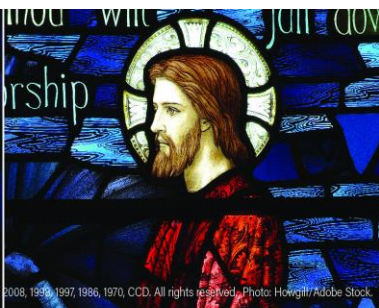


The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

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BAPTISM

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

FIRST LENT
SUNDAY OF
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

RICK FAGAN, DEACON

PHONE: (859)336-3569 EMAIL: stdom@bellsouth.net WEBSITE: stdomparish.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths.

— Psalm 25:4

REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL: Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism. Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS see bulletin cover.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (2/22-2/28)

Monday of Lent 8:30 AM: Eunice Ballard

Tuesday of Lent 5:30 PM: Howard & Florine Kelty

Wednesday of Lent: NO MASS

Thursday of Lent 5:30 PM: Bob Goodlett

Friday 8:30 AM (SCHOOL MASS ONLY): Tony Begley

Saturday of Lent 8:30 AM: Freddie White

4:30 PM: Helen Brady

2nd Sunday of Lent 8:30 AM: For the Parish

10:30 AM: Bob Barber

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): Presider's Intention

LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Wassie Parrott, (Tues.) Hamilton Simms, (Wed.) No Mass, (Thurs.) Mary Lynne Fenwick, (Fri.) School, (Sat.) Katie Simms

Weekday Eucharistic Ministers/Sacristans: (Mon.) Jerry Mudd, (Tues.) Deacon Rick Fagan, (Wed.) No Mass, (Thurs.) Mary Ann Hale, (Fri.) School, (Sat.) Cheryl Mattingly

Weekend Liturgical Roles for the month have been sent/will be sent via email.

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, U.S. Military, Anonymous, T.R. & Janice Smith, Julie Fagan, Jamie Cecil, Benny Wheatley, Beth Hellman, Jeremy Mackin, Reco Bishop, David Smith, Kim Pinkston Spalding, Ted McNeal, Edwin Thompson, Jim Smith, Steve Smith, Dennis Rust, Margaret Faye Martin, Pearlina Anderkin, Corbin Noel, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

Tithing Contributions for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$6,260.00

BEAUTY IN FORGIVENESS: Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another. —Jean P. F. Richter

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

Lenten Days of Fasting & Abstinence: Fasting Days: Ash Wednesday & Good Friday. Fasting means, eating only one meal that day. Two other smaller meals may be eaten which together would not equal a whole meal. The law of fasting binds all those from 18 to 59 years old. Days of Abstinence: Ash Wednesday, All Fridays of Lent & Good Friday. Abstinence means not eating meat (beef, pork, chicken, etc.) For this purpose, fish, eggs, cheese are not considered meat. The law of abstinence binds all who are over 14 years old.

What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? This Lent, commit to our global human family through daily prayer, weekly fasting & almsgiving. Jesus asks us to care for our sisters and brothers and to recognize him in them. With CRS Rice Bowl as our guide, we can answer to this Gospel call. What you give up for Lent changes lives. Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger— it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. Participate in Operation Rice Bowl by taking a Rice Bowl from the breezeway of church.

Masses: Call ahead (Monday through Thursday) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts are finalized at 2 p.m. on Thursdays.

Lenten Disciple Bible Study: If you are interested in, or already planning on taking part in the Lenten Disciple Bible Study, please see the information that Fr. David has made available on the table in the breezeway, a form can also be picked up at the parish office. If you've not already done so, Fr. David is asking that each group sign off on one covenant form and then be turned in to the parish office. There is no minimum size to start a group. Should you have any questions &/or have not yet joined a group, please contact Linda Goodlett at linda.smith@washington.kyschools.us /859-805-0854.

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction: Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (after the 5:30 p.m. Mass) & on Sundays from 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

2021 Black and Indian Mission Collection (Feb. 20/21) exists to help diocesan communities preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native people of God. Your donations help fund parish-based catechetical programs, support teacher and catechist professional development, encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and create diocesan structures, such as our own archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, that support ministry and evangelization in these diverse cultural communities. An envelope for this collection can be found in parishioner's tithing packets and can be dropped in the collection this weekend or next.

Youth Group: Tuesday, March 9th, 6:00-7:00 PM, Church Basement

Lenten Parish Penance Service:

Prayer to Begin CRS Rice Bowl

God of mercy, You call us to recognize you in our sisters and brothers and to care for those most in need—for whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me. This Lent, ignite your love in us so that through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving we may support all who experience hunger in body, heart and spirit. May these CRS Rice Bowls be instruments of encounter, bringing us closer to you—our God—and to our neighbors both near and far. May our Lenten journey help us to see our role in caring for the most vulnerable— particularly those experiencing hunger, poverty and obstacles to thrive. Through these 40 days, may we deepen our faith in you and our love for one another, as we await with joyful anticipation the great celebration of Easter. Amen

Seasonal Changes for the Liturgies of Lent

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. During this season of preparation for Easter, our churches look stark and simple—no flowers at the altar, no festive banners or decorations. And our liturgies feel different, too. The organ is quiet except to accompany the singing of the assembly. The Gloria, our Sunday song of rejoicing, is not heard except on solemnities, and we will not sing the Alleluia, our joyful acclamation of praise, until the Easter Vigil. “Alleluia cannot always / Be our song while here below,” says an eleventh-century hymn. “Alleluia our transgressions / Make us for a while forego; / For the solemn time is coming / When our tears for sins must flow” (Alleluia dulce carmen, J. M. Neale, trans.). These changes in the liturgy will catch our attention, and make us eager for the festive outpouring of joy that will return with Easter. This year, may the stripped-away liturgies of Lent remind us to strip away what is not essential in our lives to make space for the crucified and risen One, and thus to be ready to sing “Alleluia” once again when Easter returns. — Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.