

PARISH CALENDAR

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

It is your face,
O Lord, that I seek!

If we die
with
the LORD
we will
live with
the
LORD



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Saturday, February 24 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, February 25 7:00 a.m.	Mass
 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, February 26	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, February 27	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Building Committee Meeting - Kamiano Trailer
Wednesday, February 28	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, February 29	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, March 1	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday, March 2	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Ex:20:1-17: God delivered the commandments to Moses and the Hebrews, who had been freed from slavery in Egypt. "You shall have not other gods besides me," said the Lord God.

1 Cor: 1:22-25: Paul preached Christ crucified "a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles." God's folly is wiser and his weakness stronger than human wisdom.

Jn:2:13-25: Jesus found people buying and selling in the temple. With a whip he drove out the moneychangers. He said. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Glory Overshadowing the Cross

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. Mark 9:2-3

Just six days prior to this glorious event of the Transfiguration, Jesus spoke for the first time to His disciples about His pending crucifixion and death. He taught them that "the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days" (Mark 8:31). Recall that Peter had a difficult time accepting this teaching. Jesus went on to rebuke Peter for his refusal to accept this prophetic teaching and further explained that "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34). These disciples then had six days to ponder this prophecy of our Lord before witnessing the Transfiguration.

In your life, is there something that God is trying to say to you that you have difficulty accepting? If so, it will most likely be related to God's call to you to take up your cross and follow Him. The Cross of Christ comes in many forms throughout life. It might be experienced when we allow the passion of anger to die so that pure mercy can be offered to one who has hurt us. Or it might be that God is calling you to step out in faith to embrace some endeavor that requires courage and trust. Or it might be that God is calling you to accept some hardship in life that is difficult to accept, such as the loss of a loved one, an illness, the loss of a job or any other difficulty that you struggle to accept with love and trust. Bitterness, resentment, anger, fear and the like are often the most difficult crosses we are called to embrace and let die.

If this resonates with you, then this story of the Transfiguration is for you. After giving these disciples six days to ponder the difficult news of His coming Cross, Jesus gives them hope and inspiration through this sacred encounter. Though it lasted for only a short time, this manifestation of Jesus' glory was all that these disciples needed to begin to accept Jesus' prediction of His passion. On one hand, they feared what Jesus said was going to happen. But on the other hand, they saw His glory and majesty. By combining these two experiences, these disciples were given a new hope and strength to trust that whatever was to happen in the future, God was in control.

We also need the consoling revelation of our Lord's glory to help us navigate the difficulties we will endure. For some, life is good, very good, and they walk with joy and ease with our Lord. But for others, life has taken a difficult turn and confusion has set in. If life is good for you right now, then rejoice that you are currently sharing a taste of the glory of the Transfiguration. Give thanks to God and tell Him with Saint Peter, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here!" Give thanks to him for the joy and consolation you currently experience. But if life is difficult for you right now, ponder those six days during which the disciples struggled with the prediction of the Lord's passion. Think about their confusion, doubts and fear. As you do, turn your eyes up the mountain. Know that the glory of God awaits you and that He wants to free you from all fear and anxiety. The mountain is climbed by a firm faith that is grounded in prayer. Make that journey with our Lord through prayer.

Reflect, today, upon this holy mountain to which you are called. Know that as you climb it with perseverance and determination, hope and joy will be given to you. Pray for the ability to trust in the God Who not only died a cruel death but also is radiant in glory for all eternity. Trust Him, turn to Him and commit to the journey ahead.

My Transfigured Lord, You revealed Your glory to these disciples as a way of helping them accept Your Cross. Help me to also embrace Your Cross in my life and to see clearly the glory that results from its embrace. I trust in You, dear Lord; help me to trust You more. Jesus, I trust in You.



Jesus is Lord!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION RICE BOWL: OVERCOMING HUNGER In Akwangagwel, Uganda, the climate is very hot and dry. Farmers in this region depend heavily on the rainy season for a successful harvest. But lately—due to the changing climate—the rain has been coming later than it used to and is more inconsistent. Sometimes, when it does rain, it causes flooding and ruins the crops. Learn how Adolf and Florence have taken the matter into their own hands, implementing new farming techniques they learned from Catholic Relief Services program to improve their farm and fight against hunger in their community. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to read this week's Story of Hope.

WORD OF LIFE: "The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished." **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities**
Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chose, Sent
www.usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection

WEEKLY READINGS

Feb 25 Sun: Second Sunday of Lent

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

Feb 26 Mon: Lenten Weekday

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

Feb 27 Tue: Lenten Weekday

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

Feb 28 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Jer:18:18-20; Ps:31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt:20:17-28

Feb 29 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Jer:17:5-10; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk:16:19-31

Mar 1 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Gn:37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps:105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21;

Mt:21:33-43, 45-46

Mar 2 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Mi:7:14-15, 18-20; Ps:103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk:15:1-3, 11-32

LOVING SELF-SACRIFICING

Abraham would be arrested for child abuse if he pulled a stunt like this today. He brought his son up a hill and raised a knife to kill him. No parent should do that.

We remember this story not as a model of parenting but as a symbol of sacrifice. Both Abraham and God serve as models. Abraham completely trusted God. God promised him a son, and Isaac was born after Abraham waited one hundred years. Then God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, his only son, the one whom he loved. Abraham continued to trust God. His trust is what inspires us in times of extreme adversity.

The story also symbolizes God's love. God led his son, Jesus, his only Son, whom he loved, up a hill, where he was raised on a cross. In the story of Abraham, an angel stopped the killing. In the story of Jesus, the killing continues, but angels announce that the One who died has risen.

Some of our hardest choices concern children we love. We would never harm them physically, but sometimes we inconvenience them, disagree with them, or punish them for the sake of a greater good.

We love God more than anyone or anything else. *Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year B © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.*

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

The Gospel story of the transfiguration of Jesus holds many lessons; the most prominent being the transformation of Jesus from simply being perceived as a wise and gifted prophet to the one who has fulfilled the sacred traditions of the Mosaic law and the hope of the prophets, the Messiah, the Christ. The Lord calls his stewards to participate in His redemptive activity. Heeding this call requires transformation, being willing to renounce patterns of behavior that draw us away from God. In this coming week of Lent, let us pray for the grace to be transformed, so that by our goodness and generosity, we may walk more authentically in the footsteps of Jesus. **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Cheering helps. Can you imagine a basketball game where no one cheered? Imagine the stands full of fans who observed the game with the intensity of interns watching surgery. Imagine no one applauding or yelling—people just watching, like analysts, as the game unfolded below.

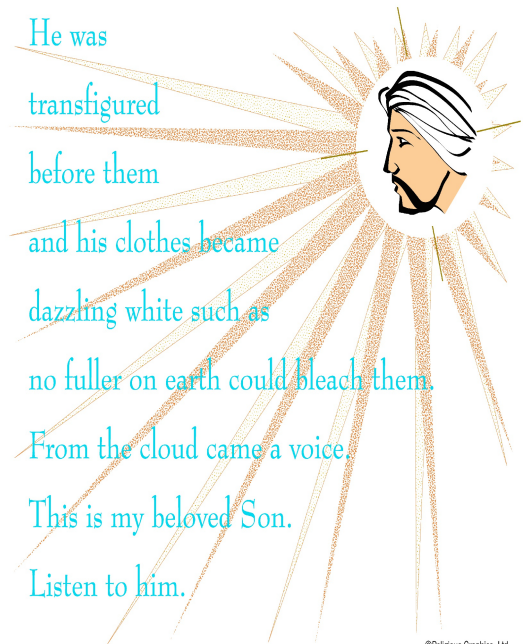
It would be dispiriting to the players. They wouldn't do their best. A little cheering helps. A lot of cheering helps even more. Lent puts us into a contest against our sins. For six weeks we accept a spiritual regimen of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It's a hard contest. It would be nice if someone cheered us on.

Well, someone is cheering. God is our fan club. God has already taken extraordinary measures to help save us. Paul writes to the Romans, "God did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all." Since God has already given us Jesus, the greatest possible gift, "How will he not also give us everything else along with him?" God wants us to win our fight against sin.

God is our fan club. Do you sometimes feel as though you cannot overcome your bad habits? Can you not forgive yourself for a sin long past? Are you lost when you try to pray? Do you look to the future with despair? God is cheering you on. And, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

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He was
transfigured
before them
and his clothes became
dazzling white such as
no fuller on earth could bleach them.
From the cloud came a voice.
This is my beloved Son.
Listen to him.



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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



I Surrender

Loving Father,
I come before you,
asking for your mercy.
May my faith be as strong
as that of Abraham.
Grant me steadfastness this Lent,
in my pursuit of a deeper prayer life.
Free me from obstacles
that keep me from you.
May I find peace in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Continued Change



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. In today's Gospel, Peter, James, and John glimpse Jesus' glory as he is transfigured before them on the mountaintop. Peter, intent on staying at the site of their beatific vision of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, suggests that three tents be made. "Rabbi, it is good that we are here," he tells Jesus.

Each week we participate in a mystery as we take part in Sunday Mass. There, as the Eucharistic Prayer is prayed, the bread and the wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. But the elements of bread and wine are not all that are transformed during the liturgy. In the Eucharistic Prayer, it is also prayed that we "may become one body, one spirit in Christ." When we are especially attentive to the prayers,

songs, and gestures of the liturgy, we may say to ourselves and one another, "It is good that we are here." Transformed by the liturgy, we leave the church to bring the presence of Christ and the Word of God into the world.

Just as the apostles could not stay with Jesus on the mountaintop, the faithful cannot remain in the church. As the Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* states, "The renewal in the eucharist of the covenant between the Lord and his people draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire." Our mission, as we leave the liturgy, is to testify to God's love, bringing hope to those facing difficult times. We make Christ known as we accompany others.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 26 Forgiven

“Forgive and you will be forgiven,” Jesus tells his followers in today’s Gospel. As Jesus preaches mercy, he explains that the actions of others will reflect our actions. Only if we are willing to forgive will we be forgiven. During this week, consider whom you need to forgive and from whom you need to request forgiveness. *Today’s readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8–9, 11, 13; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, February 27 A Just, Humble Life

Both the first reading and the Gospel today give instructions on how to live. In the reading from Isaiah, the Lord instructs “to make justice your aim,” aid the orphan and widow, and right wrongs. Jesus tells his followers to live with humility. “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” When we do good things, we should not seek recognition. Today, strive to forward the kindnesses you have received. That might be done by buying coffee for a coworker, assisting a friend, or doing another’s chore. Such acts can be testimonies of God’s love. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21, 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, February 28 Distractions

Today we are reminded of what we are preparing for: Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. During this season we make promises of things we will sacrifice, yet sometimes we become distracted. We are being called to transform our hearts and our lives for the service of our Lord. Today sit with your family and discuss how all can remain attentive to the message of God. What are some of the distractions in your life? How can you overcome them? *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, February 29 Making Good Choices

The Gospel from Luke today presents the story of the rich man who ignored the needs of the poor man lying at his door. After death, the poor Lazarus lived in comfort while the rich man was in torment. Our daily choices can lead us to God or away from God. Consider whose needs you ignore while allowing yourself to eat your fill. *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 1 Families

In today’s account of Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob, we see an example of jealousy building among brothers until they sell Joseph to foreigners. The eleven brothers appreciated neither their father’s preferential treatment of Joseph nor their brother’s dreams and wanted to be rid of him. Are there unresolved tensions in your family that are eroding relationships? Examine whether you play a part in the harm or healing in this family dynamic. *Today’s readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 2 The Love of God

It is no secret the lengths to which God goes to show us his love. We know he wants to be in relationship with us, but sometimes we are reluctant. The moment we say yes to the relationship, God showers us with many blessings. The psalm tells us that God overlooks shortcomings and forgives sins. Today recite the psalm, and with each verse, pause to feel the love and presence of God. *Today’s readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*

