

Pulpit Announcements – March 12, 2023

3rd Sunday of Lent

**Welcome to all who are here on this
Third Sunday of Lent.**

**Whoever you are, or wherever you find yourself on the journey,
know that here at St. Matthias, All Are Welcome.**

- On Saturday, March 25th, the Diocese of Metuchen is holding the Annual Critical Life Issues conference with the theme: "Building a Culture of Life Post Roe." If any of you like to attend, please call the parish office and give your name. The parish will bear the cost.
- Empty Bowls is a grassroots effort to raise awareness in the fight to end food insecurity and to raise money for the Franklin Food Bank. Our parishioners Bob & Ceil Cherill are members of the organizing team in this worthy cause. All are invited to attend this family-friendly event on Sunday, March 26 from 1 to 4 pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset. To purchase tickets, sponsor or make a donation, go to the food bank website at www.franklinfoodbank.org
- Mass of the Anointing of the Sick will be this coming Saturday, March 18, at 11 am. Anyone who wishes to be prayed over and anointed is welcome to attend.
- Next weekend, March 18/19, please support a joint project of the St. Matthias National Junior Honor Society and the St. Martin de Porres Society - a candy fundraiser to benefit the Center for Great Expectations here in Somerset. Your candy purchase (\$2 each for chocolate and non-chocolate) will help fulfill some of the mothers' needs at the center. Candy sales will take place in the church vestibule after all Masses.
- Have you spoken to your Mother lately?
During Lent, come closer to our Blessed Mother through the Rosary. Please see page 7 in the bulletin for further details.

Today's gospel is about the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the well. This woman realized that her true thirst was for the living water that only Jesus could give. Who do we turn to, for quenching our thirst for the living water? Jesus offers it freely here at the altar.

Are we ready to receive it?

Music for Our Assembly

March 12, 2023

3rd Sunday of Lent – Cycle A

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor... Psalm 25

Gathering Song – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that lifegiving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I’ll walk
Till traveling days are done.

Text: CMD; Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt. Music: trad. English melody, adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958. All rights reserved.

Prayer of the Faithful

3rd Sunday of Lent – Cycle A

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Our response is: “Lord, in Your compassion, hear our prayer”

1. For Pope Francis as he celebrates his 10 years as Bishop of Rome, and for all those who proclaim the Word of God ...Let us carefully listen to the scriptures, ponder them in our hearts, and be nourished by them, we pray . . .
2. For public officials who control access to fresh living water...Lead them in efforts to provide access to safe drinking water to every home, school, workplace, and community throughout the world, we pray . . .
3. For our Church and all who are gathered in assembly today for worship and praise...Make us a source of living water for those near us who thirst for meaning and purpose in their lives, especially those preparing to enter the waters of baptism, we pray...
4. For those working to protect our environment and the world's resources...Sustain their passion as stewards of the earth, we pray . . .
5. For all who are sick in mind, body, and spirit...That a spirit of hope for living water will renew them to face their daily challenges and keep their trust in God's healing, we pray . . .
6. For all who have died, especially **Helen Vanni, Harry Hadinata, and Fiorello Babe Parente**...May they now enter Your heavenly kingdom having left behind family and friends who remember them with love, . . . we pray...
7. For the silent intentions in our hearts...

Presider announces the Mass intention and concludes with the 60th Anniversary Prayer.

Preparation Hymn - O Beauty Ever Ancient

1. Oh, late have I loved you,
oh, late have I turned;
turned from seeking you in creatures,
fleeing grief and pain within.

**O Beauty, ever ancient,
O Beauty, ever new:
you, the mirror of my life renewed,
let me find my life in you!**

2. My unloveliness I ran from,
turned to seek you in all things,
things you fashioned as a pathway;
yet I lost myself in them.

3. This created world is glorious,
yet I could not see within,
see your loveliness behind all,
find the Giver in the gift.

*Text: Based on a prayer from St. Augustine of Hippo's Confessions, ca. 400.
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Communion Hymn – Bread of Life

**Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.**

1. As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise,
to return again.
2. The bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one.
3. We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love.
4. Hold us in unity,
in love for all to see;
that the world may believe in you,
God of all who live.
5. You are the bread of peace,
you are the wine of joy,
broken now for your people,
poured in endless love.

Closing Hymn - Change Our Hearts

Change our hearts this time,
your word says it can be.

Change our minds this time,
your life could make us free.

We are the people your call set apart,
Lord, this time change our hearts.

1. Brought by your hand to the edge of our dreams,
one foot in paradise, one in the waste;
drawn by your promises, still we are lured by the shadows
and the chains we leave behind. But

3. Show us the way that leads to your side,
over the mountains and sands of the soul.
Be for us manna, water from stone,
light which says we never walk alone. And

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;

let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Come, let us bow down in worship;

let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

For he is our God,

and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Where your fathers tempted me;

they tested me though they had seen my works.”

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.