



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

- Mk 9:7-8

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
235 North Front St. New Bedford, MA 02746

MASSES FOR FEBRUARY 27th-March 7th

Sat., February 27th--Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM-- +Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr.
(month's mind)

Sun., February 28th—Second Sunday of Lent

10:00 AM +Peter W. Pilat
Req. Paula Mui

Monday, March 1st—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday, March 2nd—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Wednesday, March 3rd—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM Special Intention
Req. Godfrey & Krys

Thursday, March 4th—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM Benefactors of the Franciscan Order,
Living & deceased

Friday, March 5th—Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM +John & +Jeanette Kardys

Saturday, March 6th—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM God's Healing
& Blessed Mother's Protection
Req. Michelle D.

Saturday, March 6th—Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM +Stasia & +Joseph Patykula
Req. Family

Sunday, March 7th—Third Sunday of Lent

10:00 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Sisters and Brothers of Our Parish Family,

Recently, an article entitled *How to Live Lent* crossed my desk. It offers a number of suggestions about making the most of these forty days. I'd like to share it with you.

No judging. *"In a world that constantly asks us to make up our minds about other people, a nonjudgmental presence seems nearly impossible,"* says spiritual writer Father Henri Nouwen. *"But it is one of the most beautiful fruits of a deep spiritual life, and will be easily recognized by those who long for reconciliation."*

No anger. *"Within each one of us, oftentimes, there dwells a mighty and raging fury,"* says the fictional Incredible Hulk. During Lent, one woman worked to change this emotion in her life, saying, *"I don't consider myself an angry person. I wouldn't dream of raising my voice at a rude salesperson. Yet I realized there are three people I easily become angry with: my husband and my two children. For Lent I vowed to rein in my anger toward the people I love most. It worked!"*

Watch your mouth. Jesus said, *"What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean', but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean'."* (Matthew 15.10) Remember that words can heal or hurt, injure or inspire, bring peace or bring pain. Speak words of encouragement, kindness, and compassion.

...more next week, and it's all good!

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

Psalm 116

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
I believed, even when I said,

"I am greatly afflicted."

Precious in the eyes of the LORD

is the death of his faithful ones. R.

O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD. R.

My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. R.

Romans 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

This is my beloved Son, listen to him. Cf. Mt 17:5

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Mark 9:2-10

JESUS TOOK PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN AND LED THEM UP A HIGH MOUNTAIN apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

February 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to all of you and blessings as another Lenten season begins.

We enter this Lent in a very different way than we are used to; although we had hoped for a return to our traditions and services, God has another plan. While it may be difficult to see now, we can be assured it is a more perfect plan and one from which He will bring forth many blessings.

The beginning of Lent traditionally means going to church and receiving ashes as well as making the promise and the commitment that we will sanctify this holy time. Whether or not we can receive ashes or if we find them distributed very differently, it does not alter our response to the Lenten call to make this a time of conversion and sanctification.

While Ash Wednesday ushers in the Lenten season, it is not the ashes that will make our Lent more or less holy. Ashes merely remind us of the dust from which God made us, and that each of us is called to repent and believe in the Gospel. What makes Lent holy and spiritually enriching is our commitment to grow in faith, to care and love for our neighbor, and to reaffirm our desire to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

The Lenten season, through the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, refocuses our attention to our lifelong journey of conversion. We are to spend these 40 days seeking, through our prayer, sacrifice and giving, how God is calling us to make this world a better place.

Let us acknowledge all our merciful and loving God has done for us. In grateful recognition, let us do our part to cooperate with the sanctifying graces given us to be Christ in the world.

My hope and my prayer for each of you, your families, and parish communities, is that all will experience this Lent as a genuinely holy time, despite all that we are facing. I know we anxiously await the day when we can return to celebrate together our faith, our beloved Sacraments, our spirit of community, and our loving God. As we wait, let us make Lent be a time of sanctification, of conversion, of molding us into better people, so in turn we can affect change in our world, making it a better place. May God bless all of you with a very blessed Lenten season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River



Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

Future Gazing

Some spiritual writers and psychologists tell us how important it is to live in the present. Still, many of our decisions are made with an eye toward the future. Life commitments are always future oriented. Each newborn child carries promises for the future. Because we are part of the emerging universe, we are always called into the future. Today's readings also carry implications for the future.

Isaac was not only Abraham's beloved son; he was Abraham's legacy and future dynasty. Isaac's death would have put an end to Abraham's memory in the future. Consequently, this was more than a test of obedience. Abraham was presented with a choice: Choose Isaac and all that the future might bring to your family and memory through him. Or, trust that the promise God made—that your descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky—would be fulfilled even if Isaac dies. God asked Abraham to place his future in God's hands.

Some scholars believe that the real meaning of Jesus' transfiguration lies in its effects on the disciples who witnessed it. In this experience they came to see Jesus in a significantly new way. They saw that he has somehow associated with Moses, an agent of the law, and Elijah, a great prophet. In other words, Jesus was somehow associated with the very core of Jewish religion. The disciples did not understand how, nor did they grasp what "rising from the dead meant." Still they placed their future in his hands.

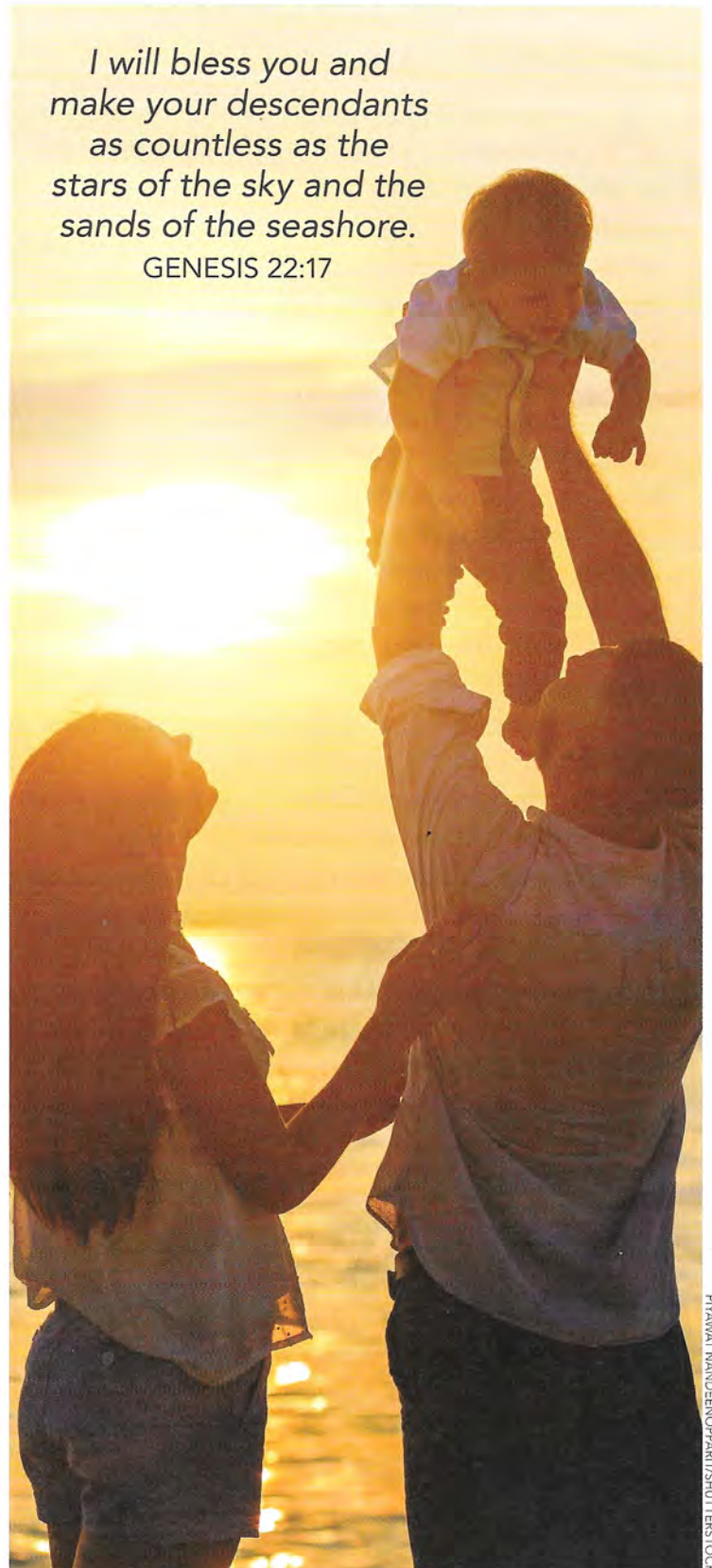
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *Have you ever felt like your whole world has collapsed? How did you get through it?*
- ✦ *True disciples must place their lives in God's hands. Pray for this grace.*

*I will bless you and
make your descendants
as countless as the
stars of the sky and the
sands of the seashore.*

GENESIS 22:17



PIYAWAT MANDEENOPARIT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Dear Padre,

Was Lent always associated with sacrifice, sin, and penance? Did Lent have some other purpose in Church history?

A set period of Lent was not observed during the first centuries of Christianity. Rather, Christians prepared for the Easter celebration with an all-night vigil and a fast. This vigil concluded with a morning Eucharist. Gradually, Christians extended this celebration to include Jesus' own Passover (the supper on Holy Thursday and the death of Jesus on Friday). By the end of the second century, baptism became linked to the Easter Vigil, and the time leading to Easter became a period of intense preparation for baptism. At first, this preparation period lasted only three weeks. This baptismal preparation program eventually extended to forty days. The idea of forty days came out of Mark's Gospel (1:13), where we read about Jesus going into the desert for forty days to prepare for his ministry.

Today the Lenten period serves a double purpose. It is still a time of intense preparation for the catechumens, as they anticipate celebrating the sacrament of baptism at the Easter Vigil. But Lent also has become a time for baptized Christians to reflect on their own baptism. During Lent, the baptized are challenged to turn away from sin and choose again the deepest meaning of their baptism: the fact that they have died and risen with Christ and are now alive anew in Jesus. This renewal is done through the traditional penitential practices of fasting, prayer, and works of charity.

*From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications
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JESUS CERNANTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Calendar

Monday

MARCH 1

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10

Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

MARCH 2

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

MARCH 3

Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18-20

Mt 20:17-28

Thursday

MARCH 4

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10

Lk 16:19-31

Friday

MARCH 5

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a,
17b-28a

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

MARCH 6

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

MARCH 7

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or

20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

1 Cor 1:22-25

Jn 2:13-25

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We learn from Abraham to pray with faith, to dialogue, to argue, but always ready to receive the word of God and to put it into practice. We learn to talk with God as a child with his father: to listen to him, respond, argue, but transparent, as a child with his father.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 3, 2020

