

# HOLY SPIRIT SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Celebrating faith, inclusive welcome and service, because it is about relationships, not rules!

15 MARCH 2020 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

## TODAY'S LITURGY

Mass Intention: For ✠ Janis D. Rosczewski, req. by her children

Prelude: "Glory and Praise to Our God" #537

Welcome and "Good News" (Donna C.)

Gathering Song: "Come to the Water" #502

Introductory Penitential Rite:

℣. We confess

℟. to almighty God, and to one another,  
that we have sinned

in our thoughts and in our words,  
in what we have done, and in what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. (Matt 22:37-39)

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justice, love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen. (Micah 6:8)

Kyrie: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #201

Opening Prayer

Reading I: Exodus 17:3-7 (Wayne C.)

Psalm Response: Psalm 95, #51

Reading II: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 (Walt B.)

Gospel Acclamation: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #204

Holy Gospel: John 4:5-42 (Dcn. Jan)

Homily: (Mthr. Sharon)

Profession of Faith: Alternative Creed (hymnal inside back cover)

Intercessions: ℣. *Spring of Living Water, refresh us!* (Diane P.)

Kiss of Peace

Preparation of Gifts: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" #622

Eucharistic Prayer: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #205-209

Lord's Prayer: #7

Lamb of God Litany: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #210

Communion Procession: "Remembrance" WN #148

(Fr. Sam, Fr. Jacques; Dcn. Jan)

All are truly welcomed to reverently receive Holy Communion with us!

Song of Praise: "I AM the Bread of Life" #822

Prayer after Communion & Blessing

Sending Song: "You Are the Voice" #538

## THE ROAD AHEAD

Ministry Team Meetings:

-Stewardship: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

-Finance: 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds, 7pm

-Landscape: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

-Outreach: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

Way of the Cross, Fridays of  
Lent, 7pm, chapel

Spiritual Practice: Work it!

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7-

8:30pm. Gather with your  
church family and share faith.

This week's topic: "Receive  
and be what you see: the  
Eucharist"

Parish Council Meeting,

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm,  
conference room.

Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Holy

Week begins! "Taste of Italy"

Potluck Lunch follows Mass.

Annual Pet Fair and Blessing,

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Save the  
date!



## FROM WHERE I STAND

Blessed Sunday,  
dear Community and Friends!

Today's Gospel reading tells the story of a woman who is worthless by the standards of Jewish society at that time.

Jesus has sent his disciples off for food, and he is sitting at a well when she comes to draw water. There is every reason why he shouldn't talk to her at all.

First, she is a woman. It is only the disciples' awe of Jesus that keeps them from asking him what he thought he was doing when they return and find him talking to her without even a chaperone by her.

Secondly, she is a Samaritan. As she herself points out to him, Jews don't talk to Samaritans. Samaritans are self-made outcasts from the Jewish point of view, and self-respecting Jews stay away from them.

And, thirdly, this Samaritan has the sort of history that makes women pariahs even in their home communities. Jesus knows her status, and he lets her know he does. She has had five husbands—*five husbands!*—and she is currently living with a man to whom she is not married. Even by the lax standards of our own day, this sort of history would make people look askance at her. In her village she is undoubtedly a shamed person.

So, take it all and all, she's a worthless person, isn't she?

What Jew or Samaritan would want to invite her to lunch?

But, you might be thinking, the savior of the world could certainly spare a crumb even for a shamed Samaritan woman. He could preach to her that her sins are forgiven, you might be supposing, or he could offer her some other kind of pastoral help.

But he doesn't, does he? No, he asks *her* to help *him*. He opens the conversation with her by asking her to give him a drink.

And then look at how this story ends: she brings belief in Jesus to her village, and the villagers come to Jesus because of her.

She isn't worthless then, is she? No, then she takes her rightful place among the apostles. The evangelization of her village is *her* accomplishment.

And so when Jesus asks her to care for him, he starts a process that brings her from being worthless to being the apostle to her village.

The remedy of love for human worthlessness is modeled for us here, isn't it?

May this Third Week of Lent find us refreshed with the living water of Christ and restored in our own belovedness with him, not sinking in the sands of self-loathing. Bear the light of the Lord's love for all to see and stand in.

With my love and prayers,

*Bp. Steve*

## OUR STEWARDSHIP



**In gratitude for our many blessings and gifts from God, we share our time, talent, and treasures with others at worship and throughout the week. On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 60 people gathered as the Body of Christ to joyfully celebrate the Holy Eucharist in gratitude to God for our many gifts, the mission and ministry of our parish community.**

***“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” (John 4:13)***  
Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions, we always want more. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus; when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

**For a full monthly update on our finances, visit our parish website:  
[www.holyspiritscc.org/treasure.html](http://www.holyspiritscc.org/treasure.html)**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to:

Diane P. 3/15, Nicole T. 3/20,  
Dcn. Jan 3/25, Lee W. 3/27,  
David O. 4/3, Benny P. 4/3,  
Joanne L. 4/7, Bridget S. 4/9,  
Mthr. Sharon 4/12,  
Katy C. 5/15; Sr. Linda 4/29.

### Happy Anniversary to:

Katy and Taffy 3/15,  
Paul and Nicole 3/18.

*May the brilliance of  
the light of Christ  
continue to shine brightly  
in you in your living  
and in your loving!*

## WHEN WE GATHER

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30am  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**Laetare Sunday**

I Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23:1-6

Romans 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Altar Bread Baker: Donna L.

Greeters: Jo D. and Karen E.

Councilor Welcome: Natalie L.

Presider: Bp. Steve

Homilist: Dcn. Jan

Acolyte: Bob S.

Lectors: David B. (1), Diane P. (2)

Intercessions: Christine T.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Fr. Jacques, Mthr. Sharon; Dcn. Jan

Social Hall Service: Last Names **R-Z**

*Thank you for your faithful and loving  
service at the altar of the Lord.*

## Our Lenten Giving

There are small currency boxes available in the chapel foyer for you to take home and place at your place of personal prayer or your table as a reminder. This year, our parish family will offer these gifts of our Lenten sacrifice and growth for the benefit of **Pinellas Hope**. Pinellas Hope is an inter-faith venture, hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, providing a safe living environment and the necessary support for homeless adults to become self-sufficient. Since its formation in 2007, Pinellas Hope has served over 10,000 people and served over 1.6 million meals. May the Lord renew our hearts in generous compassion for those most in need.



## Come, My Light

Come, my Light,  
and illumine my darkness.  
Come, my Life,  
and revive me from death.  
Come, my Physician,  
and heal my wounds.  
Come, Flame of divine love,  
and burn up the thorns of my sins,  
kindling my heart  
with the flame of thy love.

*-Dimitrii of Rostov*



- For the intentions of our parish and diocesan communities, for our holiness, growth and generous service.
- For the persecuted Christians of the Middle East.
- Those who are homeless, hungry, helpless, unemployed, underemployed, addicted, imprisoned and hopeless: *that they do not remain invisible to us.*
- For those discerning their life, ministry, and future with our Diocese.
- + The victims of gun violence, *eternal rest and delight in God's arms.*
- Ellen M., *strength and healing from cancer.*
- David S.'s daughter, *mental healing.*
- Deb. S. & Sr. Linda, *healing strength*
- For the youth of our End 68 Hours of Hunger Project.
- Bp. Chuck, *liver cancer challenges*
- Br. Tom W., *healing from follow-up surgeries and restoration*
- Harry, *father of Donna L., hospice care*
- Fr. Joseph, *his strength and healing.*
- Mary S., *healing strength during cancer therapy.*
- Cindy K., *ankle surgery healing*
- + Dorothea, *Fr. Sam's mother, R.I.P., 3/3/2020*
- For protection and healing from COVID-19, eternal rest for its victims.

*Lord, hear our prayer!*





## HOLY SPIRIT

SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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# 10 TIPS for pray-ers

*The three traditional Lenten practices are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Christians are called to these practices all the time but are invited to enter into them with renewed energy during Lent. We want to pray, but we aren't always sure how to do it. As we continue to celebrate the season of Lent, here are 10 tips for pray-ers.*

### 1. KEEP IT SIMPLE

You don't have to be good at it, just do it! Start now and for five minutes turn to God in your heart. Author Anne Lamott says the three essential prayers are "help, thanks, and wow."

### 2. USE YOUR OWN WORDS

You don't talk with a friend using words from a book, do you? Put aside the prayers written by someone else—beautiful as they may be—and speak from your heart. God wants to hear your voice!

### 3. YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO USE WORDS

Sometimes the most precious time with a friend is sitting together in silence, looking at the blossoming plants or at a sunset. You're enjoying a deep connection; you're just not using words. Sit with God like that. You can go to a beautiful place, but you don't have to. Just be with God.

### 4. STAY WITH IT

So you're tired; you're not in the mood to pray. You have a thousand things to do. If this is important to you, make time to do it, even if you just sit and wait for God to show up.

### 5. PUT YOUR HEART IN IT

Tell God why you have come. Tell your friend that more than anything you want to be there, fully present, growing in love.

### 6. BE HONEST

It's okay to tell God you're having a bad day (*God knows it without you saying so, anyway*). Tell God what's going on, and what you would like to change. Ask for help.

### 7. SING, DANCE, OR WALK YOUR PRAYER

God doesn't mind if you fall asleep while you're praying. (I call it "resting in the Lord.") Don't you

think God actually enjoys seeing us dozing peacefully in our prayer like little children, but if you'd like to rouse yourself and be more active in your prayer, sing a favorite song or hymn to God; use your body and do a dance for God; take a walk in God's creation, aware of the holy presence.

### 7. SAY "THANK YOU" BEFORE YOU SAY "PLEASE"

It's a good strategy to thank God for gifts you've already been given before you ask for more. Begin your prayer with a list of daily blessings. (It puts God in a good mood.) If you really get into this, you may even forget what you were going to ask for or decide you don't really need it.

### 8. REMEMBER, GOD WANTS THIS RELATIONSHIP EVEN MORE THAN YOU DO

Spiritual writer Joan Chittister reminds us "the God we are seeking is also seeking us." This comforting, because it means even if I get tired of trying to find God, God never gives up finding me.

### 9. DON'T WASTE TIME AND ENERGY EVALUATING THE QUALITY OF YOUR PRAYER

That's God's business, and God doesn't do report cards. God's just so happy when you take the time to deepen your friendship!

### BONUS TIP: EXPECT GOD TO SHOW UP!

God always shows up—we just don't know where or when. Believe this. Watch for it.