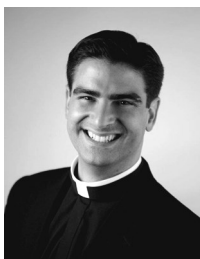

MARCH 11 & 12, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

In both the first reading and the Gospel, we hear about people who are thirsty. The people in the desert cry out to Moses for water. Jesus asks the woman at the well for a drink. While thirst is a natural part of our daily lives, in the Scriptures it is sometimes used to speak to the longing in our spirits for union with God. Our bodies naturally hunger and thirst, but so do our souls.

It makes perfect sense. The Church teaches that the very reason we were created is to know, love, and serve God. If we are not striving to fulfill that purpose, then there will be a lack, or emptiness, in our hearts. Throughout history, as we have considered the human experience, we have learned that full bellies and mugs full of drink are not enough to make a person truly happy. While we have physical needs that occupy much of our attention, we also seem to have a common longing for something beyond our appetites that can only be satisfied with something larger than ourselves. As followers of Jesus, we understand that union with God – in fellowship and communion with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is the only way for us to be who we were created to be.

Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well to reveal to her that he is the only one who can satisfy the thirst that drives her. However she ended up in this place, she has clearly not found peace and fulfillment in her life. Jesus draws upon the image of thirsting to share with her that he is the Messiah; if she becomes his disciple, she will never thirst again. All her life she had been longing for someone who would bring actual love and joy to her. Jesus reveals to her, and to us, that he is the only one who can quench that consuming thirst deep within our spirit.

Our Gospel today calls us to drink from the well of Jesus' love. It is only in his love that we can quench our thirst and find our lives fulfilled.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

CEMETERY NOTICE As posted at the cemetery entrance, artificial flowers and other artificial decorations are not allowed during mowing season (March 15–November 15). Artificial decorations will be removed.

POSITION AVAILABLE Little Flower School is looking for a part-time employee for their After Care program. Please apply at: <https://www.schoolspring.com/job.cfm?jid=3992372> if interested or contact our principal at ckeeton@littleflowercatholic.org for more information.

SPRING OYSTER FEST At St. Benedict on the Patuxent on Saturday, March 25 in the Saint Francis de Sales Hall located at 7209 Benedict Ave. from 12 noon to 3 pm. The menu includes local oysters fried, scalded and raw at outdoor bar, local BBQ roast pig, steamed shrimp, hush puppies, potato salad, green beans, cole slaw, candied yams, green beans, mac and cheese, and home made desserts. Cost is \$30 per adult, and if you reserve a table for six, one person eats free! Family rates. Call for more info 301-274-3416

KNIGHT GALA Please join us for a Knight of Beauty at the Knight Gala on Saturday, March 25. This black-tie optional event will feature: A three-course gourmet meal prepared by Ken's Creative Kitchen, casino game tables featuring Blackjack, Craps and Texas Hold 'Em, live entertainment provided by The NightLife Band Silent Auction and exciting basket raffles with \$10,000 Knight Raffle Grand Prize Drawing (winner need not be present). We hope that you can join us for this occasion. It's sure to be a great Knight! Visit <https://www.smrhs.org/support/events/knightgala> to reserve tickets. Proceeds will support the St. Mary's Ryken Chapel of Charity renovations.

DISPENSATION FROM MEAT ABSTINENCE MARCH 17 Cardinal Gregory has dispensed Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington from abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17 in honor of St. Patrick's Day. If you choose to make use of the dispensation, you are encouraged to give up meat on another day next week.

PERPETUAL ADORATION Did you know our very own Immaculate Heart of Mary offers you the opportunity to participate in Perpetual Adoration? Some may ask "What is Perpetual Adoration?" Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members unite in the adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament with the goal of adoring The Blessed Sacrament perpetually (24 hours a day). If you are interested, please call our adoration coordinator, Jeff Harmon, at 240-538-5017 or email adoration@ihmrcc.org for more information.

GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

LAZARUS COMMITTEE The Lazarus Committee provides funeral repasts for the funerals of active and registered parishioners. If interested in joining the Lazarus committee or for more information, please contact Pat at 240-925-0021 or Linda at 240-298-5264.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



March 13 — March 19

Monday	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/ Lk 4:24-30
9:00 am	Doris Messina (D)
Tuesday	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/ Mt 18:21-35
5:30 pm	Helen and Albert Imperial (D)
Wednesday	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/ Mt 5:17-19
9:00 am	Hernando Moreno Velasquez (D)
Thursday	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/ Lk 11:14-23
5:30 pm	Donna Brown (L)
Friday	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
9:00 am	Corrine Geraty (S)
Saturday	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/ Lk 18:9-14
9:00 am	Bill Wagoner (D)
4:00 pm	Ronald Sableski (D)
Sunday	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41
8:30 am	All IHM Parishioners
11:15 am	Cesar Martinez (D)
1:00 pm	Maria Candida Sanchez (D)

MASS IN THE PARKING LOT As a reminder, during IHM's weekend Masses we have in-parking lot options available. While parked at IHM, if you tune to 99.7 FM you can hear the Mass broadcast live. If you park in the second, smaller parking lot, we will bring out Communion at the appropriate time if you have your hazard lights on.

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).



To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

Events Calendar

March 6 — March 12

Fri:	4 pm to 7 pm	Lenten Seafood Dinner
	6 pm	Youth Group at St. Cecilia's
	7 pm	Stations of the Cross, English
	8 pm	Stations of the Cross, Spanish

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. MARY'S GALA All are welcome to attend Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's Gala 2023! The Keynote Speaker is famous Catholic apologist and author Dr. Peter Kreeft. The Gala is on Saturday, April 22 from 6 pm to 10:30pm in the Monsignor Harris Center at St. John Francis Regis in Hollywood, MD. To purchase tickets, go to chestertonstmarys.org/gala2023tickets.



If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or you know a Catholic desiring to learn more about the faith, please contact Tess Crowe via email at rcia@ihmrcc.org or contact the office at 301-863-8144 to register.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Vince Guerin, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, David Kalil, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Linda Jones, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Mike Price, Corrine Geraty, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Follow us on



MARCH 11 & 12, 2023

LENTEN SEAFOOD DINNER IHM is hosting our Seafood Dinner once again! Prices are \$16 (shrimp or rockfish), \$17 (oysters or scallops) and \$24 (seafood platter with shrimp, oysters, scallops and rockfish). 2 sides included (green beans, French fries, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes or extra hush puppies). Kids' meal (fish sticks and one side) is \$5. Dine-in or take-out. Order and pay in person (cash and check) or online at seafood.ihmrcc.org (credit card, ACH or Google Pay). Proceeds to fund replacement of our supplemental hymnals (*Worship His Majesty*), which are falling apart. For March 17, the special is corned beef and cabbage (dispensation given by Cardinal Gregory).

SEAFOOD DINNER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED To make our Lenten Dinners a success, we need help:

Thurs 5-7 pm - setting up the serving line and drink station (3-5 people)

Friday 9 am to noon - prepping some food items (3-5 people)

Friday 3:30 to 7 pm - frying and baking food (5-6 adults)

Friday 4 to 5:30 and 5:30 to 7 pm - serving food (6-7 per shift)

Friday 6:30 to 9 pm - cleaning up, washing dishes, breaking down the lines (6-8 people)

Saturday 8 am to noon - cleaning fryers (3-4 people, actual time about 2 hours).

To volunteer, please e-mail Ken Roof at kroofjr@gmail.com or sign up on the board in the foyer.

MUSIC MINISTRY Interested in Music Ministry but don't have a lot of time to commit? We have groups that serve at Mass only once or twice a month. You are needed! Also looking for accomplished pianists willing to play for Masses. Let me know if you are interested. mary@ihmrcc.org.

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER Join us at St. Francis Xavier Hall in Compton on Wednesday, March 22 at 7 pm for a talk on the history of the Jesuits by Rev. David J. Collins, SJ. Fr. Collins will be drawing from his soon-to-be published book "The Jesuits in the United States: A Concise History." Dessert and coffee will be served. All welcomed.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOCATION RETREAT St. Mary of the Mills is offering a one-day vocations retreat for high school girls on Saturday, April 29. It is open to all girls of high school age who may be interested in religious life. If you have any questions, please contact the youth@stmaryofthemills.org, or by calling 301-725-3080.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

LENTEN SEAFOOD DINNER DESSERTS Cakes, pies, cupcakes, brownies, cookies, oh my! St. Vincent de Paul of IHM is sponsoring the dessert table during the Lenten Seafood Dinners. We are looking for donations of desserts. Please bring a dessert to the church on the Fridays during Lent (February 24 through March 31) by 3:30 pm. Thank you for your support!

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE St. Vincent de Paul of IHM will be having a Lenten Food Drive on March 18 and 19. Please drop off your non-perishable food donation at the food pantry before all Masses that weekend or place it in the donation boxes at the main entrances to the church. We are always in need of items such as peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups, and cereal. Thank you for helping us to provide for those in need in our community.

EASTER EGG HUNT An Easter egg hunt will be held on Sunday, April 2 at IHM! We are in need of small toys and candy to fill plastic eggs or pre-filled eggs for the event. Donations can be dropped off in the marked box in the main foyer by March 26th. Thank you for your generosity. Any concerns or questions please contact Martha Worrell at mfworrell1@hotmail.com.

DATING WITH GRACE Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's together with Gratia Plena Institute presents 'Dating with Grace.' This event is open to all High School and rising ninth grade Girls (moms too!). The night includes light refreshments and a talk about navigating dating and relationships with grace, humor, and faith. This event is free, however, it is ladies only! The event is Saturday, April 1 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's. To RSVP, go to www.gratiaplenainstitute.com/upcoming-events.

FATHER ALEXANDER GALA Our Lady Star of the Sea is hosting their Father Alexander Gala on Saturday, April 22. Join us for an evening of dinner, food, dancing, and friendship as we honor Fr. Maurice Alexander and this year's Fr. Alexander Award recipients, Fr. Richard Gardiner and Msgr. Mike Wilson. This year, all proceeds will benefit the Our Lady Star of the Sea School! Tickets are \$100 per person, to include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dessert, beer & wine, and a live music show from The Fabulous Hubcaps! You will also have the opportunity to raffle on some incredible items and potentially win a 50/50 raffle. Visit tinyurl.com/3wec2y2u to purchase tickets. Contact the OLSS Parish Office at 410-326-3535 or olstar-sea.md@adw.org if you have any questions, or if you're interested in sponsoring the event or donating items in new condition for the raffle.



March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Even St. Teresa of Calcutta experienced a period of “spiritual dryness.” We pray, we go to Mass faithfully, we serve others – yet at times God’s presence may seem elusive. Like the Israelites, we may ask, “Is the Lord in our midst or not?” As we enter the third Sunday of Lent, today’s readings assure us that God remains with us even during those times we may feel spiritually parched. In Exodus, water flows from a rock to satisfy the people. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well: “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but 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.” The woman, a sinner and an outcast, recognizes Jesus as Messiah, and it changes her life. Even when we don’t “feel” God’s presence, we can rest assured that Jesus stands beside us. He is our redemption and our Hope, and “Hope does not disappoint.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today’s Gospel, Jesus breaks with custom by talking to a woman – a Samaritan woman, no less. He “sees” her – knowing she has been married five times before and is living with a man not her husband. Yet he chooses to reveal to her his identity as the Messiah and offers her “living water.” But it doesn’t end there. The woman at the well goes forth and shares her experience with others. Many more came to believe in the Messiah based on her testimony. What an unlikely disciple! We may feel that we, too, are unlikely disciples: We are sinners, we’ve made mistakes, perhaps we feel we are unworthy to “represent” Jesus to others. But nothing is further from the truth. Jesus invites us not only to partake of the living water but to share it with others so that all may believe.

ACTION Put a note on your mirror or bedside: “Hope does not disappoint.” Each morning, remind yourself that Jesus is the source of our hope, and try to think of ways to share this hope with others.