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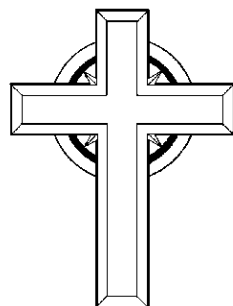


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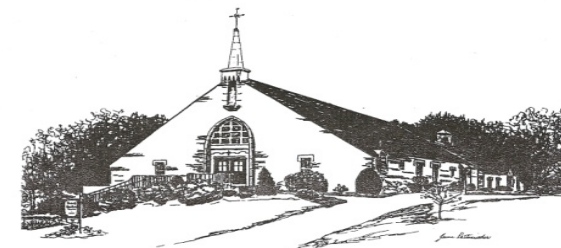
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John 4:14

Whoever drinks the water I shall give  
will never thirst

Gospel of the Week

John 4: 5-42

March 24, 2019

Third Sunday of Lent

**Finding God, finding Life (deeper things)**

'The purpose of Lent is finding the direction of life' (Pope Francis). There is not a single person who does not come to ask themselves what their direction in life is? What is my purpose? What direction should I take? How many times have we been at the 'crossroads' of life?

The readings this week give us an answer-the direction of life is found in living (thirsting) for 'deeper things'. As we live at a deeper level, we find God and we find Life and life's meaning.

The first Reading from Exodus (meaning *journey*), we listen to the desert stories or complaint stories of Israel. If Egypt was a place of slavery and death, the desert was a place of human anxiety and neediness. Why did you bring us here?, they ask Moses. The people are on the edge, grumbling and murmuring. They need (thirst for) water and they are ready to attack Moses. Moses appeals to God who instructs him to use 'the stuff' he used to strike and part the seas, hit the rock and give them water to drink. (Water means 'life')

Might we all see ourselves in the Israelites too? We can be a very demanding people too. Our immediate or surface needs and wants can surely get the best of us. God however wants to give us 'more'. The thirst for water hides a deeper thirst for 'life' and God only can give this. So finding God is finding life.

Jesus comes into the world as final proof that God will spare nothing in proving that He alone can satisfy our hunger and thirsts, but we must go out and encounter Him. The story of the Samaritan woman at the well is powerful. Jesus (a Jew) crosses into a Samaritan town (this was a no, no!) He sits and converses with a woman (a no, no). Their conversation begins with a request for water but leads into 'deeper things'. Looking beyond 'the surfaces' of boundaries of gender, race, and religion — Jesus — the woman goes out and tells the townspeople "come and see a man who told me everything I have done." Jesus is the living water (no need of cisterns). He is a prophet. He urges a new way of living in Spirit and truth. He is the Savior of the world. Finding Jesus is finding Life.

Whenever we bring into our daily work life's happenings, interactions, relationships and events, the outlook of Jesus, we live at a deeper level. We live for deeper things. Our work life and social life will be an opportunity to enrich others with Jesus' philosophy of life. The poor, helpless or those rejected will be more than objects of pity or use, but brothers and sisters of Jesus. So, what then might be our challenge?

Live for something deeper; see beyond the surfaces; bring a deeper outlook to life's events and happenings by putting on the attitude of Jesus. Thirst deeper. When we do, we find God already waiting for us. We will find 'Life'.

A blessed week in the Lord!



Jesus heals the man born blind  
John 9,1-12)

The **Second** Scrutiny  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 31, 2019

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.