



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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JESUS, THIRSTY AND TIRED

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 8, 2026

This Sunday, the Gospel presents to us one of the most beautiful and fascinating encounters Jesus has — the one with the Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4:5-42). Jesus and his disciples take a break near a well in Samaria. A woman arrives and Jesus says to her, "Give me a drink" (v. 7). I would like to pause specifically on this expression: Give me a drink.

This scene depicts Jesus, thirsty and tired. A Samaritan woman finds him at the hottest hour, at midday, asking for refreshment like a beggar. It is an image of God's abasement. God lowers himself in Jesus Christ for our redemption. He comes to us. In Jesus, God made himself one of us, he lowered himself. Thirsty like us, he suffers our same thirst. Thinking about this scene, each one of us can say: the Lord, the Teacher, "asks me for a drink. So, he is thirsty like me. He shares my thirst. You are truly near me, Lord! You are linked to my poverty." I can't believe it! "You have grasped me from below, from the lowest part of myself, where no one reaches me" (P. Mazzolari, *La Samaritana*, Bologna 2022, 55-56). And you have come to me from below and you have grasped me from below because you were thirsting and thirst for me. In fact, Jesus' thirst is not only physical. It expresses the deepest thirsts of our lives, and it is, above all, a thirst for our love. He is more than a beggar. He "is thirsty" for our love. And this will emerge at the culminating moment of his passion, on the cross, where, before dying, Jesus will say: "I thirst" (Jn 19:28). That thirst for love brought him to descend, to lower himself, to be one of us.

But the Lord who asks for a drink is the One who gives to drink. Meeting the Samaritan woman, he speaks to her about the Holy Spirit's living water. And from the cross, blood and water flow from his pierced side (cf. Jn 19:34). Thirsty for love, Jesus quenches our thirst with love. And he does with us what he did with the Samaritan woman — he comes to meet us in our daily life, he shares our thirst, he promises us living water that makes eternal life well up within us.

Give me a drink. There is a second aspect. These words are not only a request from Jesus to the Samaritan woman, but a cry — silent at times — that reaches us every day and asks us to take care of someone else's thirst. 'Give me a drink', say those who thirst for closeness, for attention, for a listening ear, in our family, at work, in other places we find ourselves. People who thirst for the Word of God and need to find an oasis in the Church where they can drink say it. Give me a drink is a cry heard in our society, where the frenetic pace, the rush to consume, and especially indifference, that culture of indifference, generate aridity and interior emptiness. And — let us not forget this — 'give me a drink' is the cry of many brothers and sisters who lack water to live, while our common home continues to be polluted and defaced. Exhausted and parched, she too "is thirsty".

Before these challenges, today's Gospel offers living water to each of us, which can make us become a source of relief for others. And so, like the Samaritan woman who left her jug at the well and went to call the people of her village (cf. v. 28), we too will no longer only think of slaking our own thirst, our material, intellectual or cultural thirst, but with the joy of having met the Lord, we will be able to quench others' thirst, giving meaning to someone else's life, not as masters, but as servants of that Word of God that has awakened our thirst and continually awakens our thirst. We will understand their thirst and share the love he has given to us. A question for you and I comes to mind. Are we capable of understanding the thirst of others, the thirst people have, the thirst so many in my family, in my neighbourhood have? Today, we can ask ourselves: Do I thirst for God? Am I aware that I need his love like water to live? And then: I who am thirsty, am I concerned about the thirst of others, their spiritual thirst, their material thirst?

May Our Lady intercede for us and sustain us on the way.

POPE FRANCIS — March 12, 2023

Journey Through Lent: For those already baptized Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate the paschal mystery through reminders of our baptism and penitential practices. Lent is a privileged time for **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. This season provides an opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with Jesus, and to renew the choices we make, so that we might live as he taught.

The *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops* presents "Journey through Lent", a video series which provides weekly Lenten spiritual reflections.

Mass & Sacrament of Reconciliation:

There will be no Daily Mass 11am and Reconciliation 11.30am. On Tuesday, March 10th and Wednesday, March 11th.

On Thursday, March 12th the Mass will be celebrated as usual at 11AM

Misas diarias & Sacramento de la Reconciliación:

No habrá celebración de la Misa diaria (12pm) ni sacramento de la Reconciliación (11.30am) el martes 10 de marzo ni el miércoles 11 de marzo.

El Jueves 12 de marzo la Misa se celebrarán en el horario habitual a las 12PM.

St. John's Catholic Women's League, Day of Spirituality, Saturday, March 14th,

in the parish hall. Gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and refreshments. Guest speaker, Father Moices Caballero, will begin at 10:00 a.m. The morning ends with the Celebration of the Eucharist upstairs in the church. All are welcome to attend, both men and women, from St John's and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes. For further information, contact wendebedirian@gmail.com

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 7 **5:00 PM**
+Ron Deitner +Nicola Scarfone & Family

Sunday, March 8 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, March 10 **NO MASS**

Wednesday, March 11 **NO MASS**

Thursday, March 12 **11:00 AM**

Friday, March 13 **11:00 AM**
+George Runstedler

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 14 **5:00 PM**
+Ron Deitner

Sunday, March 15 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

III Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 7 de Marzo **7:00PM**
+Olivia Espiritu +Pedro Antonio Molina

Domingo 8 de Marzo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 10 de Marzo **NO HAY MISA**

Miercoles 11 de Marzo **NO HAY MISA**

Jueves 12 de Marzo **12:00 PM**
+Domingo Palacios

Viernes 13 de Marzo **12:00 PM**

IV Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 14 de Marzo **7:00PM**

Domingo 15 de Marzo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

St. Agnes Education Cafe event: In our noisy world, many voices compete for our attention.

We are called go to that quiet place in prayer where God speaks to us.

Do we listen? And act? Come away from the noise & join us for the next

St. Agnes Education Cafe: "God speaks - are we listening? Overcoming Spiritual Deafness."

Sunday March 29th 2-3:30pm, St. Agnes Parish, with Fr. Raphael Ma, St. Mary's, Kitchener.

Stations of the Cross
will be at 10:30AM in English
each Friday during Lent.

El Viacrucis se rezará todos los viernes
del tiempo de Cuaresma
a las 11:30AM en Español.