

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter
March 20, 2022

My Dear Parishioners,

A couple just recently approached me and said that this coming summer they will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, and they asked me if I could help them renew their vows. Of course I said yes.

The celebrating of wedding anniversaries and the renewal of vows are one the most joyful things that a priest or deacon can do—and one of the most joyful things that family and friends can celebrate. I know that there are many couples who reached milestone anniversaries during the covid lockdown—25, 40, 50, or even 60 years or more and, sadly, because of the lockdown, could not properly celebrate them. So, on behalf of our deacons, I am making an offer to help ‘make up for lost time’ and to help anyone couple who wishes to renew their vows. This could be done in church, in the context of Holy Mass, or can be done as a ceremony, and the ceremony could be done either in church or at another venue. If you are interested, please just reach out to the office or to myself or one of our deacons personally.

This week we are presented with the image of Moses and the Burning Bush and are reminded of the power of awareness.

The fire of the burning bush is symbolic of a Divine Presence. The fire can be seen as the symbolic presence of Jesus Christ, the true light of the world. It can be seen as the presence of the Holy Spirit, who warms the hearts of the faithful. Some Saints have even said that the Burning Bush represents our Blessed Mother, who had the fire of the Divine Presence in her and yet remained unconsumed—remained ever a virgin.

The Burning Bush is also symbolic of the Church. The unconsumed bush is the Divine Presence abiding within the Church, and the fire is a people burning with the love of God. The Burning Bush is also symbolic of a Church always facing persecution on the outside yet always remaining faithful on the inside.

We see that Moses was curious about the burning bush, which meant that he was very much aware of everything that was going on around him. His awareness then led him to a very unexpected and life changing encounter with God.

God, in return, then calls Moses by name and assures Moses that He is not a new or strange God but the same God as His forefathers. As such, God is not asking Moses to establish a new religion, but to bring the Israelites home to the religion of their forefathers. He is also stressing that He is the God of all, both the living and dead, and as the God of the living and the dead, He is a God of Power and Hope.

My friends, we see that when we are aware of what is going on around us, not what is on cable news but what is personally going on around us, we have that same opportunity as Moses for an unexpected and life changing encounter with God.

I have included in this week’s newsletter some remarks by Pope Francis on the Gospel passage of the woman at the well.

Let us continue to lay siege to Heaven for peace and justice in our world, in our own country, and in our cities.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko, Pastor





Pope Francis, Angelus Address

Saint Peter's Square

Third Sunday of Lent, 19 March 2017

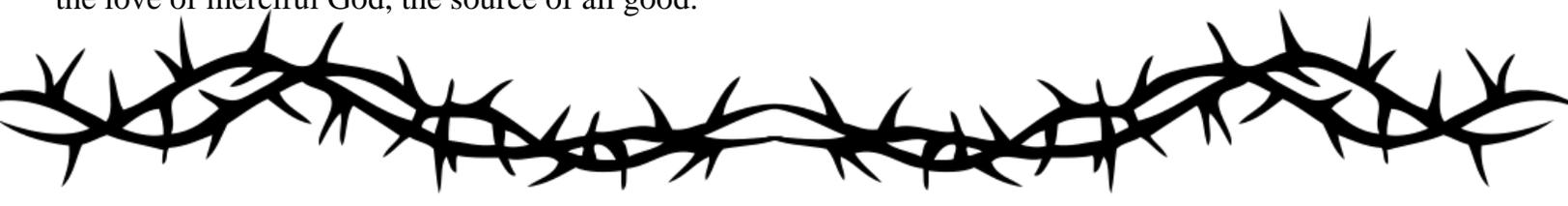
Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

The Gospel for this Third Sunday of Lent presents Jesus' dialogue with the Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4:5-42). The encounter takes place as Jesus is crossing Samaria, a region between Judea and Galilee inhabited by people whom the Hebrews despised, considering them schismatic and heretical. But this very population would be one of the first to adhere to the Christian preaching of the Apostles. While the disciples go into the village to buy food, Jesus stays near a well and asks a woman for a drink; she had come there to draw water. From this request a dialogue begins. "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?". Jesus responded: If you knew who I am, and the gift I have for you, you would have asked me for and I would have given you "living water", a water that satisfies all thirst and becomes a boundless spring in the heart of those who drink it (cf. vv. 9-14).

Going to the well to draw water is burdensome and tedious; it would be lovely to have a gushing spring available! But Jesus speaks of a different water. When the woman realizes that the man she is speaking with is a prophet, she confides in him her own life and asks him religious questions. Her thirst for affection and a full life had not been satisfied by the five husbands she had had, but instead, she had experienced disappointment and deceit. Thus, the woman was struck by the great respect Jesus had for her, and when he actually spoke to her of true faith as the relationship with God the Father "in spirit and truth", she realized that this man could be the Messiah, and Jesus does something extremely rare — he confirms it: "I who speak to you am he" (v. 26). He says he is the Messiah to a woman who had such a disordered life.

Dear brothers and sisters, the water that gives eternal life was poured into our hearts on the day of our Baptism; then God transformed and filled us with his grace. But we may have forgotten this great gift that we received, or reduced it to a merely official statistic; and perhaps we seek "wells" whose water does not quench our thirst. When we forget the true water, we go in search of wells that do not have clean water. Thus this Gospel passage actually concerns us! Not just the Samaritan woman, but us. Jesus speaks to us as he does to the Samaritan woman. Of course, we already know him, but perhaps we have not yet encountered him personally. We know who Jesus is, but perhaps we have not countered him personally, spoken with him, and we still have not recognized him as our Savior. This Season of Lent is a good occasion to draw near to him, to counter him in prayer in a heart-to-heart dialogue; to speak with him, to listen to him. It is a good occasion to see his face in the face of a suffering brother or sister. In this way we can renew in ourselves the grace of Baptism, quench our thirst at the wellspring of the Word of God and of his Holy Spirit; and in this way, also discover the joy of becoming artisans of reconciliation and instruments of peace in daily life.

May the Virgin Mary help us to draw constantly from grace, from the water that springs from the rock that is Christ the Savior, so that we may profess our faith with conviction and joyfully proclaim the wonders of the love of merciful God, the source of all good.



LENT 2022

Reflect. Repent. Restore.

*Our Lady of the
Sacred Heart Church*

Hilltown, PA



Stations of the Cross

Fridays

March 4 – April 15
7:00 PM ~ Church



P3 Prayer

Sunday, March 20th
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Church



Lenten Fish Fry

Friday, March 25th
4:30 – 6:30 PM
Cafeteria

Parish Mission

Sunday, March 27th
“An Invitation to have fun”
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Monday, March 28th
“An Invitation to introspection”
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Tuesday, March 29th
“An Invitation to respond”
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Mission Speaker:
Bob Lesnefsky



Parish Confessions

Thursday, April 7th
4:00 – 5:00 PM
7:00 – 7:30 PM
Church

Daily Mass

Monday - Saturday
7:30 AM ~ Church



Rosary

Monday – Friday
7:00 AM ~ Church
Saturday
8:00 AM ~ Church
Sunday
10:30 AM ~ Church



Adoration of Our Lord

Wednesdays ~ Church
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Fridays
8:00 AM ~ Church



Life in the Spirit

Sundays
9:15 AM ~ Gymnasium

Kick-Off to our

Parish Mission

COME JOIN US FOR

COFFEE

and

DONUTS



**SUNDAY
MARCH**

27

8AM - 1PM

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cafe
100 Broad Street • Hilltown**



Sponsored by Life in the Spirit