

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Grace and Peace!

On this third Sunday of our Lenten season, the liturgical call is centered around *living water* as noted throughout today's accounting of salvation history. The Holy Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the Sacraments of God in Holy Mother Church are the pivotal sources of the living water of Divine Grace. In our liturgy this weekend, we continue to pray for and witness the "Scrutiny" of our three Candidates, **Conrad Kemble, Doug Lottes** and **Chris Sneed**; they will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Vigil Mass this Easter.

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blessed with Moses' striking the rock; *living water* mercifully comes forward, marking God's love and mercy. In Saint Paul's Letter in the Second Reading, he depicts the love of God being poured out into our hearts, becoming that very sustenance of our redemption.

In our First remarkable Reading, God directs Moses to provide water to the rancorous people of ancient Israel. Here we see a people who are beginning to doubt God's promises, the Mosaic call freedom. Confronted with the fear of death as they wander the desert thirst, they grow fittingly distraught. Despite their provocation all are

Examining the Gospel, Saint John presents our Lord's dramatic encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Although we do not know her name, she could be any human being who is given an opportunity to receive Jesus, the *living water*. Our Lord awakens in the woman a newfound thirst for wholeness and integrity, a dryness which He came to satisfy. Revealing himself as that prodigious source of *Living Water*, the impact on the woman is profound!

As Christians therefore, when we allow Jesus' desired entry into our interior lives, it is not to embarrass, judge or condemn us, but to free us, to change us and to offer us what we really need: the living water of the Holy Spirit. During Holy Lent, fasting, penance and almsgiving will inexplicably hasten this entry! Be watchful for ways that we too can be missionaries for Jesus like the Samaritan woman. With keen awareness, we can find ways to nourish others especially in those "unexpected" places for "unwanted" people. Let us remember to have the courage of our Christian convictions to stand for truth and justice in our day-to-day lives.

A Rich Lenten Season!

