Third Sunday of Lent

"During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference."

POPE FRANCIS



Saint Philip the Apostle Parish

CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

SUNDAY GOSPEL

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him,

"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him,

"Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water?

Are you greater than our father Jacob,

who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water. "I can see that you are a prophet.

Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;

but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed, the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her,

"I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him. When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.

Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman,

"We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

— John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Bruce Springsteen begins one of his songs, "Everybody has a hungry heart." It is his way of saying that all of us want something in our life, something we need, something we desire. Perhaps we want someone to love, someone with whom we can share our life and build a family. Perhaps we want to play for the NFL. Maybe we want to be a doctor, a physician, or an entrepreneur within our own community. Perhaps we want to be respected in the eyes of others and admired in the eyes of our peers. Each one of us longs for something: that our spouse would love us differently, that our friends would treat us with more mutuality and respect, that we could make a lot of money and become a millionaire. Our hearts are hungry. It is the way that we are. It is a part of the human condition.

Now, at first glance this hunger in our heart can seem like a kind of selfishness, simply catering to our own desires. But today's Gospel presents such hunger in a very different perspective. It tells us that God has placed the hunger in our hearts for a purpose.

The Samaritan woman in today's gospel comes to the well because she wants water. She wants water which she can drink and with which she can clean and cook. But when she comes to the well for that water, she meets Jesus. There she listens to him as he talks about living water that will lead to salvation. The woman does not come to the well to find Christ's water, she comes to find the water that is in the well. But her thirst for that water leads her to consider and ultimately to accept the water that Jesus offers. A natural water leads her to an eternal water. A physical thirst leads her to a drink beyond her imagining.

Because God has put a hunger and thirst in our life, our desire to satisfy that hunger and thirst becomes a spiritual journey. As we reach out for the things that we want, we are not being selfish. We are following a way to God. Nothing will ultimately satisfy us other than God alone. Other things in our life might for a time distract us or amuse us, but only the knowledge of God's love and a life lived according to God's word will ultimately make us happy. St. Augustine, one of the great theologians of the Church, spoke eloquently on this topic. He said, "Oh God, you have created us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you." Ronald Rolheiser, a great spiritual writer of our time, has described this hunger in our hearts as "a holy longing"—holy, because if we follow it, it will ultimately lead us to God.

Every good and natural thing that we reach out for is a limited good. As we confront the limited nature of the things we desire, they push us to seek the unlimited goodness who is God. Money will only keep us happy for so long. Then we will long for something else. Even the closest and most intimate human relationship has its downside. As we face the limits of relationships, we recognize that we want something more. It is gratifying to be successful in our work and in the eyes of others. But once we claim that success, our heart says, "Is that all there is?"

God has placed hunger in our hearts to lead us to eternal life. Therefore, go for the things you want, try to attain them, do not be deterred. Work as hard and as honestly as you can to make money. Love the people in your life as

deeply as you can. Be the best teacher or accountant or NFL football player that you can be. But then do not be surprised if your heart is still hungry. The Samaritan woman looks out at us from today's Gospel and says, "When you find the water you seek, you will want more. God has made us that way. The water you obtain is meant to lead you to the water that only Jesus can give."

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

WELCOME HOME TO HEALING

CONFESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE EVERY SATURDAY FROM 4:30 PM TO 5 PM & EVERY MONDAY OF LENT FROM 7 PM to 8:30 PM IN THE CHURCH (March 13 and 20)

THE PARISH LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE WILL BE ON MARCH 27TH AT 7 PM. THERE WILL BE GUEST PRIESTS AVAILABLE FOR CONFESSIONS.

> THERE IS A 7 AM MASS EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT (March 17, 24, and 31)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IS EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT AT 7 PM (March 24, 31 and April 7)

Please note there is no Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 17th due to the Parish Dinner Dance.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS BY FR. KEN BRIGHENTI

A Cardiologist Examines Jesus
By Dr. Franco Serafini
Sophia Press

The Biblical Roots of the Mass By Thomas Nash Sophia Press

The Eucharistic Miracles of the World
Published in the US by Eternal Life, Bardstown, KY

Catholic Mass for Dummies
By James Cafone, Fr. Trigilio & Fr. Brighenti
Wiley Publication

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study sessions have begun.
Join us on Mondays of Lent at 11 AM
(March 13, 20, & 27)
in the Jubilee Wing Room of the Molloy Center.
Fr. Monteleone leads the discussion on the
Gospel of John concentrating on the
Bread of Life Discourse.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Greetings from Saint Philip Prep!

I hope everyone is having a reflective and spiritual Lenten season. Usually, Mondays in general (for all those in the workforce) could be considered a slight burden, since we are getting into the "swing of things" after the weekend. However, I have been taking full advantage of our afternoon reflection centered around the Stations of the Cross. I take this time to reflect upon all aspects of my life, and whether I am truly giving it all for my students and school community on a daily basis. Did I empty the tank today? Did I provide students that might have needed that extra motivation, structure, or reinforcement with the proper accommodations? Did I fill the needs of

all my students and take a holistic approach to instruction? The Stations of the Cross provides a peaceful opportunity for everyone to reflect upon whether we are truly in solidarity with Jesus. It gives our faith and school community life during this season. When I think of Lent, I think of sacrificing our time for others. I will leave our faith and school community with this quote from the prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola which resonates with the meaning of Lent very closely. "To toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward. Say that of knowing, that I do Your Holy Will."

Best, Mr. Yannece

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Saint Philip would like to welcome all families with young children to a family holy HALF hour on Friday, April 21st, at 5:30 PM in Marian Hall in the Molloy Center. A Holy Hour is where we are in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, exposed in front of us, on the altar. It is a beautiful experience that families often miss out on due to fear of their children's inability to sit still for long durations. This format is geared towards kids by shortening the time to a half hour and having music and activities that will help your children and you, as parents, understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We encourage you to come and spend time with Jesus as a family.

If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. Nico, or call the Parish Office at (973) 779 6200.



No Greater Love

A passion play for the Lenten season presented by the Xavier Company Friday, March 24th at 7:00 PM Saint Philip the Apostle Church

Please Note:

This performance will be presented in lieu of Friday Stations of the Cross

WRITTEN BY: JANEEN STEVENS DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY: CAROL FERRONE

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY: GERARD DEMAN, jr. ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY BY: RHONDA DENISE REID

FEATURING: Pasqualino Beltempo (in the role of Jesus), Nikki Casseri (as Mary), our very own, Dorothy Dobkowski, Benjamin Culpepper, Leo Grinberg, Annie Lewis, Brandon Schraml, Rebekah Rawhouser and Tony Bartoli on percussion

No Greater Love, a vibrant musical drama that celebrates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, will be performed in the sanctuary of churches throughout the tristate area during the 2023 Lenten and Easter Seasons. Don't miss this captivating performance of No Greater Love that brings to life the timeless and sacred story of the passion of Jesus Christ.

The Xavier Company, under the direction of Dr. Carol Ferrone and musical direction by Gerard DeMan, is a unique group of performing artists in residence at St. Francis Xavier Church in New York City. These professionally trained actors, singers and dancers perform original works focused on themes of faith and social justice. Founded in 1982, The Xavier Company is celebrating its forty first anniversary of performing arts ministry in the tri-state area. The Xavier Company is renowned for performances that display both spiritual content and artistic excellence.

Tickets are not required. A free will offering will be taken.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The Next meeting of the Widow and Widowers will be on Monday, March 13th at 2 PM in the Molloy Center. Anyone who is experiencing a loss is most welcome.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meetings of the blanket ministry will be **Thursday, March 16th at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center**. For further information, please call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Come join us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our very own Irishman, Fr. Kevin!

Monday, March 13th with Mass and the Rosary at

Monday, March 13th with Mass and the Rosary at 6:30 in Marian Hall.

Everyone is welcome - come once, twice, or join our beautiful organization honoring our Blessed Mother, we'll be happy to see you!

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BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses on the weekend of March 25-26 and April 1-2. The palm cross price is \$14 and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo. For pre-orders, please call Phil Jakimowicz at (973) 723-6111.

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Bríanna Rose

KIDS KORNER



Believe... Share with others

This week I can share my time, talents and treasure. What will I do? Write down how you plan to share with others for each day of the week.

1

The Third Sorrowful Mystery The Crowning of Thorns
Think about this mystery before praying.
The Holy Spirit stayed with Jesus through
His final days.



Through our baptismal water the Holy Spirit came to stay with you and guide you This third week of Lent, what can you do for others with help from the Holy Spirit:

This week: Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with Glory

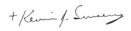
FROM THE DIOCESE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Memorial of Saint Patrick falls on Friday in the Third Week of Lent. Recognizing the faith that was brought to this community by immigrant families and missionary religious and priests, the spiritual sons and daughters of Saint Patrick, and the prominence of the Memorial in the practice of faithful Catholics of this diocese, I grant a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence on March 17, 2023, to those residing in or visiting the Diocese of Paterson. Those who partake of this dispensation are encouraged to undertake a work of charity or an act of comparable penance on some other occasion during the Third Week of Lent.

In celebrating Saint Patrick, may we be given the grace to recognize Christ on our right and left, in the heart of everyone who thinks of us, in the mouth of everyone who speaks of us, in every eye that sees us, and in every ear that hears us. Most glorious Saint Patrick, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Kevin J. Sweeney, D.D. Bishop of Paterson

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 6, 2022 \$20,676.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 5, 2023

 Weekly Collection
 \$12,889.00

 Online Giving Donation
 \$ 6,252.00

 Total
 \$19,141.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

March 12 - Project Faith

March 19 - Campaign for Human Development

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 18 5:30 PM – Fr. Nico

Sunday, March 19 8 AM – Fr. Monteleone 10 AM – Fr. Kevin 12 PM – Fr. Monteleone

WE PRAY FOR...

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace... Gennaro Gencarelli, Julia Ruccione, Anita Dellar

A Time to be Healed...

Barbara Tolvay, Msgr. Herbert Tillyer, Lorraine DeBellis, Sebastian Centinaro, Pauline Jelken,

The Sikora sisters, Patricia Canavan Petrowski, Jobo Valentin,, Maria Tommaro, Pete Malone

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

8:00 Leandro Salme

Joyce Frei

10:00 Giuseppe Esposito

Eric Peterson

Shirley Minowicz

Nancy Bandel

12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023

9:00 Catherine L. McClane

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

9:00 Anita Garbarino Juan Reyes

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

9:00 Daniel Mutter - 6th Anniversary Rosario Llames

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

9:00 Rizaldy Quintos Abimael Marrero

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023

7:00 Eugene DeBellis

9:00 The Hughes and McDonald families Margaret and Thomas O'Grady

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023

9:00 Robert Baran

Concetta Vigliotti

5:30 All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023

8:00 Elaine Cipolla - 2nd Anniversary

Matthew Debiak

10:00 Frantiska and Josef Krizek

Stanley J. Makowski

Pietro and Felicia Mannarino

Michael "Joe" Landers

Virginia and Joseph Reilly

- 40th Wedding Anniversary

12:00 Anne A. Lipari

Salvatore Capriglione

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