

Scripture for February 24, 2008  
Third Sunday of Lent

## Reflection from John Surette, SJ

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**As winter very slowly turns toward spring, the water of the melting snows slowly seeps into the soils. The water fills up the mountain streams and the prairie rivers. Rural farmers and city gardeners alike look forward to spring with its promise of rain water and vitality.**

**In our first reading from the Book of Exodus we read: "The people were thirsty...Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." Water is a biblical symbol for life and for the life-giving presence**

**You and I are mostly water. As an embryo floating in the waters of our mother's womb, each of us was approximately 97% water. In our old age each of us is or will be approximately 60% water. Water is the essence of our vitality.**

**Water is where all life began. Water is more than a symbol of life. Water is life. Water is sacred. Water seeps into the cracks of rocks, it expands as it freezes, splitting the hardest rocks and leaching out minerals necessary for**



**life. Moving in rivers, it serves to grind rocks down into fine particles of minerals that feed the plants, slowly making life out of the rocks. Water can seep into all things and change them forever. We originated in the ocean and we carry the ocean within us.**

## The Well

*A Center for our  
Sacred Unity with God,  
Earth, and One  
Another.*

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**As the ocean becomes toxic, you and I also become toxic. As the ocean becomes toxic, the babies floating in our mothers' wombs become toxic.**

**Everyone who exists, by the very fact of existence, has a birth right to clean water.**

**This basic right should be included in our Bill of Rights, but it isn't. We have secularized water. We have made it into a commodity, something to be bought and sold like any other commodity. Water has become one more product to be swallowed up by the black hole of our out-of-control consumerism.**

**It becomes the sparkle in our eyes, the tears flowing down our cheeks, our songs, our dances, our poetry, and our loves; it becomes our sorrows and struggles; it becomes our prayers and our worship here this morning. The water becomes our most sublime human activities. The water becomes our moving into salvation, our moving into eternal life!**

**In our Gospel reading today we read: "The water I shall give will become a spring welling-up into eternal life."**

**God's love bearing water...we dare not take it for granted. We must drink it to quench our unending thirst. Let us be thankful for it, and thus become a spring of living water ourselves...a spring of living water for our planet and its community of life, for our human world... a spring to which others can come and quench their unending thirst!**

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