

**The Bells of St. Mary's
The Church of the Immaculate Conception**

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 15, 2020**

From Fr. Anthony Ekanem, MSP

~ Thirst for More Than Water ~

“On this Sunday we continue to reflect upon our lives and call on God for help. To capture the penitential spirit of the season and emphasize the importance of baptism and the reception of those returning to the faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult, there will be a break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. This Gospel is not assigned to any particular liturgical year. It could be read throughout the three-year liturgical cycle, based on what the church intends to emphasize.”

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the lengthiest and most theological found in Scripture. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to void conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the discussion as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, but He also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes Him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is much better if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of “living water” in a literal sense. With no running water, the daily trip to the well of Jacob by the women of the community was of paramount importance. Most women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her “many husbands.”

Behind the conversation lies the hatred and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included the worship of Yahweh and also the worship of other gods in their way of life. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come. The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals Himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship predicted a time when worshiping in truth and spirit would become the way to worship the true God.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople returned with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many came to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels:

1. Personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because He knows her sin but speaks with her just the same.
2. Social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her people.
3. Educational: Jesus uses His encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach His disciples that God's mercy is without limit.

The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that Jesus the Messiah came to establish.

Like the woman at the well and the Israelites in the desert, Lord sometimes we wonder if you or anyone cares, whether you “Lord is in our midst or not.” Help us to raise our eyes above the pressures, the abandonment, the loneliness we face in life and see you looking tenderly with love at us. Deepen, we pray O Lord, our desire, our yearning, our thirsty to go beyond what we want to what we need in our daily life - ‘your life – giving and abiding presence.’ Amen!

Stewardship

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving on Sunday, 3/8/2020 our Offering was \$ 3,312.00

This week second collection is for the Easter Flowers Offering.

Next week second collection is for Our Visiting Missionary.

Tax Statement

Anyone that needs their donation statement for Tax purpose are to stop by the Rectory Office and leave your name and envelope number and we will mail it out to you.

GUIDELINE FOR LENTEN OBSERVANCE

FASTING binds all persons who have completed their 18th birthday through those who have completed their 59th year, unless prevented by poor health. On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to one's own needs. Eating meals in between is not allowed although fluid may be taken. (Canon 1252)

ABSTINENCE binds all persons who have completed their 14th birthday, unless prevented by poor health. On days of abstinence during Lent, the consumption of meat of mammals or fowl is not allowed. The Church strongly encourages the observance of Friday abstinence throughout the year, but failure to do so is not regarded as sinful. (Canon 1252)

Prayer Ideas: Read from the Bible each day, pray for someone new from the church/school/work each day. Attend Mass at least once during the week other than Sunday.

Fasting Ideas: Give up a certain/food/drink/ or candy that you love, or give up the computer or TV one day per week, stop eating meals out, give up an activity that wastes your time.

Alms giving/Service Ideas: Volunteer for a local organization, nursing home or hospital.

~ Stations of the Cross ~

*Friday after 12:05pm Mass - Stations of the Cross in English

*Friday at 6:45pm - Stations of the Cross in Arabic

* Friday of 8:00pm - Stations of the Cross

in Spanish in our Church. You are all invited!

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7 p. 47

The Israelites grumbled against Moses for leading them out of Egypt. They were thirsty, and there was no water in the desert, so Moses struck a rock with his staff, and water flowed out for the people to drink.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9 p. 48 If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts .

Second Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8p. 48 “The love has been poured out into your hearts,” and that love is immeasurable; “While we were still sinners Christ died for us.”

Gospel: John 4: 5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42 p. 49 Jesus met a Samaritan woman at the well. She offered him water from the well, and he, in turn, offered her the living water of eternal life. As a result, she and many others came to know that Jesus is the Savior.

Religious Education

March 2020

3/14/20-Religious Education Classes Children in grades 3—6 will be doing their Reconciliation at 9:30 am.

3/21/20-Religious Education Classes

3/28/20-Religious Education Classes

Parents please remind your children to bring their pink signing sheet to Mass for the priest to sign.

Have them study their Prayers.

Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal

Update of 2020 Appeal Goals Goal: \$37,500 Pledged: \$ 12,318.00

Paid: \$10,968.00 Participants: 25.

Thank you so much for your cooperation again towards Cardinal's Appeal. Please, we are still in need of more support in order to reach our parish goal for 2020 as we have been doing.

Lenten Season is a good time to consider giving towards Cardinal's Appeal.

To donate you can go to cardinalsappeal.org, click on Donate, select an amount, and direct your gift to our Church:

#567 Immaculate Conception, Yonkers

Mass Intentions for the week of
March 14 to March 22, 2020

Saturday, March 14, 2020:

12:05 pm - Clarence & Ada Irma Mirach + * Sister Nancy Mirach

5:00 pm - Eliseo Lugo Jr. + * Marta Gonzales & Family

7:30pm - Héctor José Marmolejos + * Marmolejos Family

Sunday, March 15, 2020:

7:30 am - For the Parishioner/ Por los Parroquianos

9:00 am - Bartolina & Ramon Serrano + * Eladio Serrano

11:00 am - For the Parishioner who are sick

Monday, March 16 2020:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Alice Gewargis+ * Denise Gewargis

Tuesday March 17, 2020:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Wednesday, March 18, 2020:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Mahadai Dhuman+ *Christine Dako & Mac Harry

Thursday, March 19, 2020

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Carl & Vee Motta + *Son,George Motta

7:00 pm - Cesar Dominece + *Rabekka Martes

Friday, March 20, 2020:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Saturday, March 21, 2020:

12:05 pm - In Thanksgiving *Teresa Varkey

5:00 pm - Joanne Kunny + *Roseanne Jones

7:30pm - Acción de Gracias *Livia Torres

Sunday, March 22, 2020:

7:30 am - Martha Pisculli (Birthday) *Her Children

9:00 am - Carmen celi. & Anibal Segundo Torres + *Livia Torres

11:00 am - Maxima Fagel (Birthday) *Espie Thompson

+Indicates deceased *Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.