

Dear Friends,

The Gospel relates the story of the Samaritan woman who encountered Jesus at Jacob's well. In that story, Jesus offered her a kind of water that is different. He called it "Living water". We might also call it "water of life". The water that the woman came to draw can be said to be "water of life" of a kind. It is the kind that sustain physical life. That explains the mistake of the woman in thinking that Jesus was talking about the water in Jacob's well. Obviously, Jesus was speaking about a different kind of water, the kind that sustains spiritual life. That kind of water does not come from any well. It is not to be found in any river or sea. That water is personified, and the person is Jesus Christ. He is the living water, the true Water of life.

When Jesus initiated a conversation with the woman at the well, she was gradually drawn into a spiritual life changing experience. The Samaritan woman moved from letting her defenses down and becoming a listener, then a believer, and finally a witness to what she believes. Such is the journey of faith to which each of us are called to experience. Jesus is for the human soul what physical water is for the body. The body needs physical water in order to stay alive. In the same way, the soul needs Jesus, the water of life, to stay alive. Or, to put it differently, the soul that has Jesus is truly alive.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that if she asked, he would give her living water. That is how we too can receive the living water, which is Jesus: by asking. We must ask Jesus in prayers to give himself to us. We must ask as often as we can, persistently, because "Everyone who asks receives..." (Luke 11:10). The Samaritan woman asked eventually, and she received, she became the apostle to the Samaritans, the first to announce the Good News to her fellow Samaritans.

Lent offers us a special time to revive our deep thirst for God by faithfully participating in the sacramental life of the Church. I am inviting you to the Parish Lenten Penance Service holding this week Wednesday, March 22nd at 7:00PM. We will have several Priests to hear confessions in both English and Spanish. How cool it will be if the confessional becomes that 'Jacob's well' where we encounter Jesus for a dialogue that leads to discipleship.

Have a Blessed Weekend

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP

Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma

Experimentamos en la profundidad de nuestro ser un hambre profunda y una sed por el Dios viviente. Estamos invitados a conocer esa necesidad pero a no desesperar como nuestros ancestros lo hicieron en el desierto. Dios nos alimenta y nos nutre. Dios satisface nuestra sed si nos abrimos al amor transformante de Dios. Como la Samaritana, estamos llamado a estar abiertos a las aguas de vida que nos da Cristo. Como ella, estamos llamados a ser agentes del amor transformante de Dios en nuestro mundo ¿Quiénes en nuestras vidas necesitan que seamos agentes del amor de Dios para ellos? ¿Qué en nuestro mundo necesita la acción y transformación de Dios?

Third Sunday of Lent

We experience at the depth of our being a deep hunger and thirst for the living God. We are invited to know that need, but not to despair as our ancestors did in the desert. God does feed and nourish us. God does quench our thirst, if we let ourselves be open to God's transforming love. Like the Samaritan woman we are called to be open to the waters of life given to us in Christ. Like her we are called to be agents of God's transformative love in our world. Who in our lives needs us to be an agent of God's love for them? What in our world is in need of God's action and transformation?

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY MARCH 19
 NO First Communion Class
 Pro-Life Open House (after 9 am Mass)

MONDAY MARCH 20

TUESDAY MARCH 21
 8 am Men's Group—OLOG Room
 6 pm TNMC—OLG Rm

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22
 5:30 Faith Formation
 7 pm Parish Penance Service

THURSDAY MARCH 23
 3 pm Ministry Meeting
 6 pm RCIA -St. Stephen Room

FRIDAY MARCH 24
 5:30-7:30 pm Fish Fry-Youth
 6 pm Station of the Cross (English)
 7 pm Station of the Cross (Spanish)
 7:30 pm Grupo de Oracion

SATURDAY MARCH 25

SUNDAY March 26
 10 am First Communion Class

Mass Intentions

| | | | |
|-------|--------|---------------------|---|
| Sat. | Mar 18 | 5:30 pm | Don Kohring + |
| Sun. | Mar 19 | 9:00 am 11:00 am | Megan Romero (Health) Maria Mendoza + |
| Mon. | Mar 20 | 6:00 am | |
| Tues. | Mar 21 | 6:00 pm | Thomas Nguyen + |
| Wed. | Mar 22 | 8:30 am | Nicholas Johnson (Health) |
| Thurs | Mar 23 | 8:30 am | Nicholas Pritchett |
| Fri | Mar 24 | 12:00pm | Brent Romero + |
| Sat | Mar 25 | 5:30 pm | Don Kohring + |
| Sun | Mar 26 | 9:00 am 11:00 am | Maria Mroz + For the Parishioners of St. Stephen |

**Grupo de Mujeres
Hispanas**
 Seguirá reuniéndose todos los Miércoles a las 6:30 de la tarde. Para mas información hablen con la señora Elsa Olalde.

FAITH FORMATION

NO First Communion Classes March 19, 2017

Ministry Schedule for March 25-26, 2017

| Mass | Lector | Altar Servers | Ushers / Greeters | Ministers of Eucharist |
|----------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 5:30 PM | E Cerda J McGregor | J Young J McGregor | L Nix D Broecker P Broecker | W Faulkner F Pajestka L Simonette J Morin P Watson |
| 9:00 AM | L Rohaly J Fulfer | J Delio L Hossfield A Patton | T Buckley D Lumpkin B Johnson | Deacon Ernie G Pritchett K Cross J Rodriguez C Brown |
| 11:00 AM | E de la Hoya S Villarreal | F Ramirez J Perez S Perez D Arias M Hernandez K de Jesus | B Rocha J Rocha M Villafranco | E Olalde Carmen T B Jaramillo S Giral J Villarreal |



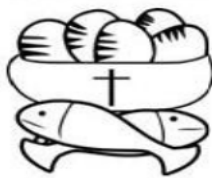
The Amazing Grace Gift Shop is now officially open after all the masses.
 If you would like to help, Please contact Mary Riley for more information. 254-231-8784.

Monetary Stewardship

Collection Last Week:
Regular: \$ 3,426.00
Online: \$ 289.54
Total \$ 3,715.54

remembering the words of the Lord who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

Join Us Every Friday During Lent



FISH FRY

5:30-7:30 pm in the Parish Hall

ALL Proceeds benefit the St. Stephen Youth Group

BAPTISM CLASSES

Baptism classes are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Please call the office to register for the class (254) 947-8037

CLASES DE BAUTISMO

Las clases de Bautismo son el primer jueves de cada mes a las 7 pm, para registrarse hablar a la oficina para (254) 947-8037

Easter Eggs Donations



St. Stephen will host annual Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the parish at 10:30 am on Easter Sunday, April 16.

We are asking for donations of plastic eggs, candy and small items to put in the eggs. Please bring donations to the church office or place in the baskets in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Stations of the Cross
 Every Friday during Lent
 6:00 pm in English
 7:00 pm in Spanish



Parish Lenten Penance Service

Wednesday, March 22 at 7 pm



PRO-LIFE

Pro-Life will have Open House on Sunday 26, March after 9 am Mass.