



Sacred Heart Church

Third Sunday of Lent

A Vincentian Community

March 15, 2020

529 "I" Street, Patterson, CA 95363
(209) 892-9321 ~ Fax: (209) 892-2102

sheartpatterson@gmail.com

www.sacredheartpatterson.org

www.facebook.com/sacredheartpatterson

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Immaculate Heart Chapel

22031 H St., Crows Landing, CA

Guadalupe Center

643 Howard Rd., Westley, CA

Lopes Orchards De Paul Center (LODPC)

505 M St., (209-404-9160)

lodpcinfo@gmail.com

OUR PARISH STAFF

Rev. R. Rex Hays, C.M., Pastor

pastorshc@gmail.com

Rev. Nhan H. Tran, C.M., Parochial Vicar

"Fr. Tino" tinothantran@gmail.com

Mrs. Norma Plaughter

Pastoral Associate

nplaughter@yahoo.com

Mrs. Tammy Ulibarri

Business Manager

shbusinessmanager@yahoo.com

Mrs. Dolores Arrambide

Ms. Brenda Hernandez

Receptionists

Mrs. Angelina Navarro

Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Virginia Fernandez

Confirmation Coordinator

503 M St., (209) 892-6381

shreligious503@gmail.com

Mrs. Priscilla Espinoza

LODPC Asst. Facility

Coordinator

209-404-9160

lodpcinfo@gmail.com

Mrs. Heidi Kuliga

Principal, Sacred Heart School

505 M St., Patterson, Ca

(209) 892-3544

principal@shcs-patterson.org

www.shcs-patterson.org

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Mrs. Barbara Schneider

Manager

Mrs. Sonia Martinez

Asst. Manager

58 S. 3rd St (209) 892-7201

Mrs. Marilee N. Cruz

Coordinator of Youth

Ministries

sheartpattersonyouth@gmail.com

Mrs. Luz Martinez

English Music Director

(209) 678-8181

zulma500@yahoo.com

Mr. David Roberts &

Mr. Gilbert Ramirez

RCIA Coordinators

(209) 605-7307 (English)

(209) 505-8651 (Spanish)

shrciapatterson@gmail.com

Mr. Roman Lopez

Spanish Choir Coordinator

(209) 605-3743



Mass Schedule/Horario de Misas

Saturday/sábado: 5:30 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday/domingo: 8 a.m. English

9:30 a.m. LODPC, Español

9:30 a.m. Immaculate Heart, English

11 a.m. English

12:30 p.m. Español

6 p.m. Español

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.

1er sábado del mes: 7 p.m. Guadalupe Center Español

Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday 7:40 a.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena: Mondays after the 8 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Adoration/Adoración Eucarística:

2nd Monday of the month with Benediction at 6:30 p.m.

El segundo lunes del mes, con Bendición a las 6:30 p.m.

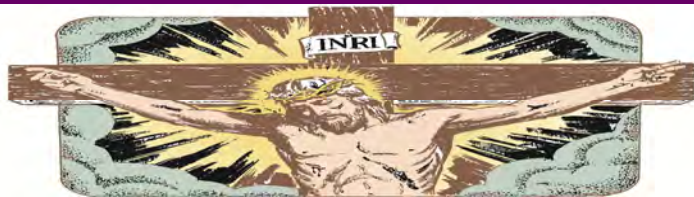
Confessions/Confesiones: Saturdays/sábados 4 - 5 p.m.,

(or by appointment/o por cita)

Marriage/Matrimonio: Contact the office at least 6 months in advance/ Llame a la oficina con 6 meses de anticipación.

Baptisms/Bautismos: 4th Saturday of the month/Cuarto sábado del mes. Call Norma Plaughter at the parish office.

**Quinceañeras: Contact Norma Plaughter at the parish office
Comuníquese con Norma en la oficina parroquial.**



While we were still sinners Christ died for us.
 — *Romans 5:8*

Daughters of the Holy Spirit

(209-892-3410)

CM Vocations: Fr. Derek Swanson, C.M.

1-800-DEPAULI

vocations@vincenzian.org

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, March 16

- Group Nueva Alianza in Fr. Connors Hall 7-9pm
- RCIA Class in Sr. David Hall 7-8:30pm

Tuesday, March 17

- CORE Team meeting in LODPC 4-6pm
- Young Adult in the LODPC 6:30-8:30pm

Wednesday, March 18

- Youth Group in LODPC 6-7:30pm

Thursday, March 19

- Adult Youth Spanish Meeting in Fr. Connors Hall 7-9pm

Friday, March 20

- Nueva Alianza in Sr. David Hall 6:45-9:15pm
- ***STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE CURCH 6:30PM FOLLOWED BY LENTEN SOUP IN FR. CONNORS HALL 7PM***

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the Lord heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exodus 17:3-7).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8).

Gospel — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-51b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
- Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]



Immaculate Heart #149, Young Ladies

Institute is offering a \$500 scholarship to high school seniors who are members in good standing of Sacred Heart Parish. Applications may be picked up in the Parish Office and are due back to the YLI by April 10, 2020.



LENTEN FLOWERS

Contributions of lilies to decorate our church are most welcome. Please bring them to the parish office during Holy Week of, April 5. Your contribution can also serve as a memorial for deceased loved ones.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Lenten Penance Services are being offered at 7 p.m. in the parishes in our area throughout Lent. Please take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

- March 25, 7pm - Our Lady of Assumption Church - Turlock
- March 30, 7pm - All Saints Church - Turlock
- April 7, 7pm - Sacred Heart Church - Turlock

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A ROSARY

PROJECT If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this special project consider contacting **Julia Hoxie 209 895-0040 or juliahawkc@gmail.com.** Work will be in the grounds next to Fr. Connors Hall. Please wear appropriate clothes for digging holes and working with concrete. If you have gardening gloves and a shovel bring them as well.

TIMES AND DATES:

- March 15, 1- 5 p.m.
- March 22, 1- 5 p.m.
- March 29, 1- 5 p.m.



***Cristo murió por nosotros,
cuando aún éramos pecadores.
— Romanos 5:8***

EVENTOS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes, 16 de Marzo

- Nueva Alianza in Fr. Connors Hall 6:30-9pm
- Clases de RCIA en el Salón Hermana David de 7-8:30pm

Martes, 17 de Marzo

- Jóvenes Adultos en el Salón LODPC de 6:30-8:30pm

Miércoles, 18 de Marzo

- Grupo de Jóvenes en el Salón LODPC 6:-7:30pm

Jueves, 19 de Marzo

- Grupo de Adultos Jóvenes en el Salón Fr. Connors 7-9pm

Viernes, 20 de Marzo

- Nueva Alianza en Salón Hermana David 6:45-9:15pm
- **ESTACIONES DE LA CRUZ, SEGUIDA POR UNA SOPA EN FR. CONNORS HALL 7PM**

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Agua salió de la roca para apagar la sed del pueblo (Éxodo 17:3-7).

Salmo — Si hoy oyen su voz, no endurezcan su corazón (Salmo 95 [94]).

Segunda lectura — El amor de Dios se ha derramado en nuestro corazón por el don del Espíritu Santo (Romanos 5:1-2, 5-8).

Evangelio — El agua que yo les daré se convierte en el manantial de vida eterna (Juan 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b- 26, 39, 40-42]).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

- Lunes: 2 Re 5:1-15b; Sal 42 (41):2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lc 4:24-30
- Martes: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Sal 25 (24):4-51b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
- Miércoles: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Sal 147 (146):12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
- Jueves: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a o Lc 2:41-51a
- Viernes: Os 14:2-10; Sal 81 (80):6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mc 12:28-34
- Sábado: Os 6:1-6; Sal 51 (50):3-4, 18-21ab; Lc 18:9-14
- Domingo: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Sal 23 (22):1-6; Ef 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

SERVICIO DE PENITENCIA CUARESMAL

Los servicios de penitencia cuaresmal se ofrecen a las 7 p.m. en las parroquias de nuestra área durante toda la Cuaresma. Aproveche la oportunidad de recibir el Sacramento de la Reconciliación antes de Pascua.

- 25 de marzo, 7pm - Nuestra Señora de la Asunción - Turlock
- 30 de marzo, 7pm - Todos los Santos - Turlock
- 1 de abril, 7pm - Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón - Turlock

VOLUNTARIOS NECESITADOS PARA UN

PROYECTO DE ROSARIO Si usted o alguien que conoce le gustaría ser parte de este proyecto especial, considere comunicarse con **Julia Hoxie 209-895-0040 o juliahawkc@gmail.com**. El trabajo será en los terrenos al lado del salón P. Connors. Por favor use ropa apropiada para cavando agujeros y trabajando con hormigón. Si tiene guantes de jardinería y una pala, tráigalos también.

HORARIOS Y FECHAS:

- 15 de marzo, 1- 5 p.m.
- 22 de marzo, 1- 5 p.m.
- 29 de marzo, 1- 5 p.m.



El Instituto de Señoritas del Inmaculado Corazón # 149,

está ofreciendo una beca de \$ 500.00 a los estudiantes de último año de secundaria que son miembros con buena reputación de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón. Las solicitudes pueden recogerse en la Oficina Parroquial y deben devolverse al

Instituto de Señoritas antes del 10 de abril de 2020.



FLOR DE CUARESMAL

Contribuciones de lirios para decorar nuestra Iglesia son bienvenidos. Por favor tráigalos al oficina parroquial durante la Semana Santa del 5 de abril. Su contribución también puede servir como memorial para los seres queridos fallecidos.

STEWARDSHIP

Let each one give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or from compulsion, for "God loves a cheerful giver"

Corinthians 2, 9:6-7

MARCH 1, 2020

OFFERTORY.....\$ 9,729.00
(Last year's offertory \$8,375)

Second Collection: (DSF)
Diocesan Service Fee.....\$ 2,431.00

MARCH 8, 2020

OFFERTORY..... \$ 7,316.50
(last year's giving \$10,890)

2nd Collection-
Black and Indians Missions..... \$ 2,531.00

ADMINISTRACIÓN

Que cada uno dé según lo que ha determinado en su corazón, no de mala gana o por obligación, porque "Dios ama a quien da con alegría"

Corintios 2, 9:6-7

MARZO 1, DEL 2020

OFRENDAS.....\$ 9,729.00
(Colecta del año pasado \$8,375)

Segunda Colecta:
Tarifa de Servicios Diocesanos.....\$ 2,431.00

MARCH 8, 2020

(Colecta del año pasado \$ 10,890)

OFFERTORY.....\$ 7,316.50

2nd Collection:
Black and Indians Missions.....\$ 2,531.00



Bishop's Ministry Appeal

FAITH: Proclaiming, Sharing, Living!



This week's Second Collection
Bishop's Ministry Appeal



Segunda Colecta de esta Semana
Apelacion Ministerial del Obispo



Online Giving

Please visit:
www.osvonlinegiving.com
To sign up or to manage your account. Make sure you enter church number 829 for Sacred Heart Catholic Church Patterson page. For help, call Tammy Ulibarri in the Parish office at (209) 892-9321 ext.1004



COLECTAS ELECTRONICAS

Por favor visita:
www.osvonlinegiving.com
Para inscribirse o para gestionar su cuenta. Asegúrese de ingresar el número 829 de la Iglesia Católica del Sagrado Corazón. Para obtener ayuda, llame a Tammy Ulibarri en la oficina de la Parroquia al (209) 892-9321 ext.1004

PARISH VISION STATEMENT SACRED HEART PARISH

is a diverse, collaborative Catholic community animated by the Heart of Jesus to pursue unity in our diversity, to share hope with our community, and to strive for peace and justice in our world.

DECLARACIÓN DE VISIÓN PARROQUIAL LA PARROQUIA DEL SAGRADO CORAZÓN

es una comunidad Católica, diversa y colaborativa animada por el Corazón de Jesús para buscar la unidad en nuestra diversidad, para compartir la esperanza con nuestra comunidad, y para promover la paz y justicia en nuestro mundo.

MARCH 2020

Sat/Sab 14 5:30am YLI Members
Sun/Dom 15 8:00am Natalia Ramirez (L)
CL 9:30am Frances Broggi †
SP LODPC 9:30am Josefina & Cruz Becerra †
11:00am Joe Diniz Jr. †
SP 12:30pm Dario & Ofelia & Miguel
Herrera †
SP 6:00pm Familia Rodriguez
Sandoval (L) & Familia
Rodriguez Valle (L)
Mon/Lun 16 8:00am Living & Deceased Members
of the CM, DHS & DC
Tue/Mar 17 8:00am Ernesto Mendez †
Wed/Mie 18 8:00am Luis Moreno †
Thu/Jue 19 8:00am Frances Rose Broggi †
Fri/Vie 20 8:00am The Souls in Purgatory
Sat/Sab 21 5:30pm Anita Merten †
Sun/Dom 22 8:00am Rufina Rodriguez †
CL 9:30am San Antonio de Padua &
Antonio Fuentes de Leon †
SP LODPC 9:30am Cecilia & Henry Chavez †
11:00am Raymond Sison †
SP 12:30pm Aida Ana Arrambide †
SP 6:00pm Alex Gallegos & Martin &
Juanita Rodriguez †

We pray for the sick of our parish
Oremos por los enfermos de nuestra
parroquia

CLARA COOK
ANGEL RAMIREZ
JANICE MONTANO
CARMEN MURILLO
ANA MARIA SANCHEZ
ARNET ELIZONDO
MARIA FIGUEROA
GLORIA MEJIA
JULIAN ROMERO
VICTOR ALVAREZ
ARMIN ARRAMBIDE

LECTORS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
LECTORES Y MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS
MAR 21/22— MAR 21/22

Saturday 5:30pm: 1st Reading: H. Kuliga
2nd Reading: S. Boschi
Extraordinary Mnisters: * M. Maring

Sunday 8 a.m: 1st Reading: G. Molina
2nd Reading: L. Molina
Extraordinary Ministers:
*D.B. Raymundo

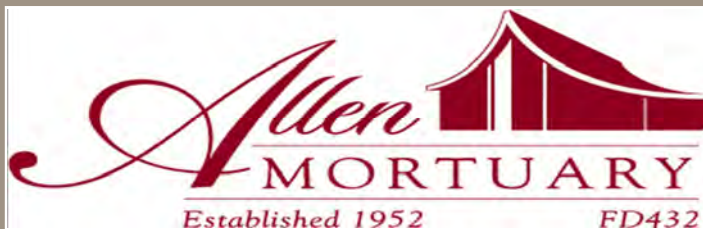
9:30 Crows Landing: 1st Reading: V. Medeiros
Extraordinary Ministers:* M. Garcia

LODPC
9:30 Español: Primera Lectura: M.M.R. de Lopez
Segunda Lectura: J. Tello
Ministros Extraordinario: * Z. Diaz

11 a.m.: 1st Reading: SH School
2nd Reading: SH School
Extraordinary Ministers: * V. Ofreneo

12:30 Español: Primera Lectura: A.M. Chavez
Segunda Lectura: S. Morales
Ministros Extraordinarios:* G. Sanchez

6:00 pm Español Primera Lectura: C. Gallo
Segunda Lectura: H. Rodriguez
Ministros Extraordinarios: *M. Rodriguez



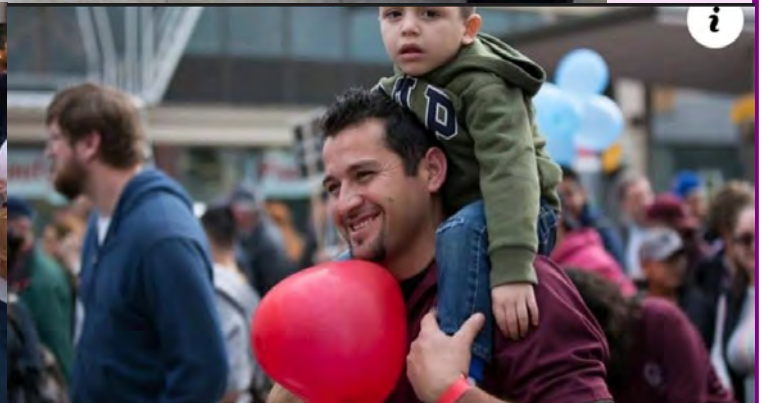
247 North Broadway
Turlock, CA. 95380
Ph: (209) 634-5829
(Hablamos Español)
allenmortuary.com

Please patronize the sponsors who
appear on the inside back page. It is through their
support that our bulletin is made possible.

Por favor apoyar a los patrocinadores que aparecen dentro del cuadro de la última página. Es a través de su
apoyo que nuestro boletín es posible.

Walk FOR Life WEST COAST

Thank you to everyone who joined in representing our parish at the 2020 Walk for Life in San Francisco. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us and supported this effort by purchasing a chocolate calendar during Advent, giving a good-will donation or sponsoring a seat. And a SPECIAL THANKS to the Knights of Columbus & YLI #149 who helped make the event accessible to all. We hope you join us in 2021!



Sacred Heart Catholic Preschool presents

SPAGHETTI DINNER &

B I N G O

**SATURDAY
APRIL 4TH
5:00-8:00PM**

**LOPES ORCHARDS
DE PAUL CENTER
505 M STREET
PATTERSON**

**Adults \$20
Children aged 5+ \$10
Children 4 and under are FREE!**
Each ticket includes a dinner of spaghetti, meatballs,
salad and french bread.

Supervised
Kids Corner

Tickets for
sale at school
office or call
209.892.5525

**CASH
PRIZES**

Raffle

Fun for
all ages

Must be 18 years or older to participate in BINGO games.

Administrative Assistant Hispanic Apostolate, Hispanic Youth & YA Ministry and Migrant Ministry

(Full-time, Non-Exempt) The Diocese of Stockton has a full-time, non-exempt administrative assistant position available. This position provides bi-lingual administrative and clerical support for the offices of the Hispanic Apostolate, Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Migrant Ministry. Major responsibilities include responding to inquiries in a timely manner, prepares, edits, and proofreads various correspondence, assists with program events, including designing layouts for flyers, etc., assists as backup receptionist for Pastoral Center as needed. Qualifications: high school degree or equivalent, 4-5 years of successful office experience, experience with Excel, Publisher and Microsoft Word, excellent verbal and written bi-lingual skills (English and Spanish). This is a 35 hour/week position with an excellent benefit package. To apply, **please email a resume and employment application to jobs@stocktondiocese.org**



WELCOME FR. MARK PRANAITIS FOR OUR LENTEN MISSIONS

Fr. Mark Pranaitis is a Vicentian priest currently serving as an Executive Director of Vincentian International Mission Services in Philadelphia, where he raises money to foster the growth of the Vincentian mission, specially in the development world. In his 26 years as a priest, he has served in a variety of ministries from parishes to universities, from Catholics Charities to provincial administration.

MARCH 15
2020



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Lent

A WOMAN OF SAMARIA
CAME TO DRAW WATER.
JESUS SAID TO HER:
"GIVE ME A DRINK."

- JOHN 4:7



Meet Yvone

Meet Yvone from Kenya. She learned proper nutrition and hygiene practices to help keep her healthy and in school. Yvone now has a chance to dream and the strength to follow those dreams. How can you ensure that young people in your community receive proper nutrition? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Conoce a Yvone

Conoce a Yvone de Kenia. Aprendió prácticas adecuadas de nutrición e higiene para ayudarla a mantenerse sana y en la escuela. Yvone ahora tiene la oportunidad de soñar y la fuerza para seguir esos sueños. ¿Cómo puede garantizar que los jóvenes de su comunidad reciban una nutrición adecuada? Visite crsricebowl.org para más.

**SACRED HEART PARISH/PARROQUIA SAGRADO CORAZON,
PATTERSON, CA
MISIÓN PARROQUIAL
PARISH MISSION
MARCH/MARZO 30-ABRIL /APRIL 2 , 2020**

CELEBRACION DE LA EUCARISTIA/EUCHARIST, 7:00 PM

**UNA INVITACION A LA COMUNIDAD PARROQUIAL A CELEBRAR EL MISTERIO PASCUAL (SEMANA SANTA)/AN
INVITATION TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY**

CELEBRATE THE PASCAL MYSTERY(HOLY WEEK)

- **REFLEXIÓN SOBRE LA PALABRA DE DIOS EN LOS**
- **EVANGELIOS/REFLECTION ON THE WORD OF GOD IN THE**
GOSPELS.
- **LA LITURGIA DE LA IGLESIA CATÓLICA DURANTE SEMANA**
- **SANTA/THE LITURGY OF THE CHURCH DURING HOLY WEEK**
- **BUSCANDO LA MISERICORDIA Y SANACION DE DIOS/ SEEKING**
- **GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND HEALING.**
- **LA ORACION COMO MEDIO DE UNA RELACIÓN PERSONAL CON**
JESUS/PRAYER AS A MEANS TO TO HAVE A PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.



REV. PRUDENCIO RODRIGUEZ, C.M.

SACRED HEART PARISH LENTEN MISSION

MISION CUARESMAL

MARCH 23, 24, 25, 2020 at 7 p.m. - English

MARCH 30, 31/ April 2, at 7 p.m. - Spanish

Living as Family: This is an opportunity to set aside specific time to pray, meditate and reflect, and most importantly to do this as a parish community. The mission is a time of renewal of our relationship with God and each other.

Viviendo como en familia: Aproveche esta oportunidad para dedicar tiempo a la oración, la meditación y reflexión. Y lo mas importante es hacer esto juntos como una comunidad parroquial. Esta misión es un tiempo especial para renovar nuestra relación con Dios y con cada uno de nuestros hermanos.





Third Sunday of Lent

We hear today of God’s unrelenting pursuit of us. Our readings tell stories of God’s intense desire to share the divine life with us. From Exodus, we see how God shows endless persistence and compassion, even to those who grumble against God, or seem to have forgotten God. From the Gospel of John, we hear of how Jesus, in his extended conversation with the Samaritan woman, gives her dignity, names uncomfortable truths, and gradually leads her into a new path of faith. We can have confidence that as we bring our own confusions, fears, and failings to God, we may receive God’s mercy and forgiveness. God always persists and continually finds new ways to invite people into unity with God. As Paul describes in Romans, in the cross we see how God will go to any length to demonstrate the depth and breadth of divine love. **HONEST AND OPEN WITH GOD** The story of the Israelites’ grumbling and threatened revolt, and of God’s response in our reading from Exodus today, grapples with difficulties of the life of faith. Those who place their lives in the hands of God, as Israel did by following Moses into the desert, may soon face troubling and fearful moments. Sometimes we lose what we think we need, or somehow find it difficult to get what we really need. In our busy lives, it’s easy to gradually forget God’s presence and action among us. Moses’ prayer to God and God’s compassionate response of providing water resolve the situation. Perhaps it was Moses’ admirable honesty in his dialogue with God that made a difference. Moses “cried out to the Lord” and he didn’t know how God might respond. Honestly expressing our needs in prayer is essential to the life of faith. Waiting in openness to God’s response is equally important.

WATER FOR OTHERS The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, like the passage from Exodus, speaks of tired and thirsty people. Jesus is tired and thirsty from his journey. The Samaritan woman is not only tired of the difficult chore of obtaining water, but is thirsty for something more. Jesus presents himself as living water for her, able to satisfy a deeper thirst in her heart. Through his patience and compassion, he opens a new wellspring of God’s sustenance for her. How might we, like Jesus, be water for others in our thirsty world? We can take some cues from Jesus here. Jesus crossed boundaries of gender, ethnicity, and religious division. Jesus began in vulnerability, in need of hospitality from a stranger. His was a non-threatening, compassionate presence. Jesus did not begin by speaking about himself or God, but entered into ordinary conversation with her. He first attended to her practical realities and concerns, which led to deeper dialogue. Perhaps we have opportunities to follow Jesus’ example.

Today’s Readings: Ex 17:3–7; Ps 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Rom 5:1–2, 5–8; Jn 4:5–42 [5–15, 19b–26, 39a, 40–42]

Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma

HONESTIDAD Y APERTURA CON DIOS

La historia de las quejas y amenaza de sedición de los israelitas, y la respuesta de Dios en nuestra lectura de hoy del libro del Éxodo, aborda las dificultades de la vida de fe. Aquellos que ponen su vida en las manos de Dios, como Israel lo hizo al seguir a Moisés en el desierto, quizá pronto enfrenten momentos desconcertantes y terribles. Algunas veces, desperdiciamos lo que pensamos necesitar, o de alguna manera encontramos dificultades para obtener lo que realmente necesitamos. En nuestras vidas ocupadas, poco a poco es fácil olvidar la presencia y acción de Dios en medio de nosotros.

La oración de Moisés y la respuesta compasiva de Dios al proveer agua resuelve la situación. Quizás fue la admirable honestidad de Moisés en su diálogo con Dios lo que hizo la diferencia. Moisés “clamó fuertemente al Señor” y él no sabía cómo Dios podría responder. Honestamente expresando nuestras necesidades en oración es esencial en la vida de fe. Esperar en la apertura de la respuesta de Dios es igualmente importante.

AGUA PARA LOS DEMÁS

La historia de Jesús y la mujer samaritana, como el pasaje del libro del Éxodo, habla de personas cansadas y sedientas. Jesús está cansado y sediento de su viaje. La mujer samaritana no sólo está cansada del quehacer difícil de obtener agua, sino que también está sedienta por algo más. Jesús se presenta ante ella a sí mismo como el agua viva, capaz de satisfacer una sed profunda en su corazón. Mediante su paciencia y compasión, él abre para ella un nuevo manantial del sustento de Dios. ¿Cómo podríamos, como Jesús, ser agua para otras personas en nuestro mundo sediento? Podemos tomar algunas señales de Jesús aquí. Jesús cruza fronteras de género, etnicidad y división religiosa. Jesús empieza vulnerable, con la necesidad de la hospitalidad de una desconocida. Su presencia era compasiva y no amenazante. Jesús no empezó hablando de sí mismo o de Dios, sino que entró en una conversación ordinaria con ella. Él primero atiende a sus necesidades prácticas y preocupaciones, que guían a un diálogo más profundo. Quizá tenemos la oportunidad de seguir el ejemplo de Jesús.

Lecturas de hoy: Ex 17:3–7; Sal 95 (94):1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Rom 5:1–2, 5–8; Jn 4:5–42 [5–15, 19b–26, 39a, 40–42]

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