



# St. Edith Parish

15089 Newburgh Road • Livonia, Michigan 48154

## 3rd Sunday of Lent 1st Scrutiny

In his famous sculpture on the University of Notre Dame campus, Ivan Mestrovic portrays a life-size Jesus seated on a large circular encasement speaking to the Samaritan woman as she leans her water jar on the edge of the well. While Jesus looks directly at her, the woman peers down into the well. Is she afraid to look at Jesus? Is she pondering some deep mystery? Is she searching for something deep within? As the viewer contemplates the sculpture, more questions arise, even if one is familiar with the story in John 4.

Those among us who are preparing for baptism are much like that Samaritan woman. Jesus is gazing upon them, looking for a response from them. In the weeks leading up to the Easter Vigil the catechumens are pondering deep mysteries, searching deep within themselves. Their journey to Christ is also mirrored in the Lenten experience of those of us who are already baptized.

Like the Samaritan woman, we realize that Jesus is gazing upon us. And like her, we know that our lives have not been perfect. But this Lenten season is not a time for us to run and hide like Adam and Eve in the Garden. Instead, we use these forty days to renew ourselves, to return to our baptismal innocence. Through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and the sacrament of penance, we seek to be re-created according to the promise of Christ. While we won't plunge a second time into the baptismal waters, we will know the fullness of God's grace at Easter when we take time this Lent to encounter Christ anew. The catechumens face the scrutinies on these next three Sundays, and we pray evil is cast from their lives so they may be free to serve God. We ask God that same freedom. ©2010 Liturgical Publications Inc