



Third Sunday of Lent

8 March 2024 | Sunday



Will you give me a drink?

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

Behind the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

As we gather, let us remember and pray for . . .

Monday, March 9 St. Frances of Rome
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Alfredo Aviles

Tuesday, March 10
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Alemma Jose Pachikara

Wednesday, March 11
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Normelita Jabla

Thursday, March 12
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Irineo Dizon Monzon

Friday, March 13
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Mario Elia

7:00 p.m. †Polqueria Cardenas



6:30 p.m.
**Stations
of the
Cross**

Saturday, March 14

4:30 p.m. †Connie Profeta, Alekatty Mathew
Maria & Eugenio Tamburri

Sunday, March 15

9:00 a.m. ♦ People of the parish

11:00 a.m. †Antonio Galante

5:00 p.m. †Carmela Mignelli



The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Prayer Intention for the Month of March:

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Look who is celebrating his birthday on March 9 Father Mathew!!

Our church family is blessed by your faithful and devoted service. We keep you in our prayers and ask the Lord to continue guiding and strengthening you in your ministry. May He bless you with good health, joy, and abundant grace in the year ahead.



MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

Sunday Collection March 1 - \$7,178

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins on Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 2:00am (clocks "spring forward" to 3:00am)



International



ST. THOMAS MORE PASTORAL COUNCIL, presents "INDIAN NIGHT INTERNATIONAL DINNER SERIES." on

Saturday March 14th at St. Thomas More Church Hall. Come join for a flavourful Indian dinner and an evening celebrating Indian culture through music, singing, and more. Doors open at 5:45 PM, and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under, and will be available for purchase at all the weekend Masses.

CATHOLIC WOMEN LEAGUE

The next CWL General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m., beginning with the Rosary. All ladies of the parish are welcome. A reminder that 2026 CWL memberships (\$40) are now due. Payments may be placed in the offertory basket, dropped off at the parish office, or sent by e transfer by contacting Dina at 905 380 0522 or dina.marchionda@gmail.com.

DIOCESAN WIDE DAY OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturday, March 21, 2026 in every parish church across the diocese a priest will be available from 10:00am – 2:00pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH CHILDREN'S LITURGY TEAM

Presents GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY for CHILDREN and FAMILIES April 3 at 11:00 am. For children ages 4 and up. To register your child please contact Anna Racine at

905-358-3412 or rracine37@cogeco.ca

Practice Dates

Sunday 8 March 3:00	Sunday 22 March 3:00
Tuesday, 10 March 6:00	Tuesday, 24 March 6:00
Sunday 15 March 3:00	Sunday 29 March 3:00
Tuesday, 17 March 6:00	Tuesday, 31 March 6:00



DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE CARITAS CANADA'S

Women protecting the Earth. In Brazil, the lives of several rural communities are disrupted by industrial agriculture, mining and the Carajás railway. Women are at the heart of the fight to protect the land and the environment from the air, water and soil pollution that they cause. This pollution damages their kitchen gardens and harms the health of their children, families and neighbours.

Courageously, these women resist to continue to exist on their land. To assert and protect their rights, they formed a women's association called Seeds of the Earth with the support of Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT), a partner of Development and Peace —

Caritas Canada. For more information visit devp.org. or contact Sandy Hall email smhall1977@gmail.com



"One should never initiate anything that he cannot saturate with prayer."

Unknown.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the church for the season \$20 or more memorial donation;

please print names clearly,

Names must be submitted by **March 29** to be published for Easter.

Attach a cheque or cash to this slip, and place in the collection



IN MEMORY OF:

first & last Name only

given by

Envelope #