

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 as though 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 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 purpose of our Lenten preparation. 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 OF MARCH 15

Monday: 2 Kgs. 5:1-15b/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: 2 Sm. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22/
 Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a
 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

PENANCE SERVICES

March 22 3:30 pm - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 March 22 3:00 pm - St. Brigid, Meadville
 March 25 7:00 pm - Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro
 March 26 7:00 pm - St. Lawrence, Albion
 March 30 7:00 pm - All Saints, Waterford

BENEDICTION AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Anthony - 6:00 pm - March 24, April 7
 St. Bernadette - 6:00 pm - March 17, 31

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Anthony - 6:00 pm - March 17, 31
 St. Bernadette - 6:00 pm - March 24, April 7

C.S. MINISTERIUM

LENTEN PRAYER AND SOUP LUNCHEON

March 18 Presbyterian Church
 March 25 Methodist Church
 April 1 Christian Missionary Alliance Church
 Luncheons start at 12:00 Noon

FINAL CALL!

2020 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The 6th annual 1:38 Women's Conference for Catholic women in the Diocese of Erie, is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at Our Lady of Peace Parish from 9 am - 3:30 pm, with check-in starting at 8. Registration is only \$40 per person, \$35 for senior citizens, \$25 for college students, \$10 for high school students, and includes lunch and free parking.

Based on the theme of "BEE the ATTITUDE!" and the bible verse Matthew 5:12, "Rejoice and be glad", the day is designed to help women reflect on deepening their faith. The event will conclude with Mass offered by Bishop Lawrence Persico. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

BINGO - St. Francis Xavier Parish Cash Bingo on March 21. See flyer on each bulletin board at the church entrances.

WORSHIP

Monday, March 16
8:00 am + For Speedy Recovery of Leonard Lange
(M/M Nelson Allen)

Tuesday, March 17
8:00 am + Edward Rembielak (Joan Rembielak/
Phyllis & Bob Wronko)

Wednesday, March 18
7:30 am - AT ST. BERNADETTE
Kay Davitt (John & Kay Weagraff)

Thursday, March 19
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Friday, March 20
8:00 am + NO MASS

Saturday, March 21
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, March 22
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Phyllis Heffernam (Friend)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
Margaret Styborski (Stacy Mott)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE
(Except Holy Days)
7:30 am - Communion Service

Tuesday, March 17
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena
6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 18
12:00 Noon - Min. Lenten Service & Lunch at Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 21
3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions

Sunday, March 22
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY
3:00 pm - Lenten Penance Service at ST. ANTHONY
NOTE: Latin Mass will be the last Sunday of every month
at 12:30 pm

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
SATURDAY, MARCH 21 - 4:30 PM
Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Shawn Pflger/
Jim Samson
Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich
Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Sophia Mott

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 - 9:30 AM
Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Theresa Douglas/
Christine Krzysiak/Harriet McLaren
Lector: Julie Hobson
Altar Servers: Andrea Walker/Sydney Zilhaver

ST. BERNADETTE
SUNDAY, MARCH 22 - 8:00 AM
Eucharistic Ministers: J. Acker/C. Greco/J. Weagraff
Lector: B. Smith
Ushers: D. Nowak
Altar Servers: B. Greco

STEWARDSHIP

3/8/20	
Offertory	\$805.00
Maintenance	170.00
Votive	9.00
TOTAL	\$984.00

CSA: Pledged - \$4,575
Paid - \$3,325

CHILD PROTECTION
AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS
PLEDGE TO HEAL

The Diocese of Erie remains committed to helping victims of clergy sexual abuse heal and recover. Counseling assistance is available for victims and/or their families through the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, VAC for short, Dr. Gerard Tobin, who can be reached at 814 451-1521. The diocese encourages anyone who has experienced abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy or any employee or volunteer of the church to contact law enforcement. To report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the diocese, email ErieRCD@KLGates.com Victims or concerned individuals can contact the diocese directly to report abuse at 814 451-1543. For additional information visit <https://www.eriegcd.org/childprotection/>

EASTER ROLLS

Orders can be placed at both entrances of the church for Nut, Apricot, Poppyseed and Raspberry Rolls. Rolls can be picked up the weekend of April 4 - 5. Price is \$10/roll.

POLKA DANCE

Sponsored by the PNA Lodge 1540 to be held on April 18 from 6 - 10 pm at St. Anthony Parish Center. Music by Becky and Joe Matczak Polka Band. BYOB, food and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Cost at the door is \$10/person, \$15/couple. Flyers are posted at both entrances of the Church.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro: Serving 5pm - 7pm
Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3
All Saints Parish, Waterford: Serving 4:30 pm - 7pm
Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3
St. Phillip, Linesville: Serving 4pm - 7pm
Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, March 16. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm.

SAEGERTOWN COMMUNITY
LENTEN LUNCHEONS - 12:00 NOON

March 18	ST. BERNADETTE
March 25	Twelve Apostles Church
April 1	Saegertown United Methodist Church

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE

Tues. Mar. 17 - 6:00 pm - Benediction & Stations of the Cross
Wed. Mar. 18 - 12:00 Noon - Ministerium Prayer Service and Luncheon - ST. BERNADETTE
Sun. Mar. 29 - 10:30 am - Religious Ed. at St. Anthony

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,024.00
Maintenance	337.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Candles	6.00
TOTAL	\$1,372.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$18,855 Paid: \$7,110

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
