

Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
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3rd Sunday of Lent

11:00 am March 27, 2011

Intention: +Carrie Klusek Requested by the Klusek family

Healing Intentions: Michelle Mallory Lu Luch
 Martha Shuman Diane Spina
 Lois Bogacki Bill Moran
 Father John Fetcho Jean Horan
 Erika Zalewski Jeanne Klix
 Jeanne Klix Josephine Wicks
 Jon Hall
 and all those in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

Exodus 17: 3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

In their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!" The Lord answered Moses, "*Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.*" This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us greet him with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works.

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reading II

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by
the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have gained access by faith to the grace in which we now stand, and we boast of our hope for the glory of God. And this hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless men. It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just man, though it is barely possible that for a good man someone may have the courage to die. It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel

John 4: 5-42

A reading of the holy gospel according to John

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus had to pass through Samaria, and his journey brought him to a Samaritan town named Shechem near the plot of land which Jacob had given to his son Joseph. This was the site of Jacob's well. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down at the well.

The hour was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "*Give me a drink.*" (His disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink?" (Recall that Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.) Jesus replied:

"If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him instead, and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," she challenged him, "you don't have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this flowing water? Surely you don't pretend to be greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with his sons and his flocks?" Jesus replied,

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty. No, the water I give shall become a foundation within him, leaping up to provide eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Give me this water, sir, so that I won't grow thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "*Go, call your husband, and then come back here.*" "I have no husband," replied the woman. "*You are right in saying you have no husband!*" Jesus exclaimed. "*The fact is, you have had five, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. What you said is true enough.*"

"Sir," answered the woman, "I can see you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship God." Jesus told her:

"Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand, while we understand what we worship; after all, salvation is from the Jews. Yet an hour is coming, and is already here, when authentic worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to him: I know there is a Messiah coming. (This term means Anointed.) When he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus replied, "*I who speak to you am he.*"

His disciples, returning at this point, were surprised that Jesus was speaking with a woman. No one put a question, however, such as "What do you want of her?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The women then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people: "Come and see someone who told me everything I ever did! Could this not be the Messiah?" With that they set out from the town to meet him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he told them, "*I have food to eat of which you do not know.*" At this the disciples said to one another, "You do not suppose anyone has brought him something to eat?" Jesus explained to them:

"Doing the will of him who sent me and bring his work to completion is my food. Do you not have a saying: 'Four months more and it will be harvest!?' Listen to what I say: Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest! The reaper already collects his wages and gathers a yield for eternal life, that sower and reaper may rejoice together. Here we have the saying verified: 'One man sows; another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you had not worked for. Others have done the labor, and you have come into their gain."

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him on the strength of the woman's word of testimony: "He told me everything I ever did." The result was that, when these Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So he stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. As they told the woman: "No longer does our faith depend on your story. We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the Savior of the world."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts from the Pulpit

Living Water

*God shows his care for his people by providing water for them in the desert – 1st Reading

*The most extraordinary Gift of God (The Living Water) is God's Love for people – 2nd Reading

*Jesus Christ, the Living Water, And the Messiah, approaches to the outcast woman and offers her the Living Water – the Gospel

The Samaritan woman who came to the well at noon to draw water for her household met Jesus the Messiah, waiting for her to offer the Living Water.

She was an unhappy woman. She was an outcast in her community. The fact that she came to the well at noon suggests her being an outcast. Women usually went to the well in the early morning.

"If you only knew the gift God wants to give you" – Jesus' words to the lost woman of Samaria, and to every one of us.

Jesus helped her discover her own dignity and her own worth. Thanks to Jesus, she underwent an extraordinary inner transformation. She reached to the core of her dignity – the image of God.

Jesus has tried already many times to help us discover our own indestructible core of goodness – the image of God. It is on this only that the future has to be built: the family, the community, the church. This is indeed the living water.

Amen.



Announcements

Please join us this morning for coffee hour. **Adult Bible Study** will meet at 12:30 in the old school room (to the left of the office). Bring in your coffee and join us for a discussion of Genesis, Chapters 4-5. Due to the annual meeting next week, adult Bible study will resume on **Sunday, April 10.**

The nominating committee finalized parish committee nominations **this week.** See the insert in today's bulletin for the ballot that will come before the congregation next Sunday at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting is scheduled for **next Sunday, April 3,** following Holy Mass and the YMS of R Breakfast. Please mark your calendars for this important opportunity to complete the business of our parish. Thank you!

Weekly Calendar

- Wednesday, March 30 4:00 pm Choir practice 
- Thursday, March 31 5:00 Polish language class @ Solvay Youth Center,
Woods Road, Solvay
- Friday, March 25  **Birth of Bp. Francis Hodur**
- Sunday, March 27 **Lent 4**
Intention: +Frank Fidura Requested by Pat and Steve Zalewski
- 10:30 Youth Bible Study
11:00 Holy Mass
12:00 YMS of R Breakfast
12:45 **ANNUAL MEETING**

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 3,
following the YMS of R Breakfast

Community French Toast Breakfast
Saturday, April 9

Financial Corner

Week of	Weekly Income	Weekly Income Needed	Balance
March 6	\$821	\$673	\$148
March 13	\$654	\$673	-\$19
March 20	\$398	\$673	-\$275
TOTALS	\$1873	\$2019	-\$146