



## Third Sunday of Lent March 20, 2022

Merciful and gracious  
is the Lord,  
slow to anger and  
abounding in kindness.

— Psalm 103:8

### HOLY GROUND

Moses met God in a most astounding way in the bush that was burning but not consumed by fire. Moses clearly had a powerful encounter with the Lord. He even felt bold enough to ask God's name, something unheard of among his people at the time—God's name was unspeakable. Moses stood on holy ground. Do we not also stand on holy ground? As people who are created in God's image and drawn to Christ through the waters of Baptism, we have been filled with God's grace and goodness. The ground of our lives is holy. Lent is a time when we are called to open our minds and hearts to Christ, rely on God's patient mercy, and to grow as God's holy people.

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### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

#### Third Sunday of Lent

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

#### Reflection:

Undertake an examination of conscience this week and pray for God's loving mercy.

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30  
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 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: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23  
Friday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38  
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14  
Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent; Spring begins  
Wednesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo  
Friday: Annunciation of the Lord; Abstinence

### PRIDE

What better proof of your pride could you have given than to claim you were not proud?

—St. John Climacus

### Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **March** offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection basket or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation.

3/13: summary provided soon.

3/20: Cath Relief Serv/Camp Human Dev. 3/27: Rural Food.



### Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council [PC]:** Wed., 3/30/22, at 4pm on Zoom  
**Finance Council [FC]:** Tues., 3/22/22, at 3pm on Zoom  
**Liturgy Committee [LC]:** Fri., 4/01/22, at 9:45am in Hall  
**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044  
**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

### ✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

3/19 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
3/20 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Hugh Peterson  
3/20 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ William "JK" McGill  
3/20 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People  
3/25 Fri. 9am ✠ Lucille Munson  
3/26 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
3/27 Sun. 8am Mass John Geving  
3/27 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Timothy Patrick Bonnel  
3/27 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People

### Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Parson P., Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Sherry S., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick Kasl, John Geving

### RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MARCH 2022

On Tuesday, March 8, warm sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts were waiting for our Rural Food recipients. Clients were able to select a style and fabric that would work best for their needs. This additional offering was made available by parishioners who provided gently used clothing and coordinated by a Rural Food Volunteer.

Sixty-four families, (153 individuals) selected fresh produce, milk, eggs, poultry, beef, fish or vegetarian items, commodities, snacks and bread. All are welcome to receive nutritional support from our Program.

We have opened the hall to in-person shopping by clients to choose specific foods from our program for their families. It also allows volunteers to re connect with clients we haven't been in touch with since COVID.

If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information and to answer your questions.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area: Saturday, April 9, 9-10:00am repackaging; Monday, April 11, 9:00 - 11:00am set up; and Tuesday, April 12, 7:30-11:00am to distribute food to clients.



[Christ and the Woman of Samaria is a painting by Francesco Solimena](#)

### **Jesus initiates a conversation**

*Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down . . . at a well . . . A woman of Samaria came to draw water . . . “Give me a drink,” he said.*

Before we go any further let’s learn what we can about this woman.

She belongs to an unorthodox branch of the Hebrew tradition, long hostile to its Jewish cousins. She is locked into the prejudices and discrimination of such a relationship. She is a creature of habit. As a woman she is second-class, subordinate to her menfolk. She comes back and forth every day to a cistern (*not* a well but a seasonal catch-all of rain – stagnant water). She is surprised that a Jewish traveler even speaks to her, considering Jews treat Samaritans as untouchable. Asserting her own tribe’s worth she asks whether the Jews have anything so sacred as this watering hole given to her people by the patriarch Jacob and actually used by him centuries ago. Still that she is a creature of habit is also shown by the fact that she has been married five times.

What we have here is a person going nowhere, stuck in place, bored with life, no personal name, described only as “a woman”. Until Jesus opens her up with “Give me a drink,” and

evokes a voice out of her that asks questions! She is forced to emerge from her status quo, her everyday trance. Where does it lead her?

She begins to see this moment as a gift of God, a deconstruction of all her learned fixations, her collective, impersonal prejudices, her cultural narrow mindedness. So used to stale water, she begins to taste the fresh, flowing water of a conversation with Jesus who reminds her that everyone as mentally parched as she will always be thirsty but that if she opens up to the refreshment he offers – a life of grace, vitality, love, curiosity – she herself will become an actual well-spring, overflowing with understanding and graceful living – refreshing to everyone she meets – especially to herself. [>youtube link](#)



Which does happen. Look how energized she becomes following this conversation with Jesus. She tosses her bucket aside, runs back to town, tells everybody about this person she met . . . and the whole town comes alive. All triggered off by that initial solicitation: “Give me a drink – release upon me all your dynamic self and refresh me with your personality.”

And today that request initiates a conversation with *you*. Christ thirsts for you; do you thirst for Christ and his experience of reality? Sometimes people become so hardened, like rock, that water can’t penetrate – but our first reading shows that even a heart of stone can be breached – and itself become fluid with faith, hope and love.

As today’s psalm advises: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

(Cycle A option)

-Geoff Wood, 3/20/22

### **Announcement about AMA**

### **Annual Ministry Appeal 2022**

The work of the Annual Ministry Appeal is at heart your work, the work to which you are oriented by the Baptism: the service of God through service of your brothers and sisters in Christ. By making a gift to the Annual Ministry Appeal,

**ONE FAMILY IN MISSION,**

you are able to touch souls and change lives throughout our Diocese. Thank you to all who have already pledged, moving us closer to our goal as a parish community.

Father Bala, Pastor

### **As The Soul Prospers**

<http://asthesoulprospers.blogspot.com/>

Each week Pat Griffith writes a reflection based on the upcoming Sunday scriptures and posts them to the above blog.” Pat is a member of St. Philip’s and has been writing reflections since 2006. He has led Bible studies and taught Old Testament classes. “As the soul prospers” is taken from a verse in the Third Letter of John, and is an inspiration for reflecting on how every aspect of our human condition can and should reflect the completeness and prosperity of the soul. **You can access the blog any time. The weekly email notification has additional thoughts and notice of additional blogs.**