

LENT 2026

CRUX

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

- Begin your weekly meeting in prayer.

Oh God, you call us even when we sin. You seek us out in our moments of rejection and feelings of destitution. Help guide us out of these times of darkness and help us to see our worth that is defined by you. Reveal to us the beauty of the sacraments and instill in us the importance of your will. We ask this in your name, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- After reading Sunday's Gospel and watching the free video with Fr. Columba for this week, take some time to discuss and reflect on the following questions:
 - Have you ever felt rejected in life? Describe this moment. Looking back, where could we see God at work in this rejection?
 - How has God pursued you in rejection?
 - Have you ever become the "pursuer" of Christ? How do you "pursue" Christ daily? What actions do you want to apply to your life so that you start to pursue Christ more?
 - Knowing that we are desired and pursued by Christ every moment, how does that further instill in us our identity?
- We invite you to go to confession this week as a way to renew your heart and follow Christ more closely. May our prayers this week reflect on the surrender of the Woman at the Well.

READINGS

- Exodus 17: 3-7
- Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
- John 4: 5-42

OPTIONS TO VIEW FR. COLUMBA'S VIDEO



- Scan the above QR code to watch on a mobile device
- Use the TV in your small group room to watch the video on the Ascension APP
- Have your small group leader read the Day 12 reflection from their *Crux: Daily Lenten Meditations* book aloud



John 4: 5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, "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." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "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 said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water. "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him. When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Prayer of Unknowing

by Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road although I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Amen.

Respond

In prayer today, simply dwell in the knowledge that you are relentlessly pursued by Jesus. Thank Him for the gift of that pursuit of your heart. Consider offering him this response: "Lord, help me to delight in the realization of being pursued by you. I long to see the signs of your love and desire for me. Grant me the grace to experience your pursuit of me through the sacraments, the world you have created, the friends and family you have given me, and the many gifts and graces you give me each day. Grant me the grace to pursue you in return, accepting the unique mission you have given to me. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY FISH FRY DINNERS

In Lent, bring the family
Fridays from 5 – 7 PM
in the School Cafeteria

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays During Lent
in the Chapel
6:30 PM (English)
7:15 PM (Spanish)

Mercy Morning

March 21st

Join us for a community outreach event with our valued partners! Families of all ages can take part in hands-on service projects while learning how our partners make a difference. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/MercyMorning26#/> to reserve a spot for your family!



**SAINT MARY
MAGDALEN**

CATHOLIC CHURCH