

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 8, 2026

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

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, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next 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 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Gus Schaub of Brimfield, and for the consolation of his family.

The Beatification of Fulton J. Sheen Stay connected to the journey towards Beatification and receive the latest news at celebratesheen.com

The Chrism Mass is the annual celebration of the Priesthood in which all the priests of the diocese concelebrate with our Bishop and the holy oils are consecrated for the year. *The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.*

Please let Pauline know by March 18th if you would like to attend this mass and receive the Holy Oils for St James Parish.



SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD

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March 8th, 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent

“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 over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

GIFT



“If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

JOHN 4:10

Homily for the 3rd Sunday of Lent

Lent is a journey from thirst to fulfilment, from isolation to communion. Jesus meets us at our wells - our ordinary routines - and offers us something than we expect. It was well known that Samaritans and Jews did not associate, and certainly didn't share eating or drinking implements, but thought each other were heretics.. Despite this, they believed many of the same things, and their practices weren't that different. The difference was massively about where the proper place for worship was, with Jews saying it's God's temple in Jerusalem, and the Samaritans said it was their local Mount Gerizim. They all had the same spiritual ancestors, and they were all descended from the different tribes of the originally united Israel, combining Judah and Israel, the latter which included Samaria.

It's possible the woman comes to the well at that particular time to avoid her fellow Samaritans because she was held in low esteem in the village. She may have withdrawn from others due to what seems like a tragic series of events that had befallen her and her family including illness, sorrow, depression, tragedy or moral sin. The people felt sorry for her and felt she was cursed, but they didn't cast her out. But she nevertheless felt shame and distress from her situation. She may have been depressed and downcast, having suffered so much personal tragedy in her life. The people might have felt that God wasn't blessing her, had abandoned her because of all that had happened in her life. Jesus' gentle words can be taken to say, I know all you have been through. I know what has happened to you. God's kingdom is for you as well. When Jesus tells the woman all about herself, she feels welcomed and understood, not judged. He's filled with compassion for suffering. Jesus' example shows us that the solution to division and disagreement is compassion, respect, listening, healing, and lovingly being open to the fullness of vision, and doesn't stand on narrow refusal to have a meeting of mind and heart.

My dear friends, there's a thirst in every human heart. Each of us is like that lonely Samaritan woman. We draw water from many wells; the water of praise to quench our thirst for self-esteem; the water of success to quench our thirst for importance; the water of pleasure to quench our thirst for joy. And, yet, we still remain thirsty. For only God can give us what we're looking for. God alone can cause a spring to well up inside us and the water from this spring will sustain us in our journey to the promised Land of everlasting life.

Lastly, may we seek the living water daily by spending time in prayer, scripture, and the sacraments. May we break down barriers by reaching out to someone we've been avoiding or judging. Let's share our stories like the Samaritan woman, tell others how you are feeling, what you're going through, that person may be a Godsend for Christ to quench your thirst.

PEACE AND BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW WEEK. FR DEO

Stations and Penance Services:

Thursday, March 12: Stations and Penance Service at Saint Joseph (7pm)

Friday, March 13: Stations at Saint Mary (7pm)

Thursday, March 17: Stations and Penance Service at Saint Dominic (7pm)

Friday, March 18: Stations at Saint Mary (7pm)

Thursday, March 26: Penance Service at Saint Mary (7pm)

Friday, March 27: Special Stations at Saint Joseph (7pm)

Lenten Events

Men's Conference:

Saturday, March 14 at Saint Mary Hall/Church
8:00am – 3:00pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun, March 8th

Confessions 7:00am — 7:25am

Mass 7:30am Special Intention Offered by Miller

Sun, March 15th

Confessions 7:00am — 7:25am

Mass 7:30am Don Haman Offered by Wanner's

Weekly Collections

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Sunday	3-1-26
Envelopes	\$ 615.00
Loose	\$ 186.00
Electronic	\$ 200.00