



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

February 18, 2024 • The First Sunday of Lent

The ripple effect: Tiny gestures transform your Lent



By Daniel Esparza
Sometimes grand gestures, however well-intentioned, can feel overwhelming and unsustainable. And

this is where the power of small habits shines.

While scrolling through social media the other day, I came across a meme that made me pause. It claimed that simply saving \$8 a day could net you a cool \$3,000 by the end of the year. That's almost \$10,000 in three years, which is not a despicable sum at all. And while the financial advice had merit, what resonated more deeply was the underlying principle: **small actions taken consistently lead to significant results.** This certainly struck a chord, especially as we approach Lent – a season often misunderstood.

For many Catholics, **Lent is a time of resolutions**, big and small: giving up chocolate, committing to daily prayer, embarking on acts of charity, fostering better habits in general. **All these resolutions are surely noble, but let's face it.** Sometimes grand gestures, can feel overwhelming and unsustainable. And this is where the power of small habits shines.

Lent is not as a mountain to climb. It's more of a pebble one tosses into a still pond. While **the initial ripple may be subtle, its effect spreads outward, gradually transforming the entire body of water.** Similarly, small, consistent habits, like those the meme recommended, cultivated throughout our dear 40 days in the desert, have the potential to ripple outward, drawing us closer to God.

Here's how:

1. Start small, start lasting: Instead of vowing to engage in contemplative prayer for at least an hour each day, we can start with five minutes of quiet reflection instead. You are not a monk or a nun, I guess! This manageable goal makes success more

likely and fosters a sense of accomplishment that fuels motivation. Think of yourself as an amateur soccer team: **small victories build momentum.**

2. Look to Scripture for inspiration: The Bible is filled with examples of **seemingly insignificant actions leading to great results.** Think of David and his slingshot, or the mustard seed that grew into a mighty tree. Let these stories inspire your own commitment to small but powerful habits. Never leave home without your "slingshot."

3. Offer your "pebbles" to God: We have heard this time and again, but it's always worth remembering it: Every prayer, every act of kindness, every moment of sacrifice, **no matter how seemingly small, can be offered to God.** This was Therese de Lisieux's famous Little Way. This simple act imbues even the smallest gestures with immense spiritual significance.

4. Share the ripples: As your small habits take root, **share them with others.** Encourage your community to join you in cultivating small acts of faith. Remember, even the smallest ripples can add up to create a wave of positive change. **Make sure not to confuse encouraging with boasting, though.**

5. Lent is a journey, not a destination: Yes, it sounds like yet another cliché, but there is a lot of truth to those. Throughout Lent, there will surely be stumbles and days when motivation wanes. Don't let setbacks discourage you. Each misstep is an opportunity to learn and, recommit. **The beauty of small habits is their flexibility** – just dust yourself off and start again. Lent is also about forgiveness. **Learn to be forgiven.**

So, this Lent, let's give small ripples a try. Choose one or two simple and sustainable habits that align with your spiritual goals. Ask your spiritual director where to begin. Pray, think, work, and offer each small action to God. As the weeks unfold, witness the small bits of transformation in your own life and in the lives of those around you. You will soon notice that **even the smallest pebble can create a shock-wave of grace** that draws us all closer to God.

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Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM

Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM

Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

PARISH OFFICE

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm
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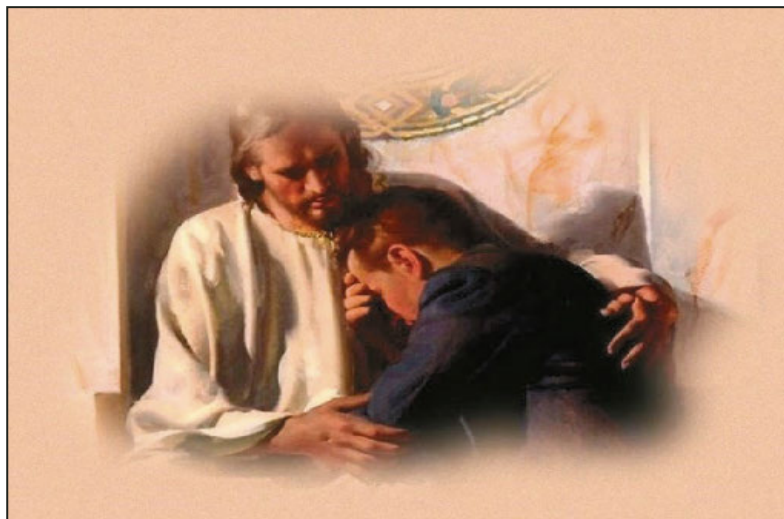
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WEB SITE

<http://btsp.org>

Like us on FaceBook



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Eucharistic Revival: Session 2

“WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CONFESSION?”

Saturday February 17th

10am-1pm

Parish Hall

BROWN BAG your Lunch – we'll provide beverage

To include:

Just how narrow is the “Narrow Gate”?

Do all good people go to Heaven?

Re-discovering the Sacrament of Confession

Please call the Parish Office @ 727-867-3663 to Sign-up

Walk-ins are welcome!

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

02/18 • For All Seminarians

02/19 • Rev. Donald Amodeo

02/20 • Rev. Curtis V. Carro

02/21 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

02/22 • Rev. Edwin Palka

02/23 • Rev. Pierre Dorvil, SMM

02/24 • Rev. Viet Nguyen



February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 | 1 Pt 3:18-22 | Mk 1:12-15

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today is the first day of Lent! It is the beginning of a new liturgical season in the Church, a season of prayer, service and self-sacrifice. It is a time of preparation, culminating in the holiest day of the year: Easter. As we embark on our Lenten journey, we hear a reading from Genesis in which God makes a covenant with Noah where he promises, "the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings." The Lord has said that no matter our disobedience, sin and rebellion, he will never destroy us! Saint Peter explains how the story of Noah, "in which a few persons ... were saved through water," prefigures baptism, and baptism, as we know, marks us as the Lord's own forever. We are sealed with a sign that can never be relinquished. So, just as the great flood signaled a rebirth for the world, our baptism is a rebirth of our soul in Christ. We are washed clean of our original sin, and the door to salvation is opened for us. It is fitting that at the beginning of our Lenten journey we hear the story of the beginning of our eternal covenant with the Lord. Both the covenant, and Lent, will be fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As a child, Lent meant lentils for dinner, Stations of the Cross on Fridays, and no TV ever. For a 10-year-old, it was a time to be endured. Now, as an adult, Lent can still be hard, but I recognize it as a time of opportunity as well. It is a chance to strip away all the excess in my life and focus on what matters most. While I am not exactly jumping for joy at the thought of fasting, I can't deny that it is easier for me to spend time in prayer when I'm not mindlessly grazing on chips and chocolate all day long. I may grumble at times, but with God's grace I have grown in understanding of the Church's wisdom in encouraging us to fast, pray and give alms during Lent. All three practices invite us to reflect on the great sacrifice of the Lord and prepare our hearts to receive him each Sunday in the Eucharist, as well as on our final judgment day.

PRAY Lent is the perfect time to take stock of your current spiritual practices and add new ones to your daily routine. Remember the words we heard from Jesus today: "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Start off your Lenten season right by taking time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and designating a time each day to pray. If you aren't sure what to say to God during this time, choose a verse or two of Psalm 6 and let your heart take it from there.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17, Memorial of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious

8:00 a.m. Elly McManus (dec.)

Saturday, February 17, Vigil for the First Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. William Isaac (dec.)

Sunday, February 18, The First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Kasuke Ichikawa (dec.)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (dec.)

Monday, February 19, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Luigi Palmieri (liv.)

Tuesday, February 20, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Vincent Renzoni (liv.)

Wednesday, February 21, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, February 22, Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

8:00 a.m. Phyllis Ann Snead (dec.)

Friday, February 23, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Doris Desrochers (dec.)

Saturday, February 24, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Fred Deuel (dec.)

Saturday, February 24, Vigil for the Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Marlene Romani (dec.)

Sunday, February 25, The Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Brian Dawlowski (dec.)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (dec.)

Everything you wanted to know about your faith

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it's our gift to you!**
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Eucharistic Adoration

Every Wednesday

- Personal worship .. church is open all day
- 5:30 Rosary recitation
- 6:00 Exposition and Adoration
- Concluding with Benediction ending at 7:00



Join us as your schedule permits ..

for as little or as much time as you wish!

Spend some 'one on one' personal time with Jesus ..

Jesus is here ..

Body and Blood ..

Soul and Divinity ..

And He's looking .. just for YOU!

The Social Committee of Blessed Trinity is spearheading a

SHARE WHAT YOU CAN

FOOD Drive for St. Joseph's

Some current needs are:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper goods
- Canned Meat with pull tab
- canned spaghetti/ravioli
- personal items: deodorant, soap, shampoo

TV star FRANK RUNYEON
etc.

THE STORY OF FAITH

A THREE-DAY MISSION

Abound
THE GOSPEL OF MARK

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

HOLLYWOOD Faith

Thurs. FEB 29 7pm	Fri. MARCH 1 7pm	Sat. MARCH 2 7pm
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February 29, March 1, and March 2

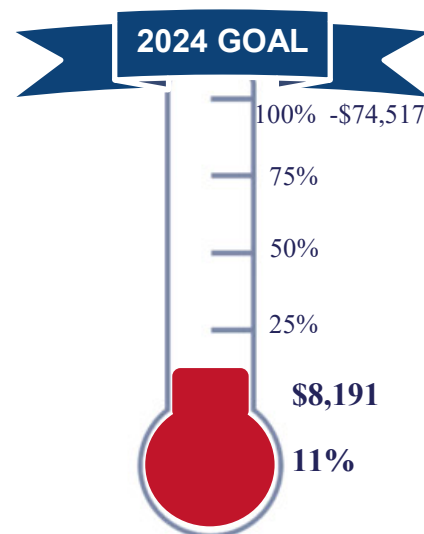
Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
1600 54th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Free Will Offering

FRANK RUNYEON has starred in over 1,000 television shows over the last 20 years... opposite Meg Ryan on AS THE WORLD TURNS, on SANTA BARBARA, FALCON CREST, GENERAL HOSPITAL, L.A. LAW and MELROSE PLACE. He is also an Honorary graduate of General Theological Seminary and Princeton University.

PEOPLE MAGAZINE
has "REMARKABLE"



Thank you for your
prayerful giving!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 18 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, February 19 6:30 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, February 20 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Wednesday, February 21, Adoration 8:30 am	Church open all day for prayer	CH
5:30 pm	Rosary	CH
6:00 pm	Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation	CH
7:00 pm	Benediction	CH
Thursday February 22 4:00 pm	SVDP Meeting	CYH-1
6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
Friday, February 23 8:00 am	BT Social Group Meetup after Mass	
8:30 am	Stations of the Cross	CH
5:00- 7:00 pm	K.O.C Fish Fry	PH
Sunday, February 25 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, February 26 6:30 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Wednesday, February 28 8:30 am	Church opens for all day prayer	CH
5:30 pm	Rosary	CH
6:00 pm	Eucharistic Exposition & Meditation	CH
7:00pm	Benediction	CH
Thursday, February 29 6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
7:00 pm	The Story of Faith- Afraid! The Gospel of Mark Featuring Frank Runyeon	PH
Friday, March 1 8:30 am	Stations of the Cross	CH
5:00-7:00 pm	K.O.C Fish Fry	PH
7:00 pm	The Story of Faith- Sermon on the Mount featuring Frank Runyeon	PH
Saturday, March 2 7:00 pm	The Story of Faith- Hollywood vs. Faith featuring Frank Runyeon	PH
Sunday, March 3 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, March 4 6:30 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, March 5 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting	PH
Wednesday, March 6 8:30 am	Church opens for all day prayer	CH
5:30 pm.	Rosary	CH
6:00 pm	Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation	CH
7:00 pm	Benediction	CH
Thursday, March 7 6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR

PH= Parish Hall, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church,
CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1

FULL TIME COOK POSITION

The Missionaries of Africa Retirement Home in St. Petersburg (located near the Cathedral of St. Jude) has an immediate opening for a full-time cook. The hours are Monday - Friday 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, cooking for 8 retired priests. Health, dental, vision and pension benefits apply after a three-month probation period. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this position, please send your resume to: star30@verizon.net

Please contact Denise Starkey at 813-215-9535, with questions.



Social Group

The Blessed Trinity Social Group is meeting regularly now. Please join us at the Kahwa coffee shop @ 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 after the 8:00 am Mass on the Last Friday of each Month. Bring your ideas!

Please note our next meeting will be Friday, February 23.

All are welcome!

"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group

Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in Courtyard Hall.

All are welcome!

For more information please call 727-867-3663.



Text BTSP to 84576 or online at btsp.flocknote.com



Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

Spiritual Journey of President George Washington

Founding Member of the Republic and First President

By

Janice T. Connell, Lawyer and Author

Presidents' **D**ay, **F**ebruary 19, 2024

The Spiritual Journey of George Washington was presented in St. Petersburg, Florida on February 21, 2008, at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, with Janice Connell and her husband in attendance. The program highlighted President Washington's deep faith. Actors portrayed President and Mrs. Washington, centered around a State Dinner with all the pomp and pageantry of an official White House State Dinner. Several retired high-ranking military leaders were in attendance, as well as a General from the Republic of Italy.

That evening was designed by Father Wayne C. Genereux, then Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral, and now Pastor at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church. The program showed how important our faith is in our daily life. Washington lived his faith and is an example to all of us. It was a great success and those who were in attendance still talk about it sixteen years later. It had an impact on all who were present.

On this Presidents' Day let us remember all our Presidents and their contributions to American society.

Spiritual Journey of George Washington

By Janice T. Connell

Presidents' Day January 19, 2024

American History is a comfort to contemporary Americans in their hour of trial, for it teaches that God brings good out of evil. His mercy is greater than all His works. George Washington believed the Gates of Paradise are wide, and the Blood of the Lamb has obtained entry for all redeemed children of the Father. He knew well that every man rises and falls on the choices he makes every moment. Like Abraham and Moses, Washington had pleaded with God, especially at Valley Forge. Throughout his life, Washington appealed to the God of Mercy with loud cries.

Washington was not a stranger to sorrow, cold, hunger, persecution, violence, or terrorism. George Washington's greatest accomplishment was to face misfortune and conquer it; he achieved victory by discipline, commitment, prayer, and the graced ability to bend his will under the yoke of Divine Providence. He was a stoic who triumphed over suffering with ascetic heroism.

Washington was a man of great prayer. Shortly before the Declaration of Independence became a reality, the realistic Washington wrote to John Adams on April 15, 1776:

"We have nothing, my Dear Sir, to depend upon but the protection of Divine Providence and the unanimity among ourselves."

Divine Providence heard their prayers. Liberty steeped in just law came to life in America, but a price each subsequent generation of Americans is called upon to honor.

Against insurmountable odds, George Washington courageously led America into the merciful light of freedom. During his lifetime, Washington's faith in the goodness of Divine Providence and the sibling relationship of all the earth's people ignited a fire that warmed the hearts of Native Americans, colonists, and Europeans, rapidly spreading to the entire world. Washington's dream was that people of every race, culture, and religion would work together. Washington believed that America, the great land of opportunity, was to play a unique spiritual role in the history of the human race.

The world is at a crossroads. The truth is that the United States is one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all. America's system of government is the child of wisdom and the ward of vigilance.

The legacy of our Founding Father, George Washington, brings forth light from Heaven's Throne for these times.

"My fellow citizens, without virtue and without integrity, the finest talents and the most brilliant accomplishments can never gain the respect or conciliate the esteem of the truly valuable part of mankind."

George Washington's forebearers were among the early settlers of Virginia about 1658. John left England to escape shame and the resulting financial hardship that flowed from religious persecution. His goal was to seek peaceful prosperity in commerce. Religious freedom paired with financial opportunity gave John Washington powerful incentives to hold fast to God's ways. Because of his influence, the manners and culture of the Washington family in Virginia remained rooted in an English Puritanism steeped in Anglican Catholicism.

Washington's ancestors were among those who strongly believed "life is empty without religion." The Washington family library contained theology books that chronicled God's temporal as well as spiritual rewards and punishments for behavior, and each subsequent generation studied these works. Young George learned from the cradle that the Bible was the source for his spiritual, political, and financial life.

Washington accomplished his lessons perfectly. In 1745, when George was thirteen years old, he transcribed The Rules of Civility in colonial shorthand in his school workbook. These Rules of Civility were taught to Washington during his first year of study with Reverend James Marye, a French Jesuit turned Anglican priest and rector of St. George's Church in Fredericksburg. These rules were the code of civil, social and cultural behavior for respectable gentlemen of his times. Washington appropriated the Rules of Civility into his personality and social/political behavior is evident throughout his remaining life. They are cardinal principles of Washington's leadership. Washington's ability to deal with people of all walks of life was founded on his training in these Rules of Civility. America's civility is rooted deep in spirituality.

It is common knowledge that Washington carried with him a 24-page small pocket calendar book of prayers that he had written at the age of 24. Washington prayed these prayers each day of the week. Washington's daily prayers enriched his faith as he sought holiness and happiness. Washington cherished his Christian heritage enough to live it to the fullest. Washington's prayers unveil his own humble and contrite heart which God did not spurn. Washington's prayers drew down God's mercy for the American people in the past. Today, they ennoble people who sincerely pray them.

Though he was a lifelong Christian, George Washington never imposed his personal faith on anyone. He respected everyone's faith as a sacred God-given personal trust.

During his Presidency, Washington wrote a memo to the Committee of Roman Catholics:

“As mankind becomes more liberal, they will be more apt to allow all those who conduct themselves as worthy members of the community of whatever religious belief are equally entitled to the protection of civil government. I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations in examples of justice and liberality.”

Washington wrote the following to the United Baptist Churches of Virginia:

“Every man, conducting himself as a good citizen and being accountable to God alone for their religious opinions, ought to be protected to the dictates of his conscience.”

Washington was convinced that religion and morality are the essential pillars of civil society, but he led by example, rarely by words. History is clear that Washington was keenly aware of his moral and religious duties. He intuitively knew that no man fully understands the mysterious ways of God. Throughout his life, Washington’s personal relationship with Christ was intimately tied to his self-worth and self-esteem. He was uniquely renowned throughout the world of his time as a humble man of God.

Humility, a sign of man’s relationship with God, was the uniform George Washington consistently chose. Humility is a characteristic of the soul. The more Washington grew in knowledge of Christ, the more humility became the fiber of his being.

On July 3, 1775, when he took command of the Continental Army in dangerous and difficult circumstances, Washington’s army was the laughingstock of England. As Washington assumed command in the shade of an elm tree near the campus of Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, his men were poorly trained, poorly equipped and would rarely be paid. They were about to “Tangle with the largest expeditionary force sent forth in the eighteenth century.” There was, however, a mysterious promise of victory in the air that few could disregard. Three months earlier, young Patrick Henry had stood at the pulpit of Saint John’s Church in Richmond, Virginia shouting, “Give me Liberty, or give me Death!” Those words were an electric current in the colonies that few understood at the time, though all were seared by their power.

George Washington courageously shouldered the challenge of establishing America’s freedom. He inaugurated the Herculean precedent that American’s true spirit is sacrificial love, the only authentic love. True love gives life, breeds prosperity that sustains life, and nourishes peace that ennobles life.

Washington withstood adversity with as much dignity as his modesty allowed him to welcome success. On May 2, 1778, after the deprivation and desolation of the winter at Valley Forge, as Commander-in-Chief of the starving, pitiful revolutionary forces,

George Washington encouraged his troops to ascend to the pinnacles of self-sacrifice for the good of others.

Washington loved his troops and asked much of them. He expected their lives, like his, to be poured out on behalf of their fellow citizens. He suffered with them and triumphed with them.

Washington's life and accomplishments are models of wisdom's compassion that guides the work of all true great leaders. Washington's lived faith in the power of God's love to spawn human freedom is a luminescent torch of hope for people of good will in the twenty-first century.

Washington's courage was horrendously assailed in battle, yet he never wavered. At the political formation of the government of the United States of America, his prayerful leadership, wielded for the most part in silent observance, engendered courageous vision among his colleagues. His steadfast humility throughout two terms as First President of a unique infant nation breathed life into government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Washington consistently led by example and rarely by word.

The American Founders, under Washington's leadership, drew deeply upon Christian roots and Christian concepts of duty among Colonists of every belief, race and nation. The seriousness of the commitment pervades the language of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with its Bill of Rights, which followed in 1791. The Bible illumined the way to liberty and its rewards, prosperity and happiness in the new republic, one nation under God. All citizens were expected to ascend the heights of spiritual righteousness.

In the war against England, Washington and his coterie pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor as surety for the success of their cause. Such sacrifice is the heart of the ancient Christian ethic centered on the cross of Jesus Christ.

The signers of the Declaration of Independence included themselves in the first group called to shed their blood if necessary. Their stated goal was to bring forth a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all people are divinely created equal before God. As such each is entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. With the strike of their pen on that document, each man became a notorious traitor, punishable by death under English law.

From the beginning, the underlying principles of the United States included the sacredness and inherent dignity of each human life and the inviolate right to own and enjoy private property.

America's Founding Father is not distinguished as a military genius, yet he was. He is not esteemed as a land aristocrat, though he was a master of vast territory. Washington is not a literary giant, though his words dazzle the mind of every free person. George Washington's character made him something of an exception to the dominant political style. He held more truly to the ideal of disinterested, principled, and nonpartisan leadership than any other founding brother. George Washington cautioned against human hubris and that injunction remains as valid as ever. He warned that those who seek glory for themselves are robbers. All honor, and glory, and power belong to God.

During his life on earth, Washington prayed, and he prayed often. He prayed to know and remain faithful to God's ways. Now the spirit of George Washington commissions this generation to respond to the graced Spirit of True Love. The Founding Father inspires us to pray fervently that we may hear God's Voice and follow Him to the promised Land. Today, in contemporary light, Washington's enduring faith illumines the astonishing financial, political and diplomatic achievements of the American form of government. Washington's principled leadership flowed from his understanding of the Bible. His social/spiritual ideology charted the course of America's soul-wrenching journey into the morning light of God's Freedom.

George Washington loved his wife, Martha, dearly. Martha's virtues certainly influenced Washington. In many ways, Martha Washington was the ideal woman for the new American Republic. She was not born of the aristocracy, but she gained the admiration and respect of all classes of people. She was devoted to family and home, but she readily made sacrifices to join her husband in his public duties. During the Presidency, she was called both dignified and democratic as she forged the role of the President's wife that would be followed for generations to come. She neither sought nor relished her public positions, but carried out the duties that were thrust upon her with enormous consideration and care.

From February 1789 to 1797, Washington served his country for two successful terms as President and could have been crowned king, something he did not want. At the end of his second term, he retired to his beloved Mount Vernon. He died on December 14, 1799, and was laid to rest in his burial vault in Mount Vernon. Washington, true son of the Republic in need and spirit, looked, learned, served, loved, and died so that America might always be one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.

Washington was a visionary who during his lifetime understood that slavery of any kind is unjust and immoral. By his final Will and Testament, he decreed that all Mount Vernon slaves be freed upon the death of his wife. By his providential reversionary interest in Mount Vernon, he retained the legal rights to accomplish that emancipation. Washington directed his Executors to provide for the aged blacks

out of the assets of his estate. Washington further provided that, before slave children be emancipated, they be taught to read and write and brought to some useful occupation, even though the laws of Virginia forbade the education of slaves. Martha carried out her husband's wishes. Within a year of his death, slave children who had been taught to read and write were among the plantation's three-hundred slaves.

America never needs to fear, but to have indomitable faith and trust in God's merciful love, to have obedience to the word of God, sacrificial service, gracious stewardship, all which are George Washington's most enduring legacy. God's grace is sufficient for all times.

In his farewell address to the Nation, George Washington stated, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and cherish them. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure-reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

A devout Christian, Washington's religious beliefs influenced his life as a young surveyor on the dangerous frontier, through his heroics as a militia leader in the French and Indian War, to the dark days of Valley Forge, and the triumph of his Presidency. He was held in the highest regard by his fellow citizens, and history has canonized him as the most esteemed of the Founding Fathers. At the root of that esteem was his spirituality.

Like the Founding Fathers, we too are called to pledge our lives, our fortunes, and sacred honor every day of our life to the high ideals that men and women for almost 248 years, have dedicated themselves and died to preserve the Republic as a beacon of hope, shining in the darkness for men and women yearning to breathe free.

What is The Story of Faith?

3-Day Event

Afraid! on Feb 29th is a one-man play, staged with dramatic lighting and entertaining audience interaction. Its text is the Gospel of Mark, translated into contemporary American speech. As characters and settings and lights constantly shift, the Gospel engages the audience's imaginations, surprises them with flashes of humor, and drives relentlessly forward with all the dramatic suspense you would expect from great theater.

Sermon on the Mount is on Mar 1st - Jesus calls us to play our part in the story of faith in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount.

Hollywood vs. Faith is on Mar 2nd - Frank takes a humorous but also deeply challenging look at the story that we are actually living, the struggle we face daily as Americans to live lives of real joy in the middle of a media-centered culture.

“Imagine...

The floor under your feet is dirt...
The only light is coming from candles....
...We're in the catacombs....
...underneath Rome...”

So begins a spellbinding performance of St Mark's Gospel....acclaimed by critics, Catholic Scholars, and Church leaders alike....that may deepen your parish's encounter with the Gospel forever.

Who is Frank Runyeon?

Frank Runyeon has gained national acclaim in recent years as a translator and performer of biblical texts. He has performed the Gospel for hundreds of thousands of people in almost every state in America.

He is probably still best known however, from his many years on TV. He starred opposite Meg Ryan on *As the World Turns*, as Michael Donnelly on *Santa Barbara*, and as Simon Romero on *General Hospital*. He guest-starred recurrently on *Falcon Crest*, *Another World*, *Melrose Place*, and *LA LAW*. He also starred in the feature film *Sudden Death*.

Mr. Runyeon received his B.A. in Religion from Princeton University, and studied at Yale Divinity School before receiving his Masters, with honors, from General Theological Seminary in New York City. He continues his studies toward a doctorate while touring his current five productions:

Sermon on the Mount
AFRAID! The Gospel of Mark
What Are You Doing? --The Letter of James
The Gospel of John
The 3 1/2 Stories of Christmas

The Story of Faith is Evangelism

Every Christian has wondered what it would have been like: to have been there, in Galilee, and met Jesus... ***AFRAID!*** is an effort to help those in the audience have that encounter. How? By doing exactly what the evangelist Mark did: by telling the story in the present tense, here and now, from beginning to end, in everyday language--and by making the audience members *part* of the action...



Audience members are addressed individually as the actor roams the room...*They* are healed, asked for a coin, or given bread...And they are challenged to “go out” and tell the story to others--if they're not too afraid...(MK 16:8) By the time the last candle is blown out, each audience member has a sense that they are *part* of the story God is writing --not simply spectators....That Jesus is a very real Presence among them, and that they are called, not to be afraid, but to follow him.

Catholic Reviews

"The huge audience was spellbound..." -Fairfield County CATHOLIC

"Outstanding!...a very moving spiritual experience....and dramatically superb..."

--Fr. Thomas Cebula , Pastor, St Barbara R.C. Church, Massillon, OH

"Wonderful! People are still talking about it." --Carole Strohbeck, DRE, St Mary's Church, New Albany, IN

"Very beautiful....Our youth loved it!" --Fr. Edward Doran, Pastor, St Francis Xavier Parish, Brooklyn, NY

"Heart-felt...it had a tremendous impact on our parish...it brought more people to listen and learn than we could have ever hoped for...I was overwhelmed." --Kathryn-Ann Nichols, Adult Ed. Committee Chair, Holy Infant Parish, Orange, CT.

"Mr. Runyeon has a deep understanding of the message of Jesus Christ...he is a living example." --Fr. Robert St. Martin, St Mary, Star of the Sea, Unionville, CT.

"...Humorous...wonderful." --Dan Miller, Pastoral Associate, Sacred Heart Church, Enumclaw, WA.

"A unanimous hit with spellbound audience....you have a special grace..." --Annette Kaicher, DRE, Our Lady of Sorrows, White Plains, NY

"The presentation lived up to every comment you have on the brochure...Teenagers...really appreciated the Gospel as never before....2000 years vanished into thin air..." --Sister Mary Monica, Saint Saviour High School, Brooklyn, NY.

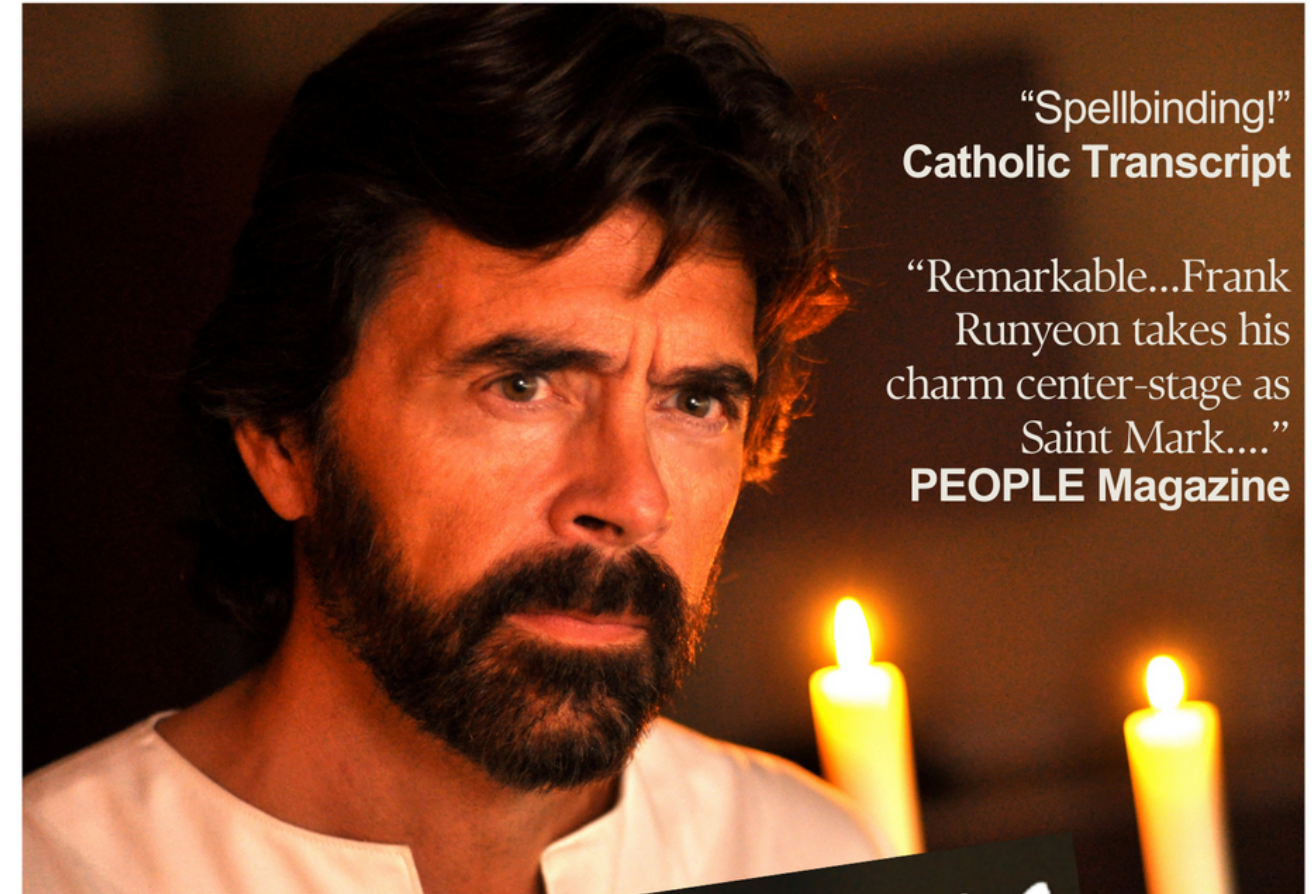
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Frank Runyeon



"Spellbinding!"
Catholic Transcript

"Remarkable...Frank
Runyeon takes his
charm center-stage as
Saint Mark...."
PEOPLE Magazine

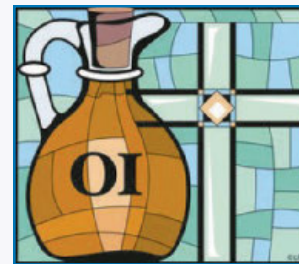
Afraid!
THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Feb 29 | 7:00 PM - Afraid! The Gospel of Mark
Mar 1 | 7:00 PM - The Sermon on the Mount
Mar 2 | 7:00 PM - Hollywood Vs. Faith

Arnold, Barbara
Austreng, Dick
Barr, Bill
Becker, Mary
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Christ, Kathryn
Cisek, Marilyn
Comeau, Teresa
Coston, Robert
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
DiStefano, Judy
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Gawlik, Frank
Gawlik, Sofia
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette

Huff, Walt
Irvin, John
Joyal, Christina
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Klima, Sue
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Matthews, Daniel
Mays, Susan
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Oliphant, Sean
Parmigiani, Valerie
Powers, Jim

Preeper, Helen
Riley, Marie
Romani, Angelo
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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