

Water for Living, or Living Water?

Water flows through this Sunday's readings.

In the passage from Exodus, the Hebrews cry out for the water so necessary for life. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of living water that provides eternal life.

The exchange between the Hebrews and Moses is straightforward and startling. Physical thirst led them to question the divine care that miraculously delivered them from the hands of Egyptian oppressors. We shouldn't be too quick to shake our fingers at them. How many times have we looked past blessings we take for granted, only to focus on lesser immediate needs? These desert people are our ancestors in more ways than one.

The Gospel of John is most interesting. Jesus is in Samaria, a land hated by the Jews. There he initiates a conversation with an inhabitant of the town of Sychar, someone who is an outcast in three major ways. She is a woman—no self-respecting man would be alone

with a woman he didn't know. She is a Samaritan—Jews considered Samaritans unclean. And she is promiscuous—his own honor might be at risk. The woman's questionable social status does not prevent Jesus from engaging her, first in social etiquette ("Give me a drink" [4:7]), then in a theological exchange ("Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst" [4:14]).

The Hebrews experienced God's saving action in their exodus, but they lacked trust. The woman, hated by the Jews, was an outcast of her own people, yet she believed. How do we respond to the water?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Look at the deepest longings of your heart.
What might quench your thirst?
- ★ The Samaritan woman may have been the last person we would expect Jesus to engage with.
What does this say about us?



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

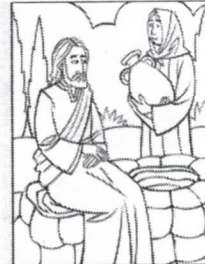
MARCH 15, 2020—THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert. Though they have seen His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm. Jesus is thirsty, too, in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls (see John 19:28). He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life.

These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans, but Jesus was something greater than Jacob (see Luke 11:31-32). The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ (see 2 Kings 17:6, 24-41). They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem.

But Jesus tells the woman that the "hour" of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth. Jesus' "hour" is the "appointed time" that Paul speaks of in today's Epistle. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock (see John 19:34-37). These waters are the Holy Spirit (see John 7:38-39), the gift of God (see Hebrews 6:4). By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down (see Ephesians 2:12-14, 18). Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism (see 1 Corinthians 12:13).

In this Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob. In the "today" of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: "I am He," come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How can we continue to worship as if we don't understand? How can our hearts remain hardened?



Jesus and the Woman at the Well

3/8 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,233.00

3/8: Children's Offering: \$4.00

3/8 Building Fund: \$25.00

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for March 22

Rosary: Adolph & Dorothy Vansa,

Eucharistic Minister: Jill Stermer

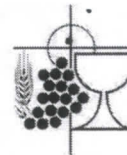
Offertory: Garrett Prcin Family

Lector: Misty Green

Ushers: Tony Dohnalik & Steve Jochec

Altar Servers: Lily Brunson, Adison Dach, Bailey Anderle, Cash Anderle

Sanctuary Light: March 16th—22nd: Larry Green by Glenn & Kelly Laurence



Prayer Chain...Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and the following: JoLeen Cayhill. Prayers are powerful!
To be added to the prayer chain, please contact:

Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net

MARAK MASSES—March 15-22, 2020

Date	Time	Intentions
Today—3/15	10:15am	+ Ann Morris by Louis & Mary Frances Vansa + Mary Ann Plachy by Richard & Betty Brenek
3/18—Wednesday—Mass & Stations of the Cross	5:30pm	+ Rita Mikulec by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Joe Vansa by Leroy & Kathy Vansa
3/22—Sunday	10:15am	+ John Dohnalik by James & Jeannine Dohnalik + Albert Michalka by Tom & Julie Motyka

CYCLONE MASSES— March 15-22, 2020

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 3/15	8:15am	+ William Schneider by Margaret & Wilbert Mikeska
3/17—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Barbara Collins by Monica Mikeska
3/19—Thursday	7:00am	+ Vernice & Lawrence Green by Gene & Betty Engbrock
3/20—Friday—Stations of the Cross	6:00pm	+ Randolph Green by Family
3/21—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Rosa Pechal by Patricia & Paul Jedlicka
3/22—Sunday	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Donna McEntire

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Mass and Stations of the Cross will be held every Wednesday at 5:30pm during the Lenten season.
- **SHRIMP & FISH FRY:** Beginning Feb. 28 thru April 3—Westphalia Parish Hall—\$10/plate. See flyer on bulletin board in the church entry.
- **MARCH 17:** KC meeting at Cyclone Parish Hall at 7:30pm.
- **MARCH 22:** Second Collection for Catholic Relief Services.
- **PLACE OF HOPE:** The pregnancy Center in Rockdale will be having its annual fundraiser on April 25th—at the KC Hall in Rockdale—starting at 6pm—Catered dinner—Raffle—Silent & Live Auction—Guest speaker is Julia Jeffress Sadler. See flyer on Bulletin board in the church entrance. If you would like to purchase tickets, contact Patsy Gaines.
- **THANK YOU:** Special thanks to the KJZT Jrs. on the purchase of 2 Candlelighters, stand and wicks. May God bless you for your generosity.
- **THANK YOU:** Thanks to Father Darrell Kostihia for donating (5) new Chasubles to our church. All of the chasubles have finally arrived. These were ordered in October 2019.

Dear Padre,

For many of us older Catholics, our children have either left the faith or they don't belong to any church. Consequently, their children aren't baptized. We were taught that anyone may baptize in an emergency. Can we baptize our grandchildren? If so, how?

When necessary, "any person," even one who is not baptized, "can baptize provided that he has the intention of doing that which the Church does and provided that he pours water on the candidate's head while saying: 'I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1284).

Church law permits baptism when at least one consenting Catholic parent or guardian plans to nurture the child in the faith and in the faith community. Some people—with the best intentions—may disregard these legal conditions and resort to baptizing a child in secret or against the parents' will. However, while the Trinitarian formula used while pouring water over a child qualifies as the sacrament even under non-life-threatening circumstances, it's also contrary to Church law. This has negative consequences both for the child being baptized and the grandparents doing the baptizing!

May you find consolation in these words: "Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament" (CCC 1257). Should a child die without baptism, we can trust in God's mercy, since the full proclamation of the gospel and request for the sacrament was not possible for the child. Moreover, Jesus' tenderness toward children allows us "to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without baptism" (CCC 1261).

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK/ANDREA MARIANO



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

This season of Lent is a good occasion to draw near to [Jesus], to encounter him in prayer in a heart-to-heart dialogue; to speak with him, to listen to him....In this way we can renew in ourselves the grace of baptism, quench our thirst at the wellspring of the Word of God.

—ANGELUS, MARCH 19, 2017

Calendar

Monday

MARCH 16
Lenten Weekday
2 Kgs 5:1–15b
Lk 4:24–30

Tuesday

MARCH 17
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:25, 34–43
Mt 18:21–35

Wednesday

MARCH 18
Lenten Weekday
Dt 4:1, 5–9
Mt 5:17–19

Thursday

MARCH 19
St. Joseph,
Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4–5a,
12–14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a
or Lk 2:41–51a

Friday

MARCH 20
Lenten Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mk 12:28–34

Saturday

MARCH 21
Lenten Weekday
Hos 6:1–6
Lk 18:9–14

Sunday

MARCH 22
Fourth Sunday
of Lent
1 Sm 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a
Eph 5:8–14
Jn 9:1–41 or
Jn 9:1, 6–9, 13–17,
34–38

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