

MARCH 12, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 17: 3-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

John 4: 5-42

From Subsistence to Eternal Life

People experience angst. The angst slides into malaise.

At one moment, a person is upset because there is much that agitates him or her. Then, after feeling overwhelmed by that which caused angst one gives up "the fight". Hopelessness and haplessness set in. It becomes enough just to subsist. Is this familiar to you?

It struck me that the woman at the well was at the stage of subsistence. She might have been thinking, "Let me get my daily bucket of water and get on with the rest of the day." But then, she meets Jesus at the well, the second person of the Trinity of God. He is true God and true man. What a chance encounter with her creator.

At first the woman seems a bit annoyed with Jesus. Yet, as the encounter goes on, she is awakened. Jesus reveals to her who she is. The woman is compelled to leave her bucket of water behind, run to call others, and exclaim, "come see a man who told me everything I have done, could he be the Christ?"

Does she represent the whole of the Jewish people at that time? Have they all reached the moment they no longer looked forward to the coming of the Messiah? Had everyone reached the point of malaise? They might have been thinking, "Maybe the Christ will come and maybe he won't. Let us all just get along with the day." They were just subsisting.

Does not the journey of faith through life reach moments when one is merely subsisting?

How is your journey of faith going? Is it similar to the woman's journey? Is it merely subsisting? Are you going to an empty well of sorts? Do you see a way past the moment to something greater, to something everlasting?

In the first reading from the Book of Exodus, Moses seems to be having a stressful day. "What will I do

with this people? A little more and they will stone me!"

The people Moses must lead have about given up with this journey he has led them on. At this moment they are probably thinking, "sure God is speaking to you." They are skeptical. They will rebel soon, and it will not be well for Moses. But God stands with his man.

God gives Moses instructions. God leads Moses and expects the man to do as he is told. It is a moment when God is encouraging Moses to trust him. "I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb."

Moses decides to trust God. He does as God directs and strikes the rock and water flows out of it. It is just what the people need. God supplies them with their needs and the act is done through His servant, Moses. Moses is then credited by the people with this deed. For a while trust is reestablished between Moses and the people. They are back on their way to the promised land, to their salvation from Egypt.

What angst are you experiencing (if you are)? Have you reached a moment when it seems you are just sustaining your prayer life? Perhaps Jesus is waiting for you at the well.

What is said in the second reading, the letter to the Romans, might be helpful. "We have been justified by faith; we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...."

We have been "justified", that is "put right" with God. This is what God does. His actions are what put us right with him. We human beings tend to take on things by ourselves, act independent, take solo charge of ourselves. Rather, God likes to work *with* us.

God does not take over your life so as to make you void of being yourself. God works in you and through you to build you up to be who you are to be. You are unique. And, as you go to God and permit God to guide you, life becomes a bit more fulfilled. A path of sorts, opens in front of you. The way appears clearer. Like the woman you find out about yourself. Suddenly, the vision of the future of your life does not seem to be such a drudgery. Hope rises. The sense of being helpless diminishes. God's love is proven and it becomes apparent that God has been and is with humanity and all of creation. Order becomes

clear and there is direction. Like the woman at the well you are awakened! Now an eternal life of fulfillment looks possible.

This Lent come to the Lord. Come to worship and celebrate with all the people of Blessed Sacrament Church. Move from mere subsistence to Eternal Life.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1Sam16:1b,6-7,10-13a;Eph5:8-14;Jn9:1-41

STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talent, Tithing

**It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself.
It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.**

Attendance last week: 368
Tithes Collected: \$8,828.50
Online Giving: \$776.00
Total: \$9,604.50
Per Capita: \$26.10

**2nd Collection for Church
In Latin America: \$302.00**

Thank You!

STEWARDSHIP

Operation Utility Bag

You folks are so good! Many of you have taken home a "Utility Bag" to save up change for the St. Vincent de Paul Society work. Thanks. Keep up the good work.

SPIRITUALITY

Stations of the Cross

Every Thursday Evening During Lent

7:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

6:30 to 6:55pm

This is a unique Scriptural Way of the Cross.
Children like it because they are able to follow around the church with Father or the Deacon.

Archdiocese of Miami

65th Anniversary

Destination Gala

November 9-12, 2023

Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic

For information for this Destination Gala event, please contact events@theadom.org or (305)762-1051

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Jackson Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 11

4:00 p.m. † Julius Delisio by Friends
 † Gerald Meara & Regina Barone by Rose & Anthony

Sunday, March 12

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
 10:45 a.m. † Azucena Mosquera by Alprecht Family

Monday, March 13

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, March 14

8:00 a.m. † Joan Joyce by Selma Cardona

Wednesday, March 15

8:00 a.m. † Michael Mehallick by Tim D'Aprollonia

Thursday, March 16

8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Parish

Friday, March 17

8:00 a.m. † Joan Joyce by Parish

Saturday, March 18

4:00 p.m. † Josephine Marotta by Family Coral Ridge Towers St. Joseph Devotees by Friends

Sunday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
 10:45 a.m. † Daniel Martinez by Gino Aitro