

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 thanksgiving to God, sponsored by an anonymous parishioner.

**MASS INTENTIONS**



Saturday, March 21  
4:30 p.m. Louis, Albin & Mary Smolik  
Sunday, March 22  
8:00 a.m. Louis Stryk

**Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the 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**

**LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The Living Stations of the Cross have been canceled.

**The Sanctuary Light**  
**will be lit this week**  
**in memory of Gary Greive.**



**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 and 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 in someone's life. Be generous.*

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

The journey of the Stations of the Cross is a time-honored tradition in the Church. The Lenten Season affords us all a great grace moment to participate in the sufferings of Christ for our salvation. Make an effort to join the Parish Family at 6:00 p.m. in Church.

**Lenten Food Drive**

We are once again collecting canned goods for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. You may leave your canned goods at the back of Church.



**LENTEN FISH FRY**  
**St. Joseph's Church, Moulton**

*Fridays of Lent*

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.00 Per Plate  
Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

*Dine in the Social Center Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go*

*\*All proceeds go to charities.*

**St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund**  
**Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha**

We thank the following for their recent contribution:

*In Memory of Josephine Mikulik*  
*Betty Patalik - \$20*

**K.J.Z.T. DISTRICT II SOCIAL**  
**MARCH 22**

The K.J.Z.T. Family Life 2020 District II social, for members and their families will be held on Sunday, March 22 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Flatonia. Registration 11 a.m. followed by a meal and social. R.S.V.P., with the number attending social, to Jeanette Zouzalik (361-865-3890) or Ann Bratton (361-865-2489) by March 16.

**Update on Altar Society Members**

The Altar Society continues to welcome new members. We welcome Bea & Rudy Patek to the Altar Society. It's not too late for you to join. Dues are \$5.00 and you may place yours in the basket. Please include your name, address, email address and birthdate.

Remember the sick in your prayers this week,  
especially Mildred Roznovsky.

## 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!



March 17 – Julie Schneider  
March 18 – Celine Kalina  
March 19 – Lynette Okruhlik  
March 20 – Fr. Gabriel  
March 21 – Mary Bartos

## DIOCESAN NEWS

- **Updated Precautionary Measures for the Flu and COVID-19 Directives.** *See Insert.*
- **Get In The Game! Men's Gathering, March 21** with Bishop Cahill and Damon West, 8 a.m. – noon, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria. Tickets \$10 each.
- **St. Michael's Catholic School, Weimar** is currently accepting applications for Principle position. Applications are available at the Diocese of Victoria website.
- **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