



## ***3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of LENT*** ***YEAR B – March 4, 2018***

On this third Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the first of the Scrutinies with the Neophytes and Catechumens in our RCIA program who have been preparing to make an important decision in their lives. That decision will be made on Holy Saturday evening.

The first reading today is taken from the book of Exodus, It reminds us of the 10 commandments that were given to Moses by God. They are still the basis of our moral code in the Catholic church. They are not suggestions, they are commandments. To be a good Jew, you must keep the 10 commandments. To be a good Catholic, you must go far beyond what they require. You must keep the law of love as taught by Jesus. That law includes the 10 commandments, but it also includes the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

It does away with the Law of Talion that requires an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and it requires that we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. You won't find that in the 10 commandments.

Our Neophytes and Catechumens have been reflecting on some questions that are the basis for our petitions or the scrutinies for today. We would do well to do the same.

The Israelites thirsted for water in the desert. There are many different kinds of thirst that have nothing to do with water. For what do you thirst? What are the deep thirsts of our world today? The answer is different for all of us.

What is it that keeps us from seeing what we need to change in ourselves. Is it that biblical beam in the eye that Jesus talks about in the scriptures. We can't really see ourselves until we remove that beam.

Finally, what are the sins that put us in a spiritual desert where we cannot find the "water" we need? The "grace" we need to change ourselves.

Like the woman at the well, it's time for us to listen to Jesus. He will tell us, like he told her, what we need to change. And he will help us do it.

As our RCIA candidates reflect today on what they need to change in their lives, reflect on what you need to change in yours. Imagine meeting Jesus at the well. What would he say to you. What would he ask you to do? And more importantly, what would you do?

