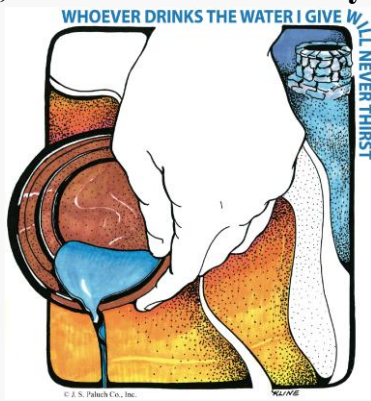


March 8, 2026 Third Sunday of Lent



Water For a desert people, a green, well-watered place is heaven on earth. It is no wonder that God chose a garden for Adam and Eve. In the desert, we search for an oasis. For all the severe beauty of the desert, it is water that we need. Today, we return to the waters of life, the waters of baptism.

COMMENT

It wasn't a desert the chosen people were looking for. They were looking for freedom. They were looking for a future and an identity as God's own people. And in the first reading today, their concerns are very close to home indeed. They are simply looking for water.

They lacked this absolutely vital resource. And they lacked trust in God. So tangible was their anger, so clear their litany of complaint, that Moses feared for his own life. But God was patient, and water flowed from stone. The hardest hearts melted also. One can imagine relief spreading among the people as glistening, cold water flowed in that impenetrable, alien desert. This was the Lord's doing.

We meet Jesus in another desert place. His need for water was acute. After an arduous journey, Jesus stopped at the very place where Israel's great patriarch, Jacob, once set up camp centuries earlier. Water still rose up here and slaked the thirst of the people. Unfortunately this sacred place was in Samaria. The running feud with the Samaritans is well-known. They are the offspring of those Jews who remained in Israel during the exile and intermarried with non-Jews. Their "tainted" religion was a constant reminder of their betrayal. Samaria lay between the northern area of Galilee and the southern region of Judea. To circumnavigate Samaria meant a three-day journey. This forced detour added insult to injury. There was no love lost on Samaritans.

Nonetheless, in today's Gospel, Jesus risks the short passage through Samaria. He speaks in public to a woman — and, more surprising for his time, a Samaritan woman of questionable moral character. The story begins with Jesus' simple thirst for water and ends up with the woman's thirst for the living waters that only he can give. As they talk, the truth flows forth. The age-old dispute about worship on Mount Gerezim or

Mount Zion (Jerusalem) pales. The old questions are moot. The old enmities are transcended. The true thirst of all humankind is identified. Spiritual thirst is at issue, and it is quenched by the source of living waters—Jesus himself.

The astounded woman leaves Jesus there at the well. In her haste, she leaves her water jar, too. She has news! However, she is shy and tentative: "Could this not be the Messiah?" At their urgent request, Jesus stays with the Samaritans for a few days. They come to see for themselves that Jesus is the Savior of the whole world—of Israel and Judea. He is Savior even of lowly Samaria.

REFLECTION

Perhaps someone once sponsored us and asked for the gift of faith for us when we were infants. Perhaps those of us who are cradle Catholics forget the generosity of God's gift. Paul reminds us that faith is simply given. There is nothing earned or deserved. Grace, God's life, is amazing. It is more amazing than water, which is the metaphor here. Too often we take for granted God's life in us, or our life in God. We take it for granted the way we take water for granted when we live in a well-watered land.

During this Lent we may just be noodling along, but the intense and searching faith of others can move us. Sunday by Sunday we are called to pray for and with those who thirst for baptism. These catechumens—these searchers—wake us up. Their witness calls us to change from our stony little impervious ways and come again to the living waters.

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**Holy Spirit Catholic Parish
October through December 2025**

INCOME

Religious Ed Tuition & Fees.....	2,801.81
Youth Program Income.....	0.84
Envelope Receipts.....	57,498.00
Loose Plate Income.....	21,601.39
Designated Gifts, Building.....	2,598.50
Designated Gifts, Other.....	3,504.00
Interest Income.....	813.54
Dividend Income.....	248.64
Candles/Religious Books-NET.....	243.06
Festival & Socials-NET.....	1,500.00
Grant Received.....	<u>13,000.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$ 103,323.66

EXPENSE

Administrative.....	28,545.72
CCD & Adult Religious Ed.....	10,350.88
Plant Operation.....	19,884.55
Resident Clergy Support.....	14,537.75
Subsidies & Grants.....	7,388.81
Worship Services.....	7,642.70
Youth Activities.....	244.27
Capital Outlays.....	<u>733.62</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE.....	\$ 89,328.30
NET INCOME.....	\$ 13,995.36



“Happy Birthday Fr. Josh!”

May God Bless you with many more wonderful years!” All are invited to Father’s birthday celebration this Sunday, March 8th, in the parish hall, after the 11 o’clock morning Mass! Remember to bring a covered dish.

Prayers for Fr. Josh and all going on Pilgrimage to Greece. May God protect and keep them safe in their travels.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS to all our March celebrants!

WHY AM I CATHOLIC?- Deacon Bill’s sharing session is back on schedule -- every Tuesday at his home, @6:00pm. **All are invited!**

WEDNESDAY Communion Service @Immaculate Heart at 6:00pm, followed by Adoration until 7:30pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Via Crucis - all Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm followed by soup/snacks at the Parish Hall @Immaculate Heart. Hosting this week are the Cursillistas.

RELIGION CLASSES ---

- Sunday Classes 9:30 - 10:40A.M.
- Wednesday Classes 7:00 - 8:30P.M
- OCIA –Thursdays, 6pm at HF Hall, 507 Crane St.

ULTREYA MEETINGS

Sunday, March 8th - 6:00pm (*English*)
 Monday, March 9th - 7:00pm (*Spanish*)
 Both at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit <http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

PENANCE SERVICES in the surrounding area:

All Penance Services begin at 6:30pm.

March

- 10 – St. Mary Queen of Peace, Brownwood
- 12 – St. Ann Parish, Colorado City
- 18 – St. Vincent Pallotti, Abilene
- 19 – Sacred Heart, Abilene
- 25 – Sacred Heart, Coleman
- 26 - St. Francis, Abilene

● **April 01 – Holy Spirit, Sweetwater**

February 28/March 1, 2026 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$4,603.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1,322.06
CCD.....	<u>910.00</u>
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$6,835.06

Thank you for your generosity!

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

March 14 Guadalupanas March 21 Jamaica

Saturday, March 7th -

5:00PM-IHM – Guadalupanas living and deceased; In thanksgiving for Mikenna Ashley’s birthday; +Felipe Gallegos, Mary Torres, Eddie and Ray Longoria, Jr.; +Elva DelaCruz

7:00PM – **Roscoe** - Por la gente de Nolan County

Sunday, March 8th -

8:00AM – **IHM** +Christopher Cardoza; +Ysidro Ramirez; En acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Isaac Ray Sims y Stephanie Rubio

11:00AM – **IHM** +Miguel Ortiz, Tomasita Alcaras, Alfonso, Sara & Benjamin Gonzales; +Vicky Soto; In thanksgiving for Olusegun Falana’s birthday

Tuesday, March 10th 9:00AM - HF

Communion Service

Wednesday, March 11th 6:00PM - IHM

Communion Service

Thursday, March 12th 9:00AM-HF

Communion Service

Friday, March 13th 9:00AM HF

Communion Service

Saturday, March 14th -

5:00PM-IHM – In thanksgiving for Barron Cole Reyes’ birthday; +Luz & Antonio Alaniz; +Gloria Castro, Delia Sparkman, Rudy Torres, Nellie, Dolores, Francisco, Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana, Tony y Patricia Gomez

Sunday, March 15th -

8:00AM – **IHM** Por Grupo Misionero que Dios los bendiga y aumente su fe; En acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Rosa Hernandez y Fr. Josh;

+Sarah Gomez, Eulalio y Sarita Olvera, Ysidro y Elvira Navarrette

11:00AM – **IHM** For the People of Nolan County

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR
IN HONOR OF THE 800 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF
SAINT FRANCIS *of* ASSISI

1226



2026

On January 10th, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, through the office of the Apostolic Penitentiary, declared an extraordinary Jubilee Year to celebrate the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. One of the greatest saints of the Church, Saint Francis, through his institution of the Franciscan order and tireless activity in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, transformed and brought renewal to the whole Church, and provided all Christians a model for holiness. In the words of the declaration: "This Year of Saint Francis should encourage all of us, each according to his or her own possibilities, to imitate the Poor Man of Assisi." While this year is special particularly for the members of the Franciscan orders, it is also an opportunity for all of us to learn through this great saint the path he walked which led him to be so close to our Lord and Redeemer.

To obtain the plenary indulgences granted in this Extraordinary Jubilee, the Holy See has promoted certain pious works to be undertaken by the faithful:

- ❖ Participation in Jubilee celebrations
- ❖ Making a special pilgrimage to a Franciscan church or shrine
- ❖ Prayer and meditation in the Franciscan spirit
- ❖ Daily acts of charity and humility in the spirit of Saint Francis

In completing these works, **one must also fulfill the usual conditions:** 1. Freedom from attachments to grave sin 2. Sacramental absolution in the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation 3. Reception of the Holy Eucharist 4. Prayer for the Pope and his intentions (usually fulfilled by one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be).

In this new year 2026, may you and your families experience in the deepest way that which is expressed in the Franciscan motto, "Pax et Bonum," "Peace and Goodness."

