

From The Desk of Fr. Patrick

Living Water and Grateful Hearts: A Reflection on John 4:5-42

In the Gospel of John, Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well at noon, the hottest and brightest part of the day. It is not only the sun that exposes things; it is also Grace. Jesus, tired and thirsty, asks her for a drink. In that simple request, barriers fall between Jew and Samaritan, man and woman, sinner and Savior. This encounter reminds us that God meets us in the ordinary moments of daily life: at a well, in a kitchen, at work, in church. As Saint Augustine beautifully said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in You." The Samaritan woman came for water, but she left with something far greater, living water welling up to eternal life.

The woman's thirst represents our own. We all draw from wells that cannot fully satisfy; success, possessions, reputation, even relationships. They are good, but they are not ultimate. Jesus gently reveals her broken story, not to condemn her, but to heal her. That is how grace works: it tells the truth in order to set us free. In daily life, we experience this when we bring our wounds to prayer, when we seek reconciliation, or when we admit our weaknesses to God. Saint Teresa of Calcutta often said, "God thirsts for us." At the well, Jesus thirsts not only for water, but for her faith, her trust, her heart. And once she encounters Him, she leaves her jar behind. The jar symbolizes her old life. She runs to tell others: "Come see a man who told me everything I have done." An encounter with Christ naturally becomes mission.

This Gospel also reminds us of harvest and gratitude. Jesus tells His disciples, "Look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest." We are not the first to sow; others have labored before us. In our parish community at **Saint Patrick Church**, we reap what others have planted, faith handed down, generosity practiced, sacrifices quietly made. I am deeply grateful for all your support of Saint Patrick Church and for your generosity toward the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your giving is not simply financial support; it is participation in the mission of Christ. When you contribute, you help bring living water to others; through ministries, outreach, formation, and care for those in need.

The Samaritan woman's story ends with the townspeople proclaiming, "We know that this is truly the savior of the world." Faith begins with personal encounter but grows into shared conviction. In daily acts of generosity, supporting the parish, caring for the poor, volunteering your time—you become witnesses like her. As Saint John Chrysostom taught, "Not to share our wealth with the poor is to steal from them." Generosity is not loss; it is harvest. May we continue to drink deeply of Christ's living water, and with grateful hearts, share that gift so that many more may come to know Him as Savior of the world.

-Fr. Patrick