

The Work of the People
The Second Sunday of Lent

Lent can be a time in which we evangelize others through our practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The practice of fasting for instance can be a witness. As children, many people learn to give up treats like sugary foods or television for Lent. As adults, we are encouraged to consider not only that from which we want to fast, but the deep hungers we hope Christ will fill as we create greater space within. We can conserve the money saved in our fast, for instance, for a work of kindness or charity. Or we can fast from certain behaviors. Such acts can bring us closer to God.

On this Second Sunday of Lent we return to the book of Genesis and to the life of Abraham. The story of the near sacrifice of Isaac is one of the most gripping and disturbing of the many stories related to the covenant in the Book of Genesis. However, ours is not a capricious God putting humanity to terrifying tests, although the test does reveal the extraordinary willingness of Abraham to faithfully follow God.

In the Gospel today, Peter, James, and John accompany Jesus up the mountain, where they experience him transfigured. They see his glory revealed in the company of the great prophets and the representatives of the law of Israel, Moses and Elijah. In his terror, Peter resorts to the practical: perhaps they should contain the moment by erecting dwellings for the three. God names Jesus as his "beloved Son," echoing the proclamation made in the first chapter of Mark at the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Welcoming the Word* by Sr. Verna Holyhead, SGS who was an Australian Sister of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St. Benedict.

"Here I am." Abraham's answer to God is both prophetic and painful. He is ready to trust, not in the promises made through Isaac, but in the Promise Maker himself, believing, as we all must when an incomprehensible disaster occurs—especially when we lose those who seem so necessary to our present and our future—that God has other ways of keeping his promises. God takes the risk that Abraham will respond obediently; Abraham takes the risk that God will provide. Neither will fail each other.

Abraham takes up the most poignant weapons with which he is to fight his way into obedience to God: the wood with which he will make a fire for the burnt offering of his son, and the knife with which he will kill Isaac—and along with him, kill the hopes of his posterity. "My father" . . . "My son" are the painful heartbeats of the climb up Mount Moriah. We like the end of the story: the sacrifice stayed, the ram substituted for Isaac. We would much prefer to have just the salvation and blessing part without the testing—but that is not God's way, then or now.

It is well to remember that God did not want the sacrifice of Isaac or any other child (considered an abomination in Israel [cf. 2 Kgs 3:27]), and especially his own Son. What killed Jesus is what continues to crucify today: disregard for human life and human dignity, lust for power, materialism, violence. What gives life is faith and love.

Every disciple in every age has to learn what Peter, James, and John learned on the Mountain of the Transfiguration: Following Jesus is not about comfort and security but about daring to hammer the tent pegs of our lives into the mystery of Christ, with a readiness to strike camp and move on when he calls.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn. 9:4b-10/Lk. 6:36-38
 Tuesday: Is. 1:10, 16-20/Mt. 23:1-12
 Wednesday: Jer. 18:18-20/Mt. 20:17-28
 Thursday: Jer. 17:5-10/Lk. 16:19-31
 Friday: Gn. 37:3-4, 12-23a, 17b-28a/Mt. 21:33-43, 45-46
 Saturday: Mi. 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32
 Sunday: Ex. 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor. 1:22-25/
 Jn. 9:13-25

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the church. The CSA funds programs and ministries that are beyond the resources of any one parish. Every diocesan office and ministry supported by the CSA, such as the Catholic Schools Office, the Office of Faith Formation, Catholic Charities, and the Office of the Protection of Children and Youth, are available to assist in every area of the diocese. By joining together, we can accomplish more than any one parish can accomplish on its own. As unique as each is, together our parishes make up our diocesan community.

If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider and do so in the pledge envelope.

LENT 2021 VIRTUAL RETREAT

Join Fr. Mike Polinek and Youth Ministers from the Diocese of Erie as they discuss specific topics on how they personally strengthen their relationship with God. The next scheduled will be with Jesse Spanogle of St. Jude the Apostle, Erie on March 1 to discuss "Accompaniment". To sign up and receive the Zoom link please email mpolinsek@eriercd.org. The virtual retreats are on from 8:00 - 8:40 pm.

WORSHIP

Monday, March 1
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Tuesday, March 2
 8:00 am + Wanda Pilarczyk (PNA Lodge 1540)
 Wednesday, March 3
 12:00 Noon + Lenten Prayer Service at Church of God
 Thursday, March 4
 8:00 am + Vincent Novotny (PNA Lodge 1540)
 Friday, March 5 - FIRST FRIDAY
 8:00 am + Response of the Soul of Rev. Msgr. Henry J. Schauerman
 Saturday, March 6
 4:30 pm + Mary Mukina (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)
 Sunday, March 7
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Michael H. Milligan & Michael R. Milligan
 (Barbara Milligan)

6th ANNUAL
1:38 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

*On Saturday, March 20, 2021, the Women's 1:38 Conference will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish. There is NO registration fee, but donations will be accepted. Due to CDC Guidelines the conference is limited to 250 people. Registration materials for both locations 1. Live-in person Our Lady of Peace and 2. Via Zoom at home are available in the gathering space.
 Check-in is at 8:40 am and the program begins at 9:00 am and will end at 12:00 Noon with Mass.*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The apostles thought they knew Jesus but when he changed in front of them at the Transfiguration, they were "afraid." In families, we cannot freeze relationships because change and growth are inevitable. Children grow up, parents grow old and spouses change. Transfigurations are all around us and within us. Relationships can only grow when we embrace the new and let go of the old.

*"Thank you, Lord,
 for never abandoning me.
 Help me to see every challenge
 as an opportunity to
 grow and learn from you."*

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 2
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 6:00 pm - AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Stations of the Cross
 6:00 pm - AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Stations of the Cross and Benediction
 Saturday, March 6
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, March 7
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

ECUMENICAL PRAYER

This week the Ecumenical Prayer on Wednesday, March 3, will be at the Church of God at 12:00 Noon. This year, because of the pandemic, it will be the decision of each church as to whether soup will be offered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

St. Anthony of Padua parishioners would like to extend Happy Birthday wishes to Mary Pankul, who has been a faithful parishioner here for many years, and turned 99 on Tuesday, February 23.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$955.00
Candles	14.00
Ash Wednesday	105.00
TOTAL	\$1,074.00

Catholic Services Appeal 2021
 Pledged: \$5,340.00 Paid: \$3,890.00

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,660.00
Maintenance	373.00
Candles	51.00
Roof Donation	600.00
TOTAL	\$2,684.00

Catholic Services Appeal 2021
 Pledged: \$15,872.00 Paid: \$6,707.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
