



FEBRUARY 28, 2021

*Jesus was transfigured
before them, and his clothes
became dazzling white.*

Mark 9:2-3

THE BELOVED SON

Today's first reading, known as "the Binding of Isaac," refers to the way Isaac is bound and laid upon the wood of the altar of sacrifice. God directs Abraham to offer his son in sacrifice, killing the beloved son that had been a special gift to him and Sarah in their old age. How could God ask Abraham to do such a thing? Abraham offers no resistance, but in preparing for the sacrifice, Abraham may have agreed with the psalmist that he was "greatly afflicted." Saint Paul's letter to the Romans refers to Jesus as God's beloved Son, which is also how God identifies Jesus to Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration. Afterward, Jesus tells those disciples not to mention the event to anyone until after his resurrection from the dead. The event, together with Jesus' comments, leaves the disciples thoroughly confused.

HOW COULD GOD ASK ABRAHAM TO DO THAT?

Through the centuries, Christians and Jews alike have found the Binding of Isaac one of the most difficult passages in the Bible. Even though God intervenes to save Isaac, the whole episode strikes some readers as cruel. However, Abraham, the ultimate man of faith, raises no objection, offers no resistance as he simply goes about preparing for the trip and the sacrifice.

Today's other readings might help us see that text differently. In Mark's description of the Transfiguration, Jesus' clothes become white and shining, and Moses and Elijah appear with him. Moses was the great liberator and lawgiver who led the Jews out of bondage in Egypt and into the wilderness, forming them into the people of Israel by giving them the Law he received from God. Elijah was among Israel's greatest prophets, so close to God that, at the end of his life, he was taken up into heaven by a fiery chariot. Together, Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the ultimate authority for the Jews in the conduct of their daily lives.

LOVE AND GENEROSITY

The Law, the Prophets—and Jesus. For Paul, Jesus is someone quite different from the other two. The reading from his letter to the Romans is short, but rich in meaning. When Paul declares that God "did not spare his own Son," and when God praises Abraham "who did not withhold from me your own beloved son," it is the same Greek word for "spare" and "withhold." God's voice at the Transfiguration identifies Jesus as his "beloved Son"—the same way God refers to Isaac as Abraham's beloved son. Ultimately, God spares Isaac but not his own Son, whom he "handed over for us." Even if we are disturbed that God tested Abraham like this, Paul says we should be overwhelmingly grateful that God did for us what, in the end, he did not require of Abraham. Jesus, God's Son "handed over to us" in love and generosity, is already a sacrificial gift, signifying that God wants to give us "everything else along with him."

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

LENTEN
SECOND SUNDAY OF

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

RICK FAGAN, DEACON

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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 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

If God is for us, who can be against us?

— *Romans 8:31b*

HISTORY OF SALVATION: The first reading today continues the “history of salvation” narrative that we hear throughout Lent this year. Today’s story was among the best-loved in the Jewish tradition (surely Joseph told the story to young Jesus as he formed him in the ways of their faith); the early fathers of the Church were very fond of it as a means of explaining the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The overall tone of the first reading, psalm, and second reading seems a little incongruous with the dazzling Gospel, until we remember that the Transfiguration was placed as the Gospel for this Sunday precisely to remind us of the glory that awaits those who live faithfully and obediently to the will of God. In the life of Jesus, it is a preview of the glory of his resurrection; for us it is a glimpse of the destiny of those who continue, as we heard in last week’s Gospel, to repent and believe in the Good News. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS see bulletin cover.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (3/1-3/7)

Monday of Lent 8:30 AM: John B. Essex & Brothers

Tuesday of Lent 5:30 PM: Susan Jaeschke

Wednesday of Lent: NO MASS

Thursday of Lent 5:30 PM: Bob Goodlett

Friday 8:30 AM (SCHOOL MASS ONLY): Bob Noe Haydon

Saturday of Lent 8:30 AM: JoAnn Cambron

4:30 PM: For the Parish

3rd Sunday of Lent 8:30 AM: Howard & Florine Kelty

10:30 AM: Emily Coulter

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

LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Mary Ann Hale, (Tues.) Michelle Mulholland, (Wed.) No Mass, (Thurs.) Julee Jones, (Fri.) School, (Sat.) Perry Carrico

Weekday Eucharistic Ministers/Sacristans: (Mon.) Belle Sutton, (Tues.) Deacon Rick Fagan, (Wed.) No Mass, (Thurs.) Perry Carrico, (Fri.) School, (Sat.) Hamilton Simms

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, Catherine Clements, Julie Fagan, Jamie Cecil, Benny Wheatley, Beth Hellman, 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.): \$23,060.52

THE ART OF LISTENING

If you want God to listen to you when you pray, shouldn't you listen to God when God speaks to you?—Anonymous

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

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.

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

Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent at 5:30 PM

Bell Choir Rehearsal: Starting March 10th at 6:30 PM

St. D Parish Lenten Penance Service: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated at St. Dominic on Mon., March 15 @ 6:30 p.m. There will be priests present to hear confessions during this prayer service. Mark your calendars to attend!! For other confessions times please see the 2nd page of the bulletin.

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.

Will you be participating in Operation Rice Bowl? In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished. That means 50% of kids won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. What role has food played in your life? How can you help those who lack access to enough food? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more. Participate in Operation Rice Bowl by taking a Rice Bowl from the breezeway of church.

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.

FEAST OF FAITH - The Opening Prayer

At the conclusion of the Introductory Rites of the Mass, the presider says or chants the words "Let us pray," followed by the Opening Prayer. This prayer is also called a "collect" because it gathers or "collects" the prayers of the entire assembly into one. The Roman collects that we pray in our liturgy—noted for the brevity, clarity, and conciseness of the Latin originals—date from a variety of periods. Some are quite new; others reach back more than a thousand years. They are truly treasures of our tradition.

The Opening Prayer can be divided into four main parts: 1) the invitation, or "Let us pray"; 2) the silence that follows, during which each member of the assembly lifts up before God his or her own prayers; 3) the collect itself, spoken or sung by the priest; 4) and finally the Amen, by which the assembly says, "yes," "may it be so," making the prayer their own.

The collect itself almost always follows the same pattern. It begins with an invocation to God. A petition follows, usually very general. We ask for health, strength, wisdom, grace, forgiveness, faith, awareness. Every collect concludes by offering the prayer to God through Jesus Christ. With the Amen of the assembly, the Introductory Rites of the Mass come to an end. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.