

89 OVERLOOK DRIVE  
MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951  
PHONE: 631-281-5743

Roman Catholic  
Shrine Church of  
**St. Jude**

WWW.STJUDEMB.ORG  
RECTORY@STJUDEMB.ORG  
FAX: 631-395-5786

“To the Greater Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls.”



**Celebration of  
the Eucharist**

SATURDAY EVENINGS  
5:00pm Vigil Mass  
7:30pm Spanish Mass  
SUNDAY  
8:00am English & Italian  
9:30am Children's Choir  
11:30am Adult Choir  
5:00pm Youth Mass  
MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
9:00am Mass  
WEDNESDAY  
9:00am Mass  
Noon Mass  
SATURDAY  
8:30am Mass  
HOLY DAYS AS  
ANNOUNCED.

## 3rd Sunday of Lent - March 27th 2011

**Pastor**  
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn

**In Residence**  
Msgr. John Heinlein

**Senior Priest**  
Rev. James Leone

**Parish Office  
Hours**

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND  
FRIDAY  
9:00am-5:00pm  
WEDNESDAYS  
9:00am-6:00pm  
SATURDAYS  
CLOSED  
SUNDAYS  
9:00am-2:00pm  
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

**Deacons**  
Thomas Gillen  
Kenneth Geoghan  
Mark Herrmann  
Joseph Simeone

**Useful Numbers**

RECTORY  
281-5743  
PARISH OUTREACH  
281-5634  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
281-2835  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
281-5743  
NURSERY SCHOOL  
395-3959  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES  
SCHOOL  
878-1033  
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL  
281-5743 ext. 29

**Sacrament of  
Anointing of  
the Sick**  
Available in danger of  
death or whenever  
there is a personal  
need, call the rectory  
for an appointment.

**Sacrament  
of Penance/  
Confession**  
SATURDAYS  
Noon during Lent,  
4:00-4:45pm and by  
appointment  
WEDNESDAYS  
2:00-2:45pm and by  
appointment

**Parish Outreach**  
MON.-THURS.  
9:00am-1:00pm  
CLOSED  
FRI., SAT., SUN.  
AND HOLIDAYS

**Sacrament of  
Marriage**  
Couples wishing to be  
married should contact  
the rectory at least one  
year in advance to meet  
with one of the priests  
to make wedding  
arrangements.  
Pre-Cana is required  
for all couples.

**Sacrament of  
Baptism**  
Celebrated on most  
Sundays throughout  
the year. Please contact  
the rectory to set up  
an appointment with  
a member of the staff  
to arrange for the  
Baptismal preparation  
session and to set a  
date for Baptism.

**Devotions**

MIRACULOUS MEDAL  
NOVENA  
Mondays after the  
9:00am Mass  
ST. JUDE NOVENA  
Thursdays after the  
9:00am Mass  
ADORATION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Wednesdays after the  
NOON Mass  
Benediction at 3:00pm  
FIRST FRIDAY  
8:00pm-9:00pm  
Benediction at 9:00pm  
THE HOLY ROSARY  
Monday through Friday  
at 8:30am; Saturdays at  
8:00am

## Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011

5:00pm Salvatore Vetere †

7:30pm Poor Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011

8:00am Stephen D. Stribula †

9:30am Parishioners of St. Jude

11:30am John Michael Mensch †

5:00pm Henry Cieri †

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011

9:00am Jean Scannapieco †

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011

9:00am Valerie A. Niver †

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011

9:00am Carmella Green †

NOON Saint Jude Guild –  
Domingo Ufina †,  
Tom Verga Sr. †, William Kogel †,  
Victor Mendolia †,  
Mr. & Mrs. Romeo Proulx †

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

9:00am Kenneth Kinman †

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011

9:00am Roberta Kunda †

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

8:30am Anthony Tavoraro †

5:00pm Cyril Wolpert †

7:30pm Paul Kemp †

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011

8:00am Deceased members of the  
Romano Family †

9:30am Parishioners of St. Jude

11:30am Marie Josephine MacIntosh †

5:00pm Andrew Signorelli †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Rich Alliegro, Christopher Barnes, Sr., Barbara Breier, Edwin Brennin, Don Bull, Diane Bulin, Francis X. Butler, Cory Castelli, Rose Coppola, Anthony Cuccia, Mary Theresa Cunningham, Dorothy Davin, Anthony DeLuco, Alexandra Ditman, Mike Fallgren, William Farrington, Nicholas Ferrara, Theresa Ferrer, James Fiore, Steven Heerbrandt, Alfonso Inoe, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Lawrence Katz, Cookie Landau, Joseph Lutz, Dennis MacWilliams, Joe Maloney, Jean McDonald, Jack McCarthy, Phyllis Mohn, Logan Murphy, Joshua Mussi, Anthony Naglieri, Francis Naglieri, Jennie Paruolo, Dorothy Romero, Frank Russo, Jeffrey Scaccio Jr., Fara Schacca, Lucille Scharrer, Barbara Schiebel, David Simon, Tony Sinagra, Julia Tolve, Julia Vaglio, Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana, Ronald Weick, Joan Weisner, Tony Zottoli

FOR THE DECEASED: Vincent J. Visconti, Frank Caruso, Peter Thomas Capozzi, Oscar Fuentes Jr., Concetta M. Cayer

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Joseph Competello, Matt Corica, Michael Cuervo, Kenneth Drumm, Jr., Daniel Edwards, Daniel Engo, Michael Hickey, Jeffrey Holmes, Steven Kay, Richard Kruger, Chris Manakides, John Maresca, Joe Occhineri, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Don Skelton, Bobby Sosa, James Tagliamonte, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

## Lenten Regulations

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food in between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be eaten during the day.

## Morning Lauds

As has been the custom here at St. Jude, we will pray Morning Prayer (The Prayer of the Church) Monday through Friday at 8:15AM followed by the Holy Rosary.

## Sacrament of Confession/Penance

Lent is a special time of grace in the life of the Church. It is a time when many people receive the grace to come back to the practice of the faith. It is also a time of ongoing conversion for each of us.

The Sacrament of Confession/Penance is available each Saturday during Lent at noon, and from 4PM to 4:45PM and Wednesdays 2:00PM to 2:45PM. We encourage you to make use of this sacrament. The Confession Schedule for Holy Week will be printed closer to that week. Please mention this opportunity to family and friends who may be looking for the opportunity to come home!

## Lenten Stations of the Cross

'The Way of the Cross' each Friday evening during Lent at 8:00PM.

Spanish Stations will be on Tuesdays at 7:30PM.

Italian Stations will be on Wednesdays at 7:30PM.

On April 8th at 8:00PM, there will be a presentation of the Stations of the Cross. The Lenten season is an especially prayerful time for us. We focus on our challenge to Follow Christ and the narrow road He took, that eventually led Him to Calvary. In our own way, we are called, by Him to do the same. The Stations, are a vivid reminder of those last 18 hours of Jesus' life.

We will be using scenes from the movie "*The Passion*." Each scene is between 45 seconds to a minute and a half. They are played to remind us of that particular station and what it was that Jesus truly endured for us. There will be songs sung and prayers we will participate in, to bring us to a deeper understanding of Jesus' Passion.

These stations are a reenactment of those last hours of Christ. They are dramatic, awe inspiring and painful to watch. It was His journey. It was and is an act of pure love. This is a powerful experience that is not meant for children (not recommended for children under 14). It is meant for those who wish to know and understand the length and depth and width of Christ's love for us. God Bless You.

## Lenten Fish Fry

'St. Jude Parish' and the 'J.V. Kavanaugh Knights of Columbus' will be hosting the annual Lenten fish fry! Come feed your body and soul. Each Friday during Lent ending April 15th the week before Good Friday. There is plenty of time to enjoy your meal and afterwards join us for the Stations of the Cross at 8PM in the church. Dinner includes: Fish fillet, french fries, coleslaw, roll, dessert and soda (or bring a drink of your choice) for just \$8.00 per person. The fish fry is held at the parish center hall from 5:00PM to 7:30PM.

The second fish fry was very successful. A special thank you to the volunteer catechists: Lorraine Hickey, Karen Lee, Pat Bona and Ketty Colbert for the scrumptious desserts and helpful hands. To Elizabeth Schiraldi thanks for your help in serving the tables and Douglas Els help in the kitchen. We would like to thank all who came and supported this event on Friday, March 18th.



# ride

The Third Mass Preface of Lent expresses to the Father the spirit we are to have as we “climb the holy mountain” towards Easter:

*You ask us to express our thanks by self-denial.*

*We are to master our sinfulness and conquer our pride.*

*We are to show to those in need your goodness to our selves.*

The very real presence of the Devil and the seven *deadly sins* (pride, envy, anger, sloth, avarice, gluttony, and lust) active in our world, are something to examine especially at this time of year. We should seek to eradicate them from our lives and let the goodness of almighty God shine forth. I hope to present all seven over the next few weeks; and likely into the Easter Season. I have taken great encouragement for this exposition from Fr. Robert Barron’s CD “Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively Virtues”, currently available in the Lighthouse Catholic Media display. If any of this echoes his presentation, I give him the credit!

Pride is the root of all sin which paves the road for all the others. It is the sin of Adam and Eve; the Original Sin. As we heard in the reading from Genesis on the First Sunday of Lent, at the prompting of the serpent, our first parents bought into the lie that they could be something greater than they were. They were lured into believing that they could be like God; even possibly being “competition” for Him. It was and always is a *disordered desire* to excel; a self-centered desire and not one of wanting to share in God’s power to be only good and do only good, but to have selfish advantage or power and control over others, which is evil.

Psychology tells us that whether one feels either inferior or superior to others, both are inferiority complexes. The former makes itself obvious, while in the latter, arrogance masks deep-down fears of inadequacy. To look at ourselves as somehow superior to others can be a very real temptation. When we are prideful, we want to be the center of our own destiny, rather than let God be the One who is Lord of all things, and seeing all others in His light.

“When man isolates self from God and the rest of humanity and makes self absolute or central, either ignoring all others or using them solely towards the achievement of his own private ends, he has the vice of pride... At the root of all such sins there is an exaggerated love and concern for self that clouds one’s knowledge and appreciation of the true self and the corresponding worth of others.” (Catholic Encyclopedia)

To one degree or another, this sin exists in all of us; and typically in very subtle ways. Some examples of pride can even parade themselves as virtues. i.e.: when one is given a (well deserved) compliment, and in response puts him/herself down (false humility), rather than graciously say, “Thank-you,” while explicitly or implicitly giving God the credit and glory for the gifts required to achieve whatever was accomplished.

“Scrupulous” individuals suffer from a variety of pride that does not allow God to be all merciful: in essence saying, “God is not powerful enough to forgive me or cover for my inadequacies and failings.” The scrupulous says his unworthiness is larger than God. No matter how we think or feel, God is much greater than even the worst sin we can commit.

“Presumptuous” individuals exhibit the opposite attitude: acting as if that no matter what I do, God is going to forgive me. That everything I do (no matter how intrinsically evil) is justifiable and OK. The presumptuous person, in essence, “tells” God how to be God; can flaunt the laws of God and the Church, and legitimate authority. This is often manifested in what can be called the “...but I’m a good person...” syndrome; “God has to forgive me because I am wonderful.” An egotistical attitude like that can be detrimental to one’s eternal salvation.

Some other everyday examples of the sin of pride: self-absorption and vanity; easily taking offense; reaction to criticism and over-sensitivity; the craving for attention, adulation, and praise; having to have it “my way”; not taking legitimate praise (for the gifts that come from God working in you); always talking about yourself/your children/grandchildren/your interests... Not really listening to others; being judgmental... The list goes on. We each have our particular “brands” of pride.

Yet, we have the capability to become something greater than we are only through the humble, obedient love of our Lord Jesus. Mary said to the angel, “Let it be done unto me according to thy Word.” May our attitude be the same through her prayers, so that we too may make God #1 and share His Life in heaven.

**In Christ,  
Fr. Greg**

## Faith Formation

**STEWARDSHIP:** Thanks so much to those who donated peanut butter and jelly for our monthly stewardship donations. The stewardship item for April is brushes, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Thanking you in advance for your generosity. God bless all!

### **CONFIRMATION PREP 2 & RCIC2**

**UPPER:** Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, March 29th from 6:30-8:00PM in our church. This is for students who attend class on Tuesday evenings. This will take the place of regular class on March 29th.

**There will be regular Conf. Prep. 2 & RCIC2 Upper classes as scheduled on March 28th.**

### **FIRST COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING:**

Wednesday, March 30th at 7:30PM in the parish center main hall for Level 2 & RCIC2 Lower Parents ONLY.

### **CONFIRMATION CONVERSATION:**

Friday, April 1st beginning at 4:30PM. Please check in at the Faith Formation Office. This is for 6th level students that are entering Confirmation Prep 1 in the fall. Each student needs to have a conversation about their faith with staff. Please be prompt. If you have not received your letter with your scheduled appointment, please call 281-2835.

**LEVEL 2 & RCIC2 LOWER:** First Reconciliation Service on Saturday, April 2nd at 1:00PM in our church.

### **CONFIRMATION PREP 2 & RCIC2**

**UPPER:** Reconciliation Service on Monday, April 4th from 6:30-8:00PM in our church. This is for students who attend class on Monday evenings. This will take the place of regular class on April 4th.

**There will be regular Conf. Prep. 2 & RCIC2 Upper classes as scheduled on April 5th.**

## St. Jude Blood Drive

Outreach would like to thank all those who gave the gift of life by donating blood. We surpassed our goal of 35 pints, for a total of 44 pints! Way to go! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus who nourished our donors at the fabulous fish fry.

## First Saturday Devotions

The First Saturday of each month is especially dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. Please join in the praying of the Rosary and the First Saturday Devotion prayers, April 2nd at 8AM, preceding the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 8:30AM.

## Lighthouse Catholic CD of the Week

### **"THE HIDDEN POWER OF FORGIVENESS" — JEFF CAVINS**

Jeff Cavins reveals the **mousetrap** of unforgiveness that prevents so many from living in the freedom of God's peace and halts spiritual progress. He explains with clarity how forgiveness frees not only the one who is forgiven, but the forgiver. Includes the bonus segment from Anger and Forgiveness by Deacon Dr. Bob McDonald.

## Lenten Trinity Talk

Join us Wednesday, March 30th at 8PM in the church. Father Roy Tvrdik, SMM from Our Lady of the Island Shrine will hold a Night of Reflection with a Lenten Trinity Talk. All are encouraged to attend.

## Our Lady Queen of Apostles School

The Third Week of Lent has begun. Does it seem possible? Every Monday we gather as a school community in the gym for prayer (the rest of the week prayers are said over the loud speaker). On this day we set the prayer theme for the week or the liturgical season. This year our Lenten theme is the 'Seven Last Words of Jesus.' Each class presents the words that Jesus spoke in the context of a Scripture reading. These words then become a focus for prayer during the week deepening their Lenten experience. During Lent, there is a penance service for the students. On Wednesday, April 13th the seventh grade will present the Living Stations in the Church at 12:45PM. Of course you are all welcome to come. Know that during this time of special prayer you are remembered daily in our prayers. Blessings, Sister Helen Ann

## The Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next weekend, April 2nd & 3rd, our parish will take up 'The Catholic Relief Services Collection.' This Collection supports six Catholic agencies benefiting millions of vulnerable, displaced, and impoverished families and individuals around the world. From direct humanitarian service to helping victims of human trafficking and working to reunify families, the funds from this Collection make a real difference in lives across the globe. How will you help? Next week, please support 'The Catholic Relief Services Collection' and Jesus in disguise.

## Irish Concert for Haiti

Featuring Mary Courtney and Morning Star, plus a special appearance by the Hagen School of Irish Dance. On Saturday, April 2nd at 4PM. Admission is \$35.00. Located at 'Our Lady of Mercy Academy,' 815 Convent Road, Syosset. Reservations and/or donations: [www.irishconcertforhaiti.com](http://www.irishconcertforhaiti.com) or 718-454-9804.

## Holy Mass and Healing Service

'Touch of Heaven the Alan Ames Ministry' will be at Mass on Wednesday, April 6th followed by talk and healing service. Mass begins 7:00PM at St. John the Evangelist 25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches. Alan Ames has been speaking and praying for healing around the world since 1994. He was blessed to speak with Church approval at World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, where he conducted 3 talks. World Day is a papal event. Also, in 2004, again with church approval, he spoke at two of the holiest sites in Christendom; the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth and St. Catherine's, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. For more information call 631-878-0009.

## St. Jude Annual Golf Outing

Save the date. The golf outing will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at Rock Hill Country Club in Manorville. All proceeds will go to our Outreach Program here at St. Jude. Price is \$150 per golfer or \$45 for dinner only. Tee sponsorships are \$100. Please call Tom 921-6793 or Ron 255-0339 for more information.

# Baby Bottle Campaign!



'The Baby Bottle Campaign' to benefit 'The Life Center of Long Island' will be completed with collection of the filled bottles next weekend:

## April 2nd & 3rd

Please continue to say the prayer attached to the bottle.

Thank you for your continued prayerful and financial support and be assured it is making a big difference in the lives of many people served by this busy crisis pregnancy center...

Keep Going!!

## Easter Flower Donations

Easter is just around the corner and what would the celebration be without all the flowers that gracefully decorate our church and help bring us into the joyful spirit of Christ's resurrection? Flowers maybe dedicated to or in memory of your loved ones. A minimum suggested offering is \$20. Please use your envelope received in your mailed package or use the form below and drop it off at the rectory with your offering. Thank you.

### Sign Up Form

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS FLOWERS DONATED BY:

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DEDICATED TO OR IN MEMORY OF:

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AMOUNT: \$

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## Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY			SUNDAY			Total
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	
Feb. 27	293	155	188	319	550	217	1722
Mar. 6	344	210	183	413	605	225	1980
Mar. 13	348	200	187	323	605	223	1886
Mar. 20	352	150	223	372	630	200	1927

## Weekly Collections

Regular Collection Mar. 20th \$10,341.22

## Catholic Ministries Appeal

2011 Goal \$50,174.00

Total pledges a/o 3/22/11 \$47,049.00

# of Donors 151

Payments a/o 3/22/11 \$24,864.00

Thank you to all that have pledged to give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. We have pledged 94% of our goal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have not pledged to give please consider making a donation no matter how small. Every dollar counts. God Bless the parishioners of St. Jude.

## Scripture Readings

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*

2 KGS 5:1-15B / LK 4:24-30

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*

DN 3:25, 34-43 / MT 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*

DT 4:1, 5-9 / MT 5:17-19

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*

JER 7:23-28 / LK 11:14-23

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011 *Annunciation of the Lord*

HOS 14:2-10 / MK 12:28-34

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011 *Lenten Weekday*

HOS 6:1-6 / LK 18:9-14

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 2011 *Third Sunday of Lent*

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A / EPH 5:8-14 /

JN 9:1-41 OR 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

## Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of March 28th has been donated:

In loving memory of Stephen D. Stribula

## Wedding Banns

III. Joseph Lobiondo/Jennifer Morales

I. Michael Lentino/Amanda DeGuiseppe

## Baptisms

Desmond Aaron Neal, Jaiden Stanley Gardner  
God Bless them and their family!

## Bishop McGann-Mercy Diocesan High School

Mercy Diocesan High School in Riverhead will hold its 'Spring Open House' on Sunday, April 10th from 12PM to 2PM. McGann-Mercy will open its doors to families of prospective students, grades 7-12, giving them the opportunity to tour the school and learn more about its academic, athletic and service programs. With average class sizes of 24 students, 36 athletic teams, and over 50 clubs and service programs, 'Bishop McGann-Mercy Diocesan High School' provides a robust learning experience intermingled with catholic values and is uniquely positioned as the catholic college preparatory school on the East End. For more information about the Open House or registration, please call the Registration office at 631-727-5900 ext 35.

Bishop McGann-Mercy Diocesan High School is proud to announce that the following students from St. Jude's in Mastic Beach have made the Honor Roll or Principal's List for the 2nd quarter of the school year.

**HONOR ROLL:** Kayla Angona, Rebecca Davis, Regina Viola

**PRINCIPAL'S LIST:** Elijah Louis, Elizabeth Talamo, Victoria Tremble

## St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel Jesus says: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work." This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist local families providing utilities, and rent bills, etc. Thank you!

## St. Jude Easter Fair

Our Annual Easter Fair is on Saturday, April 16th this year. Anyone wishing to donate new items for our Chinese Auction please drop them off at the rectory. Thank you. **Easter raffle tickets will be sold** after all Masses April 2nd & 3rd. Tickets are 3 for \$10.00. Please consider purchasing a ticket to help support our annual fundraiser. **The prizes are:** 1st \$300.00 cash, 2nd \$250 Value (\$100 cash & Oven Stoneware), 3rd \$200.00 cash, 4th \$150.00 cash, and 5th Variety Easter Basket by Lee Anne's Flower Shoppe, Bracelet from Enrico's Jewelry and \$25.00 Gift Certificate to The Cottage at Moriches (\$100 Value).

## Easter Remembrance Envelope

The envelope for the Easter Remembrance Masses is included in the active coded parishioner mailed envelope packet. These Masses will be celebrated Easter Sunday, April 24th. Please return your Remembrance Mass envelopes by April 12th in the regular collection basket or at the rectory, so that your loved ones are in the Easter Day Intentions.

## Donate to Help Japan

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** To assist victims of the disaster in Japan, send contributions to the Diocese of Rockville Centre Finance Office, 50 North Park Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11571; mark checks "Japan Relief." Donations will be sent to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and directly to the Church in Japan. Donations can also be made directly to CRS online at <http://crs.org/japan>.

At the end of our life, we shall all be judged by charity.

—St. John of the Cross

# "Living Water"

John's Gospel regularly portrays Jesus as the all-knowing Savior in control of his destiny and speaks freely of Jesus' identity as the Messiah. By contrast, he is often surrounded by followers who misunderstand him or are confused by his statements.

Today's reading—the familiar encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well— follows this pattern. Jesus speaks to her about "living water," her sinful past, and his nature as the Messiah, and she spends much time trying to understand what he means.

What is most distinctive about this woman is her persistent inquisitiveness.

She knew Samaritans and Jews were not to speak to each other, but instead of running away when Jesus initiated conversation by asking her for a drink, she conversed with him. She questioned him. She persisted in her thirst for knowledge about this man and what he shared with her.

She didn't hesitate to speak with this Jewish man in broad daylight, and then she even went out and shared what she had heard with others. Without a doubt, she tasted of Jesus' living water, and her thirst was quenched.

Looking at our own relationship with God, do we seek God as passionately as the Samaritan woman pursued Jesus? Do we challenge God with our hardest questions? Do we use our God-given brains to think deeply about Jesus' teachings and how they apply to our own lives? God can handle our persistence, our challenges, and our questions—God is bigger than all of them.

This third week of Lent is a good time to spend a moment at the well with Jesus.

This third week of Lent is a good time to spend a moment at the well with Jesus, thirsting for the living water he seeks to give us—if only we ask.

JANEL ESKER  
[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)