

Sunday March 8th 2026
The Third Sunday
of Lent

(EX. 17:3-7, ROM. 5:1-2, 5-8, JN. 4:5-42)

THEME: A THIRST FOR SPIRITUAL DRINK

The Rock Was Christ: Paul explains this in the light of the New Testament saying: "They drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ" (1Cor. 10:4).

The rock which Moses struck foreshadowed Christ who, when smitten by the soldier's spear, gave out blood and water from his side. To indicate that the rock is a living one, God in another instance instructed Moses to speak instead to the rock that it may give water (Num. 20:8). This shows that it is the same Christ who was smitten for our salvation that will in his glory receive our prayers.

The national thirst of Israel suggests the universal thirst of souls for God. Since after the fall of man and the consequent alienation from God's presence, the human soul has been yearning for this divine presence. There is in every soul, an ontological gap yearning to be filled. In this quest, nothing can satisfy the soul except God. He is the true object of the soul's thirst and desire. Hence the psalmist says; "Like the deer yearns for running streams, my soul thirsts for you, my God. My soul is thirsting for God, the living God. When shall I see him face to face." (Ps. 42:2-3).

As souls thirst for God, so does God desire the return of the stray soul. The thirst is mutual. United with his people in their thirst, Christ cries on the Cross "I thirst." He thirsts for souls, while the thirst of every soul is for him. The parable of the lost sheep and that of the prodigal son lend weight to this claim. When Jesus requested a drink from the Samaritan woman, he sought instead for her soul, which strayed through sin. When on the Cross he cried, "I thirst," it was for the harvest of souls. As we wish to be satisfied in our own thirst, we should also remember to quench his thirst by offering him a drink; that is, the gift of a repentant heart.



Surprising Facts about the Vatican

Original columns from the first basilica adorn the various chapels above the statues.

They are decorated with vine leaves, and are crowned with a relief, which refers to the chapel's respective relic.

The relics of the different statues—the True Cross, Veronica's Veil, and Longinus' Lance—however, are not in their original sites. These three relics relating to the Passion are now kept together in the chapel above Veronica's statue. They are solemnly displayed in the basilica every year on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. By Fr. Jeffery Kirby, S.T.L.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

9:00 am Mass +Brian Merriweather requested
by Joy Merriweather

11:00 am Mass + Stephanie Orona requested
by Eva Orona

NO WEEKDAY MASSES,

Father Anselm will be on retreat.

PRAYER TREE - LET US PRAY FOR: Joe Barraza, David Baca, Fallon Walker, Family of +Cora Lee, Judy Bragg, Maria Archuleta, Joe Warne, Larry Tyrrell, Tom Malone, Eva Orona, David & Geri Silva, Margie Gowey, Liz Ketring, Jeannette Davis, Angela Gonzales, Joe and Margie Tapia, Bernice & Roxanne Chavez, Lilly Hill, Sophie Pena, Juan Quevedo, Lydia Gonzalez, Sophie Montoya.

TO MAKE PRAYER REQUESTS Please contact the church office at (928) 333-4423. Leave a message, if there is no answer, please include your name and phone number with info. It will be included in the Prayer Requests in the weekly Bulletin.