

**3rd SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 8, 2026**

If one went through the Sacred Scriptures, one would be struck by the multitude images of water and water-related images. For a desert people life formed by water and affected by water is a given, in a particular way. The sparseness of water and the keen understanding of its absolute necessity in their lives constantly form how they look at the world. As humans we spend nine months in our mother's wombs, this warm liquid-world, forming us as human beings. Naturally, we learn to appreciate this process and see how we view even our relationship with God; hence the many references to water in the Scriptures.

In our part of the world, we are blessed with an abundance of water and may be lulled into taking it all for granted, last summer being the exception. With the effects of climate warming and a growing sensitivity to its effects on our daily lives, have led to a clearer consciousness of this reality.

In this week's readings, from the need for water in the desert for the Chosen race to the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well, powerful reflections open our mind to God's presence: images of quenching of thirst to the fundamental necessity of water in our lives. Lent always has a quality of crossing a desert and the radical need for water, images leading us to a deeper relationship with God.

In one of Pope Francis' first encyclicals, *Laudate Si*, we were invited to a keener understanding and appreciation of our place in the ecological world we find ourselves. He challenged us to see our place within the natural world and also to protect it actively. As believers, we appreciate this relationship which allows us to see our intimacy with God.

Blessings of peace! Fr. Don

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Do not forget to change your time devices on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, signalling the coming of Spring.