16** – No K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade After School Program  
**Mar. 18** – 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade After School Program; 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> CCD  
**Mar. 21** – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades Lead the Saturday Evening  
Rosary  
**Next Sunday** – 10th Grade Youth Mass; C.C.D.

### DIOCESAN NEWS

- **Updated Precautionary Measures for the Flu and COVID-19 (Corona Virus) Directives** from the diocese. *See Insert.*
- **Get In The Game! Men's Gathering March 21**
- **Mass at Raphael's Refuge, Flatonia at 10:00 a.m., March 25** the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.
- **Lenten Day of Reflection April 4, St. Mary's Hallettsville:** Contact Lorrie Adamek at 361-293-1300.

## ORIENTATION

### The Midpoint of Lent

Are you at the midpoint of Lent and not much is going on? Maybe you began with the best of intentions, but you are not sure what you're doing or what you want to be doing. ***Can your Lent be rescued? Yes. It doesn't take long for God, when you are ready.***

The first step to beginning again has already begun. You have the desire for something real during Lent. What you need is a real desire – a real sense of expectation that God has something for you to hear, to learn, to change, and you want to be ready to listen. This desire can co-exist with fear, with resistance, with bad habits that have been obstacles in the past. God doesn't need much of an opening to begin to free us and show us a transforming love. Once we say we want to make something of these precious days remaining in Lent then we can start naming some more specific desires.

It usually takes a little reflection, a bit of honest examination of conscience to really see what is getting in the way of being a follower of Jesus. It may be a streak of stubbornness or impatience or harshness that keeps putting us at odds with people. Perhaps there is an old wound or a fresh experience of hurt or loss that has turned into a festering anger that robs you of simple joys and sorrows or compassion for suffering of others.

Maybe you are obsessed with how you look or you may be compensating for some emptiness or loneliness or sadness or insecurity by trying to fill in what is missing with quite temporary satisfaction – over-eating, drinking too much, etc. Perhaps your conflicts with your spouse are getting to a bad place and you refuse to die to yourself in loving him/her.

Maybe you really have not paid attention to the needs of the poor. After some reflection you may just realize you're not very grateful for what has been given you, and therefore, you're just not very happy, generous or free.

***Lent begins when you can say, "Help Me Lord!"*** Now you can turn to the Lord with some real concrete desires. You can practice waking up each morning and naming your desire. If you have a plan, you are more likely to follow it.

- *What are you going to give up each day?* Something you need to fast from, abstain from every day. Whenever you feel the temptation to do something that is a bad pattern, recognize it quickly and refrain from doing it. Practice some response that will replace it. It is basically training in self-discipline, for the purpose of letting God's grace have a chance to work in you.

- *How can you be generous today?* Almsgiving is an important part of Lent. For most of us it involves being more generous to the poor. It is again, all about de-selfish-ing ourselves, so that God can free us to be more comfortable with the graces of gratitude and generosity.

***Give Lent a new start in the days ahead.***

***God is offering you more than you can ask or imagine.***

– Culled from Praying Lent, Creighton University