



BLD Trenton



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We live a life of holiness when we worship the Father in Spirit and truth.

PROMISE:

"...the water I shall give will become in Him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4: 14b)

WORD:

Ex 17: 3-7/ Ps 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9/ Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8/ Jn 4: 5-42



Send your prayer requests to:

[https://
www.bldtrenton.com/
intercessory](https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory)

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March 10, 2023

Accept His Offer

REFLECTION:

From the gospel of the 3rd Sunday of Lent, Jesus tells us, *"...whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst..."* (Jn 4: 14). This life-giving water that Jesus offers us is the gift of faith that He is our salvation. Our theme for the week puts emphasis on this – We live a life of holiness when we follow Jesus who is the light of the world. Through Jesus, God wants us to know and experience how refreshing it can be to dive into the waters of faith.

The Samaritan woman encountered Jesus at the well and she had a revelation that caused her to accept Jesus' invitation to draw from the well of spiritual water, though she felt unworthy of such an invitation. Her belief caused her to tell her neighbors about the One with whom she would have a faith-filled relationship, so different from her past unfaithful relationships. Like her, we who are believers of the Lord are constantly challenged to preserve



the gift of faith and follow Jesus who is our light and salvation.

In the 1st reading, when Moses cries to the Lord, God's faithfulness is manifested to the undeserving and complaining Israelites by giving

them water that flowed from the desert rock. In the responsorial psalm, we are called to open our hearts to the works of the Lord and respond joyfully and gratefully to His gift of salvation. And in the 2nd reading, St. Paul tells us that we can access God's graces because of our faith in Christ who died for us even while we were still sinners (cf Rom 5:8). His love *"has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us,"* (Rom 5:5).

And, finally in the gospel, we see how Jesus leads the woman to accept His offer of salvation by revealing to her about her failed relationships. She listens with amazement as Jesus tells her that *"God is spirit and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth,"* (Jn 4:24). And

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Tending the Flock

A Gift Par Excellence

In the encounter with the Samaritan woman the symbol of water stands out in the foreground, alluding clearly to the sacrament of Baptism, the source of new life for faith in God's Grace. This Gospel, in fact — as I recalled in my Catechesis on Ash Wednesday — is part of the ancient journey of the catechumen's preparation for Christian Initiation, which took place at the great Easter Vigil. *"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him,"* Jesus said, *"will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life"* (Jn 4:14).

This water represents the Holy Spirit, the *"gift"* par excellence that Jesus came to bring on the part of God the Father. Whoever is reborn by water and by the Holy Spirit, that is, in Baptism, enters into a real relationship with God, a filial relationship, and can worship him *"in spirit and in truth"* (Jn 4:23, 24), as Jesus went on to reveal to the Samaritan woman. Thanks to the meeting with Jesus Christ and to the gift of the Holy Spirit, the human being's faith attains fulfillment, as a response to the fullness of God's revelation.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, *Angelus Message, March 27, 2011*

Bukas Loob Sa Diyos
Diocese of Trenton

proudly presents

the
**Philippine
Madrigal Singers**

Mark Anthony A. Carpio, choirmaster



MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7PM

CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE
61 GEORGIA RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$40 | VIP MEET AND GREET: \$75

Proceeds will benefit Bukas Loob Sa Diyos mission activities.

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Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

March 3, 2023

Tithe :\$630.00
Love Offering :\$284.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Elma Pontipiedra	3/10	Bobby Ilagan	3/15
Melo Mabutas	3/10	Edwin Orienza	3/15
Argie Pe	3/13	Joy Pagente	3/15
Ed Bautista	3/14	Chiclette Fajardo	3/16
Lieza Subang	3/13		

Anniversary

Cesar & Rosalie Angeles	3/10
Nestor & Chat Conde	3/13
Gabs & Aileen Lagunilla	3/15

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541



Luminous Beauty

Brothers and sisters, the Gospel traces a path for us - it teaches us how important it is to remain with Jesus even when it is not easy to understand everything he says and does for us. In fact, it is by staying with him that we learn to recognize on his face the luminous beauty of love he gives us, even when it bears the marks of the cross. And it is in his school that we learn to see the same beauty on the faces of the people who walk beside us every day - family, friends, colleagues who take care of us in the most varied ways.

How many luminous faces, how many smiles, how many wrinkles, how many tears and scars reveal love around us! Let us learn to recognize them and to fill our hearts with them. And then let us set out in order to bring the light we have received to others as well, through concrete acts of love (cf. 1 Jn 3:18), diving into our daily occupations more generously, loving, serving, and forgiving with greater earnestness and willingness. The contemplation of God's wonders, the contemplation of God's face, of the Lord's face, must move us to the service of others

~ Pope Francis

Let us worship and kneel before the Lord who made us; and sing joyfully to the Rock of our Salvation.

Fire And Water

Sometimes Scripture calls the grace of the Spirit "fire", other times it calls it "water." In this way, it shows that these names are not descriptive of its essence but of its operation. For the Spirit, which is invisible and simple, cannot be made up of different substances... In the same way that he calls the Spirit by the name of "fire", alluding to the rousing and warming property of grace and its power of destroying sins, he calls it "water" in order to highlight the cleansing it does and the great refreshment it provides those minds that receive it. For it makes the willing soul like a kind of garden, thick with all kinds of fruitful and productive trees, allowing it neither to feel despondency nor the plots of Satan. It quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

~ John Chrysostom, 347-407 A.D.
Homilies on the Gospel of John 32.1

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because of this, she becomes a proclaimer of this newly-found faith by testifying before others that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah.

God is the initiator of faith. Just as the promise of Living Water was made to the woman at the well, faith is a divine gift which is made accessible to us. We can choose to accept or reject it. This gift may expose us to face the realities of our lives, just as Jesus did for the Samaritan woman. We can even try to hide from God, but He knows our lives better than we know them. Yet, we will always be led to a deeper relationship with Him if we are open to the gift of faith. And as we accept Jesus as our Savior and the Light who guides us to the Truth, we must invite others to receive this gift so that they will experience the newness of life as well.

Jesus offers us no less than Himself for He has promised that, "...the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4: 14b).

Prayer:

Our ever-giving and ever-loving Father, send us Your Holy Spirit of wisdom, patience and strength so that we may respond fully to Your gracious gift of faith. May we in the BLD community be refreshed continually so that our relationship with You will take deep roots in our being. Use us mightily to spread this faith so that more people will come to quench their spiritual thirst in a community of fellow believers. We make this prayer to You our Father, through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, our one and only God, forever and ever... Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

An Invitation

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
APRIL 14-16, 2023

Ave Maria Retreat House
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18901

Cost per couple: \$300
(Meals and Accommodation)

For all inquiries:
German/Letty Butay (732) 887-5298 or lbutoy@yahoo.com
Nestor/Cecille Vasquez (908) 578-9138 | Toy/Malen Juarez (609) 954-2300

