



March 12th, 2023 3rd Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
Fr. Henry Email: frhenrys@gmail.com
Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
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Office hours: Monday to Friday
 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
 after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – March 11th – 19th 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Intentions of Dorothy M. Deveau
Sun. 11:15 am Codie Saulnier
Tues. 9am Richard Essenca
Tues. 6:30 pm Reconciliation Service
Wed. 6:30 pm Anniv. Rose Purdy
Thurs: 9 am Special Intention
Fri. 9 am Anniv. Richard Bradshaw
Sat. 4 pm William Letteney
Sun. 9 am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Caroline Saulnier Duncan & Steven
 Saulnier Sr.

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am March 12 Intentions of Alden Maillet
Sun. 10 am March 19 Pauline Cottreau

COMING THIS LENT ... DIVINE MERCY IN THE SECOND GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD:



Thursdays of Lent, I (Fr. Henry) will be doing a video series on Divine Mercy. Divine Mercy has been called the second greatest story ever told (the Bible being the greatest). The series is "an amazing visual

presentation that will challenge and enthrall you." It runs for 5 weeks every Thursday evening at 6:30 in the Jubilee Room. Check out the preview on our main webpage. Please come and join me this lent. Sign-up is not required.

REFLECTION: Living Water for a Thirsty Soul Jesus



came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." Today, throughout the world, Catholic liturgies will celebrate the first of three Scrutinies of those adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The word "scrutiny" comes from the Latin word *scrutari* which means an inquiry, close examination or search of something. It originally referred to rummaging through rubbish so as to find something of value. In a sense, this is what God does with all of us. When we first turn to Him, He sorts through the disorder of our fallen human nature and our sins so as to point to the goodness and beauty of the child He created. As for the liturgical rite that will be celebrated in churches throughout the world today, the *Right of Christian Initiation of Adults* describes it as follows: "The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good" (#141). The Gospel story we read today depicts this action beautifully. It is the long and inspiring story of the woman at the well. This story is filled with symbolism, much of which the casual reader could easily miss.

To begin, it is important to prayerfully imagine the scene. Jesus was all alone sitting next to Jacob's Well around noon. Few women would come to the well at that time of day due to the heat. But this woman came at this time because she knew others would not be around. She was a sinner, and many of the other women of the town knew it. Therefore, in an attempt to avoid them and avoid feeling shame, she came at a time when she could avoid the other women. So, the first thing to consider is the suffering this woman was enduring because of her shame and embarrassment over her sinful life.

As she approached the well, she was surprised to hear Jesus ask her for a drink. She was a Samaritan. Jews generally considered Samaritans as ritually unclean. For that reason, Jews would not drink from their vessels. But Jesus broke this unholy custom and looked at her as a daughter of God with innate dignity and value as He engaged her in conversation.

Within the heat of the day, Jesus spoke lovingly to this woman and said, "Give me a drink." Saint Augustine states that, symbolically speaking, Jesus thirsted for her soul, for her salvation. He longed to give her the grace soon to be won through His Cross. Her willing reception of this gift would also bring satiation to the Heart of our Lord. Jesus didn't dwell upon her past; He knew all about it. He could read her soul. All He wanted to do was to rummage through the sin and rubbish that was cluttering her soul so as to discover her dignity within. If she were to allow Jesus to offer her this mercy, not only would she receive true Living Water to quench her spiritual thirst, she would also satiate the spiritual thirst in the soul of our Lord that could only be satiated by the dispensing of His mercy.

As we celebrate the Scrutinies this Sunday, reflect upon this woman at the well. First, she is a symbol of every person coming to faith in Christ and preparing for the Living Water of Baptism this Easter. But she is also a symbol of your own soul, to the extent that it has become cluttered with the rubbish of sin and disorder. Do not let shame, fear or a sense of unworthiness deter you from engaging in this same conversation with our Lord. Hear Him say to you that He thirsts for you and longs to be satiated by the sacred act of the ongoing bestowal of His Divine Mercy, poured forth through the Living Water superabundantly given to you at your baptism.
- My Catholic Life

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: will happen every Friday during Lent at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral at 6:30pm.



Each week, it will be led by a different group.

FISH CHOWDER FRIDAYS: We will be offering take out fish chowder on the Fridays of Lent. If you wish to purchase the chowder, we ask you to call the parish office by Friday morning to reserve your order. The cost is \$6.00 and



it may be picked up at the Marian Hall doors between 4:00 and 5:00. Proceeds go toward youth who will be attending the Steubenville Atlantic.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. -The Didache



KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting: Tuesday March 14th, all members invited 6:00pm executive meeting 7:00pm general meeting



Community Breakfast: March 26th 9:00 to 12:00 cost is \$10.00 Adults and 12 and under \$7.00. Take outs are also available.

CHURCH CLEANING: It's been a while since we had a crew of parishioners in to clean the church. You might remember we used to do this once or twice every year. It would be good once again, to give our place of worship an extra good cleaning. Please join us on Monday March 20th at 9:00am if you are able. Bring a bucket and gloves. Many hands make light work. Fr. Henry



COFFEE SOCIALS: Sunday, March 18th & 19th, the coffee socials will be held after all the masses in the Jubilee Room Come join us for a cup.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Anyone wishing to have a copy of the parish financial statement for 2022, it is now available for pick up at the main office.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There will be a reconciliation service Tuesday March 14th at 6:30 pm here at St. Ambrose. Why not make this Easter extra special with feeling the deep forgiveness this sacrament can give?



STEUBENVILLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE: There will be an information session in the Jubilee Room in the church on Sunday March 19th following the 11:15 mass. This meeting is for youth going into high school in September and peer leaders ages 19 & 20 that would be interested in attending the Steubenville Atlantic High School Conference in Halifax this summer.

