

Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

JOHN 2:19



Saint Paul
the Apostle

THIRD
SUNDAY OF
LENT

MARCH 7, 2021

Dear SPA Family,

We know 'ambrosia' from Greek mythology. It was the drink of the gods, which gave them immortality and eternal youth. Everybody wanted to try it. Tantalus, the son of Zeus, stole it from the gods and sold it to his friends. Because of this offense, he was thrown into Tartarus and was tormented there. These famous torments of Tantalus consisted in the fact that, for example, he was hungry, although fruit hung over his head, which he, however, could not reach. He was thirsty though he stood knee-deep in the water. To make it more dramatic, a boulder was constantly swaying above him, threatening to crush him.



As in these mythical, fairy-tale stories, also today people are constantly looking for such potions that may ensure their longevity. They sell aloe or other remedies, and we buy them with the intention that we will be healthy. The Internet is full of ads saying that this man is not liked by doctors because he has a recipe for a healthy life. That lady, in turn, is not liked by dermatologists, because she has a recipe for smooth skin without wrinkles, etc.

We are also looking for the drink of immortality. That's why we come to church. We are looking for food that will satisfy us. We are looking for a drink that quenches all desires. In Sunday's Gospel, we will hear that Jesus Christ Himself is such a drink. He says to us: *whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life* (Jn 4:14).

Each of us carries some desires. These desires vary with our age. Boys want to be strong, accepted in their group, girls want to be beautiful, noticed by others. Parents want to be important, rich, well-positioned in life. Older people want to be healthy, live happily ever after, and enjoy their grandchildren. Everyone has their own desires. To these desires, we must add the desire of God. Jesus' thirst. He says to us: *I am the way, the truth, and the life* (Jn 14: 6). So, He says: I am everything! That is why we need to seek Him. We need to be in a close relationship with Him. Because we are convinced that He truly is the Savior of the world.

Today, when we look at the Lord Jesus, He appears to us as a true man: tired of the journey, he sat down by the well. On the other hand, He appears to us as true God who says to us; if you knew who the one who talks to you, you would ask him for living water.

The Samaritan woman recognized Jesus as the Savior. She wanted living water from Him. She spoke about this living water in her village in which she lived. Let the thirst of Jesus' living water burn in us too. Why? Because we are convinced, we know *that this man truly is the Savior of the world* (Jn 4:42).

Have a blessed week, Fr. Chris D. Ciastoń



DONATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Sunday - \$10,044

Online Sunday - \$8,955

Sharing - \$680

Online Sharing - \$658

St. Vincent de Paul - \$1,241

Online SVdP - \$266

Spring Forward!

Daylight savings time is on March 14th, 2021.
Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT- WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE!

BY: MARY PENICH

When I read today's scripture passages, I smiled every time I encountered the word *water*. It was refreshing to focus on something other than snow. Yes, I realize that the mounds of white which surround our homes and outline our sidewalks and roadways are actually frozen water. Unfortunately, knowing this doesn't make shoveling the driveway and navigating Gurnee any easier. The good news is that the scripture's references to water in its liquid state make everything about this life much easier. The waters of faith and the waters of God's loving presence in our lives change everything for the better...

In the reading from Exodus (17:3-7), a distraught Moses stood before the unruly Israelites. God had promised to lead them to "...a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey." At that moment, however, the people were dying of thirst. Rather than trusting God who had delivered them from slavery in Egypt, they grumbled and threatened Moses. Fear and disgust drove Moses to plead with God for help because the people were on the verge of taking matters into their own hands. Still, in spite of their disrespect and complete lack of faith, God provided water. With that gift, God also offered the people eternal life. It was up to them to recognize in that water God's promise to be ever-present in their lives, whatever those lives might bring. In that gift of water, God offered the Israelites the first of numerous second chances to mend their relationships with God. All the while, God remained among them to quench their thirst and to revive them with a cup of Divine Love.

In his letter to the Romans (5:1-2,5-8), Paul invited his readers to seize the blessings that came with Jesus' death. Paul reminded them that, regardless of the depth of their sinfulness, Jesus had outstretched his arms for each one of them. Their life lay in the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side on the cross. Within their community, gifted with God's presence among them, they found sustenance. The people had only to choose to embrace the promise God uttered, first through Moses and Abraham and then through Jesus. In Jesus, God appeared once again to forgive and to revive and to quench their thirst, if only they chose to drink of God's love.

If God's intent to ensure our eternal happiness through the waters of God's love wasn't yet clear, Jesus' encounter with a woman from Samaria made it so. John's gospel (4:5-42) tells us that the woman approached as Jesus rested at Jacob's well. Jesus startled her when he requested a drink of water. At the time, the Jewish community avoided any association with



Samaritans. Sharing a drink of water crossed a line meant to be left undisturbed. Still, Jesus persisted in striking up a conversation with the woman. In the process, he offered her far more than a drink in return. In exchange for her faith, Jesus offered the woman the waters of God's love and the waters of eternal life. Once again, Jesus extended a thirsty soul a second chance -or perhaps her sixth or seventh chance?- for happiness. Once again, God forgave and revived one of us with the waters of Divine Love.

It seems to me that we find ourselves in the mindset of the Israelites in the desert and the woman of Samaria more often than we'd like. We fret and we wring our hands over circumstances we simply can't control and which leave us thirsting for relief. We know far more than Paul's followers regarding the waters of God's love for us, yet we worry. We can't seem to taste a drop of God's presence among us and God's love for us. Sadly, this suffering has persisted throughout human history and it continues through Lent 2021. Though the scriptures and our faith community overflow with good news, we agonize over our circumstance just the same. All the while, God waits patiently for us to sip from the cup of Divine Love.

As I consider the mounds of snow that surround me for as far as my eyes can see, I can't help acknowledging that perhaps I've been frozen in place as well. Though the pandemic limits my ability to travel freely throughout the area, it doesn't limit my access to all that God promises to do for me, with me and through me. When I suffer thirst in any area of my life, God stands nearby with that cup in hand. It is when I finally reach for that cup and drink that I quench my arid faith and my thirsty heart. With every sip, consolation comes and God's love flows freely. In the waters of God's love, my joy returns. Though the troubles of this life remain, I meet them in good company. For the remainder of Lent 2021 and always, I invite you to drink from God's cup as well. Sip the waters of God's love when trouble threatens. Sip the waters of God's presence when your strength runs dry. Sip those waters when all is well. All the while, celebrate God's good company and God's love for you.

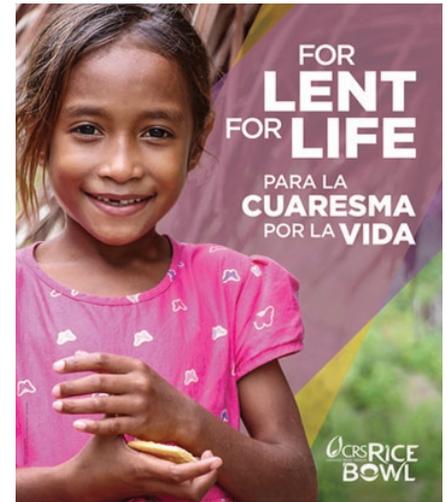
©2020 MARY PENICH - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

This Lent, Let Operation Rice Bowl Help You To Feel Normal Again!

If you're like most of us, you can hardly wait for life to get back to normal! Unfortunately, we know that the pandemic will be with us for a while longer. Sadly, the needs of the poor will continue to be with us as well. Before our bout with COVID-19 began, our parish family participated in Operation Rice Bowl every Lent. Do you remember those little rice bowl boxes that we took home and filled with our spare change (and paper money when we could)? Every year, your generosity exceeded expectations and allowed our parish to send a very helpful check to Catholic Relief Services to support the poor.

This year, though everything else is as abnormal as can be, will you join us in taking a small step toward normalcy by participating in Operation Rice Bowl again? It's easier than ever! If you're able to come to church, pick up a Rice Bowl on your way in or out. If you're unable to come in, Rice Bowls will also be available in the bin outside of the west door. If you're unable to get a rice bowl, you and your family can save your coins and cash in any container. At the end of Lent (we usually do this the week after Easter), place a check or your cash in the envelope that came with your rice bowl and drop it into the collection bins at church. You can also mail that check to St. Paul's or give that amount online. Please don't mail your checks to Catholic Relief Services as we'd like our parish to be credited for all of our donations. This year, we're avoiding dealing with coins due to pandemic constraints. So checks or cash will be very much appreciated!

Deacon Mike oversees this project and every year he's amazed by your generosity. As always, he will see to it that every penny reaches Catholic Relief Services to be spent in service of the poor. This year, our efforts are more important than ever. Thank you!



Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at 7pm during Lent
No Registration Required





KNIGHTS KORNER FISH FRY UPDATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF UPDATES OR CLARIFICATION IN BOLD

This year the Knights of Columbus – Divine Mercy Council - have partnered with a few well-known restaurants in the area.

- Fatman's Restaurant in Gurnee, 847-244-8300, at 36309 Skokie Hwy. Gurnee, IL (Fish Platter **and** full menu)
- The Lake House in Lake Villa, 847-838-2700, at 850 Tower Drive, Lake Villa, IL (Fish Platter **and** full menu)
- Chicago Pizza Company, 847-855-1201, at 6170 Grand Ave. Unit #337, Gurnee, IL (Percentage of receipts on Full Menu – **No Fish Platter Specials at this location**).
- Primo Italian Dining 847-336-3446 at 720 N Milwaukee Ave., Gurnee, IL (Credit on Full Menu Items; Percentage of receipts on Full Menu – **No Fish Platter Specials at this location**).
- Khayat Catering, 847-336-3166, at 720 N. Milwaukee Ave., Gurnee, IL (Percentage of receipts on Full Menu - No Fish Platter Specials at this location).

***** BE SURE TO MENTION THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OR THE ST PAUL THE APOSTLE LENTEN FUNDRAISER FOR THE KNIGHTS TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ALL OPTIONS BELOW. *****

- **The Fish Platter Special is only available at Fatman's & The Lake House.** The price for the Fish Platter at Fatman's & The Lake House on Fridays is \$12 (tax included) and includes 4 pieces of fish, fries, and coleslaw. Once again, the Fish Special is available at Fatman's and The Lake House Only. Beverages would be extra. The offer is good for a Fish dinner at those restaurants any Friday in Lent. It is also requested that orders be placed before Thursday ensure adequate supplies.
- **All other menu meal orders**, at any of the above restaurants, qualify for a donation to the Knights of Columbus Charities during Lent. **So, EVERY Friday in Lent can be Knights of Columbus Night.** This could be for Inside Dining, Take Out or Curb side pickup.
- **In addition**, they are offering the Knights of Columbus a percentage of all the gift cards purchased during Lent. **There is no expiration date on the gift cards**, so stock up now for all your 2021 dining events, get a fantastic meal at a great restaurant and help all the Knights of Columbus Charities all at the same time.

We are hoping to continue this relationship in future years so please make that call and patronize these local restaurants who have shown they are willing to step up and help our charities in their time of need, so please step up and help them out as well.

Thank you in advance for your continued generous patronizing of our events and contributions to the Knights of Columbus during these very trying times now and throughout the year.

Sincerely, George Behr
Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus – Divine Mercy Council

RESTAURANTS PARTICIPATING IN FISH FRY & FULL MENU:

Fatmans: 847-244-8300

The LakeHouse: 847-838-2700

RESTAURANTS PARTICIPATING IN FULL MENU (NO FISH FRY):

Chicago Pizza Company: 847-855-1201

Primo Italian Dining: 847-336-3446

Khayat Catering: 847-336-3166

**DINE FOR A CAUSE
WITH OUR**

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER



**BENEFITTING KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
OF ST. PAUL OF THE APOSTLE**

\$12

Must be purchased
Saturday-Thursday.

**FOR US TO RECEIVE CREDIT
IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU MENTION ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
KNIGHTS OF COLMBUS AT THE TIME OF YOUR ORDER!**

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021

5:00PM: Pat Terry | Charles Suhling | Ted Macrowski

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

7:30AM: Bill Zorzy | Charlotte V. Siegel

9:30AM: Robert Chester Buttrey | Stanley Kot
Frank Sas | Celina Lopez

11:30AM: Dianna Scola

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021

7:30AM: For the Parish Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

7:30AM: Robert Siuda | Rosie Doran | Ronald Johnson
Loubelle Cadiena | Sam Villareal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

7:30AM: For the Parish Family

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

7:30AM: David Dean Mauro | Eileen Blake

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

7:30AM: For the Parish Family

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021

5:00PM: Charles Suhling | John Hii | Linda Meyer
Kim Hix | Jack Henderson

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

7:30AM: Lawrence Lesza | Katherine Kowalewski
Santiago Villareal

9:30AM: Stanley Kot | Frank Sas | Diego Estrada

11:30AM: Chuck Gresser | Gregorio Durban

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]).

Psalms — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19).

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25).

Gospel — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25).

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Diana Lonergan	Bethany Brosman
Kathy Humann	Carol McArthur
Keith Lahey	Maria Rodriguez
Charlie Lucas	Robbie Franklin
Kurt Lowe	Jeanette Albamonte
Linda Marie Fote	Natalie Styles
Frances C Fletcher	Yee Ivcek
Carmie Caluag	Nicole Mendlik
Vicki Wilson	Gunnar Shindledecker
Marty Reynolds	Mae Goggins
The Andrade Family	Patty Hacker
Bertha Quintero	Dorothy Bockstahler
Guillermo Parreno	
Xavier Parreno	

PLEASE KNOW THAT WE PRAY FOR ALL OF THE SICK AT EVERY MASS. HOWEVER, IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME OR THAT OF A SICK LOVED ONE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST ABOVE, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL KERI AT THE PARISH HOUSE.
KSEKANY@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH
847-918-0600

“If you want God to listen to you when you pray, shouldn't you listen to God when God speaks to you?”

—Anonymous

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:

2 Kgs 5:1-15b
Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4
Lk 4:24-30

TUESDAY:

Dn 3:25, 34-43
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9
Mt. 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY:

Dt 4:1, 5-9
Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY:

Jer 7:23-28
Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
Lk 11:14-23

FRIDAY:

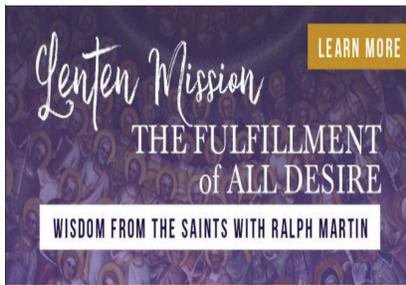
Hos 14:2-10
Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17
Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY:

Hos 6:1-6
Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab
Lk 18:9-14

SUNDAY:

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Ps 137:1-6
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-2



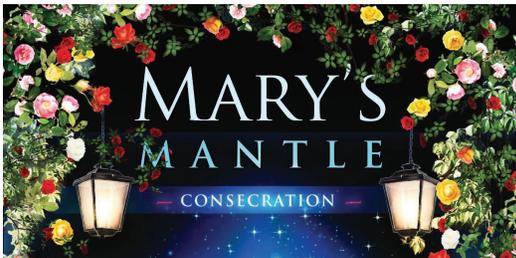
“The gift of wisdom gives to our souls this power to experience divine things, to taste them in the depths of being, and, by that pleasure and experience, to judge all things.”
Servant of God Luis Martinez

Renewal Ministries will kick off a LIVE online Lenten Mission with Ralph Martin, from 7-8 p.m. CST! The Lenten Mission will run four consecutive Sundays:

February 28, March 7, 14, and 21

The mission is based on the book “Fulfillment of All Desire” by Ralph Martin and focused on growing in holiness through the wisdom of the saints. The Lenten Mission will build on content from the Advent Mission if you attended that event on-line, but earlier participation is not necessary. Event is Free, but registration is required.

Register: www.renewalministries.net



A POWERFUL RETREAT OF CONSECRATION TO MARY

All are invited to participate in a POWERFUL RETREAT OF MARIAN CONSCREATION. It will be a 46-day sacred journey striving to live a virtuous life, and walking in the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The retreat will include 2 minutes of daily spiritual reading, a daily rosary, one day of fasting, weekly talks/videos (30-50 min) with reflection questions. Receive extraordinary graces by joining in communal prayer and fasting for one another, for the SPA parish family, and the nation.

The retreat will start on March 29th and culminate on May 13th, Our Lady of Fatima with a Total Consecration to Our Blessed Mother.

Consecration Options

1. **In- Person:** Monday 7:00-8:30pm - March 29, April *5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10 (5th is Easter Monday, done at home)
2. **Zoom:** Tuesday, 7:00-8:30pm - March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11
3. **At Home:** Individual, couple, family or home group. Videos sent out on Mondays.

Register: Church Center or www.saintpaultheapostle.church

The book for the retreat, *Mary's Mantle Consecration: A Spiritual Retreat for Heaven's Help* by Christine Watkins can be purchased on Amazon. For home option, videos will be sent via email.

“The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.” – St. Gregory of Nyssa





Saint Paul

the Apostle

847-918-0600
6401 GAGES LAKE RD
GURNEE, IL 60031

PARISH OFFICE

KERI SEKANY | OFFICE MANAGER
INFO@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

HOURS: 9:00AM - 4:00PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
847-918-0600

BUSINESS OFFICE

BOB SEKANY | BUSINESS MANAGER
BUSINESS@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

HOURS: 9:00AM - 4:00PM
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY
847-918-0600

FAITH FORMATION & CATECHESIS

TAMMY OBERSTAR | FSF ADMIN ASSISTANT
TOBERSTAR@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

HOURS: 8:30AM - 3:00PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
847-816-8677

MARY JO URQUHART | FSF ADMIN ASSISTANT
MURQUHART@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

LISA FILIP | DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION & YOUTH FORMATION
LFILIP@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

AMY RUSSELL | CHILDREN'S FSF COORDINATOR
ARUSSELL@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

LISA COLLIN | CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR
LCOLLIN@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

MUSIC LITURGY

RUTH PECK | DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
RPECK@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

JULIE JESTER | MUSIC MINISTRY ASSISTANT
JJESTER@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

PASTORAL STAFF

REV. CHRIS CIASTON | PASTOR
FRCHRIS@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

REV. JOE CURTIS | ASSOCIATE PASTOR
FRJOE@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

REV. BRAD ZAMORA | WEEKEND ASSISTANCE
BZAMORA@USML.EDU

DEACON MICHAEL PENICH
DEACONMIKE@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

DEACON IVAN SIAP
DEACONIVAN@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

DEACON BOB BIRCK
DEACONBOB@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

DEACON ROD REYES
DEACONROD@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

DEACON ANDY BAKER
DEACONANDY@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

DEACON BRENT BERTKE
DEACONBRENT@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

ANCILLARY STAFF

KELLY KRUEGER | MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
KKRUEGER@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

RICH PLAGE | FACILITIES MANAGER
RPLAGE@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASS:
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
7:30AM

SATURDAY EVENING:
5:00PM

SUNDAY:
7:30 | 9:30 | 11:30AM

ADORATION

TUESDAY/THURSDAY MORNINGS
8:00AM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS IN THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT CHAPEL
11:00AM