

The Work of the People
The Third Sunday of Lent

Within Cycle A of the readings, the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent have unusually long Gospels. These Gospels from John are three familiar and enduring stories about living water, seeing in a new way, and resurrection. They give us insight into who this Jesus, with whom we will walk through the difficulties of Holy Week, really is, the suffering servant of God.

The first reading this Sunday is from the Book of Exodus. This passage is rich with images and layers of meaning. The reader might well be surprised at the grumbling of the people against Moses; after all, God had delivered them from Egypt. It appears that they are really dissatisfied with God and ask, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" The response of God to Moses' plea is an unconditional gesture of concern for the people. Out of lifeless rock, in the middle of a desert, God provides living water. This happened at Massah (which means "testing") and Meribah (which means "dissatisfaction"); but the greater meaning of this place is found in the intervention of God on behalf of a people thirsting for life.

In the reading from the Letter to the Romans, Paul's expresses once again his theology of justification. One aspect of his teaching is that this justification is not merited by believers; it is pure grace and comes from God through Jesus Christ. In fact, we were sinners and still God has chosen to save us. This grace is the love of God that is "poured into our hearts." This baptismal imagery reflects Paul's understanding that it is through baptism that we enter into the life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.

This Gospel is the first of the three great stories of John that take us toward the end of Lent. The baptismal imagery is obvious and the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is layered with meanings. Jesus stops at the well of Jacob because he is thirsty; but it is the woman who is refreshed. Through the course of the conversation Jesus identifies himself with one of the "I am" statements that will occur in the Gospel accounts for the next two Sundays. He becomes the source of a new life for the woman, and she becomes an evangelist, bearing the news that she has found the Messiah.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Edward P. Hanenberg, PhD who is the author of *Theology for Ministry: An Introduction for Lay Ministers*.

On the campus of my alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, there is a beautiful sculpture of Christ and the Samaritan woman by the Croatian artist Ivan Meštrović. I have always been struck by the posture of the woman in this sculpture. The slouch of her shoulders, the curve of her

neck, the tilt of her head. This is a moment of introspection and reflection, a pause in the life of this dynamic person we encounter in today's Gospel.

The woman arrives at the well alone, around noon. She is an outsider, an outcast shunned by the other women who gather water together in the cool of morning. Jesus engages this stranger with dangerous disregard for the social barriers that serve to divide. He is a man speaking intimately with a woman in public. He is a Jew asking to drink from the unclean jar of a Samaritan.

The woman responds to Jesus' questions with spunk and sarcasm, constantly trying to change the subject. But the exchange forces her to stop and look within. The slouch of her shoulders, the curve of her neck, the tilt of her head. Moved by his words, she leaves behind her water jar and goes out to evangelize the whole town.

The readings today ask us to imagine water that bursts forth from rock, water poured out, water that flows—living water. But I am drawn to the deep and still moment by the well. In this pause between words, a woman recognizes herself in the love of Christ. The text describes only her outward response. It is for us to imagine—or for the artist to see—what is going on inside.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs. 5:1-15ab/Lk. 4:24-30
 Tuesday: Dn. 3:25, 34-43/Mt. 18:21-35
 Wednesday: Dt. 4:1, 5-9/Mt. 5:17-19
 Thursday: Jer. 7:23-28/Lk. 11:14-23
 Friday: Hos. 14:2-10/Mk. 12:28-34
 Saturday: Hos. 6:1-6/Lk. 18:9-14
 Sunday: 1 Sm. 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph. 5:8-14/
 Jn. 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

CONFIRMATION

Please pray for our candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation: Sophia Mott, Payton Leandro, and Sydney Zilhaver will be confirmed on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Epiphany of the Lord Parish.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Stations of the Cross and Benediction

St. Bernadette Mission	Tues. Mar. 14	6:00 pm
St. Anthony of Padua	Tues. Mar. 21	6:00 pm
St. Bernadette Mission	Tues. Mar. 28	6:00 pm

WORSHIP

Monday, March 13
8:00 am + Gertrude Christie
Tuesday, March 14
8:00 am + Charles Mezler (Sheila Brainard)
Wednesday, March 15
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Living & Deceased Parishioners
Thursday, March 16
8:00 am + Andrew Mukina (Joan Rembielak)
Friday, March 17
8:00 am + Emil Semrad (Semrad/Bain Families)
Saturday, March 18
4:30 pm + Jim Rasavage (Carol Rasavage)
Sunday, March 19
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Michael Milligan (Barb)

SAEGERTOWN COMMUNITY
LENTEN LUNCHESES

March 15 - Saegertown United Methodist Church
March 22 - Twelve Apostles Lutheran Church
March 29 - St. Bernadette Mission

Every Wednesday during Lent at 12:00 Noon

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS MINISTERIUM
LENTEN SERVICE & LUNCHEONS

March 15 - C.S. Presbyterian Church
March 22 - First United Methodist
April 5 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lenten Services & Luncheons begin at Noon

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 14
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
5:00 pm - AT. ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Confession followed at 6:00 pm with Benediction
and Stations of the Cross
Wednesday, March 15
12:00 Noon - C.S. Ministerium Lenten Service and
Luncheon - Presbyterian Church
12:00 Noon - Lenten Service and Luncheon
Saegertown UMC Church
Friday, March 17
4:00 pm - Confession at St. Anthony of Padua
Saturday, March 18
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
Sunday, March 19
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass
After Mass - Faith Formation Class

FISH DINNERS

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro
Fridays in Lent
4:30 pm - till sold out
Donations: \$12 cash or credit

All Saints Parish, Waterford
Fridays in Lent
4:30 pm - 7 pm
Adults \$15 - Children \$5

St. Luke Catholic Church, Erie
Fridays in Lent
5:00 pm - 7 pm
Adults \$15 - Children 12 and under \$7

(Please check bulletin boards at both entrances
for more information.)

"Jesus, I need you!"

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, March 18 - 4:30 pm
Sydney Zilhaver
Sunday, March 19 - 9:30 am
Michael & Sophia Mott

THANK YOU - THANK YOU

Thank you to parishioners who helped to pay for the
Boiler repairs.
Thank you also to the estate of Ted & Josephine Haluch
for funding the new air conditioning unit.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$786.00
Maintenance	70.00
Ash Wednesday	10.00
Altar Flowers	60.00
Hall Rental	75.00
Candles	32.00
TOTAL	\$1,033.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,077.00
Maintenance	463.00
Altar Flowers	55.00
Boiler Repair	200.00
Candles	34.00
TOTAL	\$1,829.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$24,757.33 Paid: \$14,557.33

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
