



Our Parish COMMUNITY

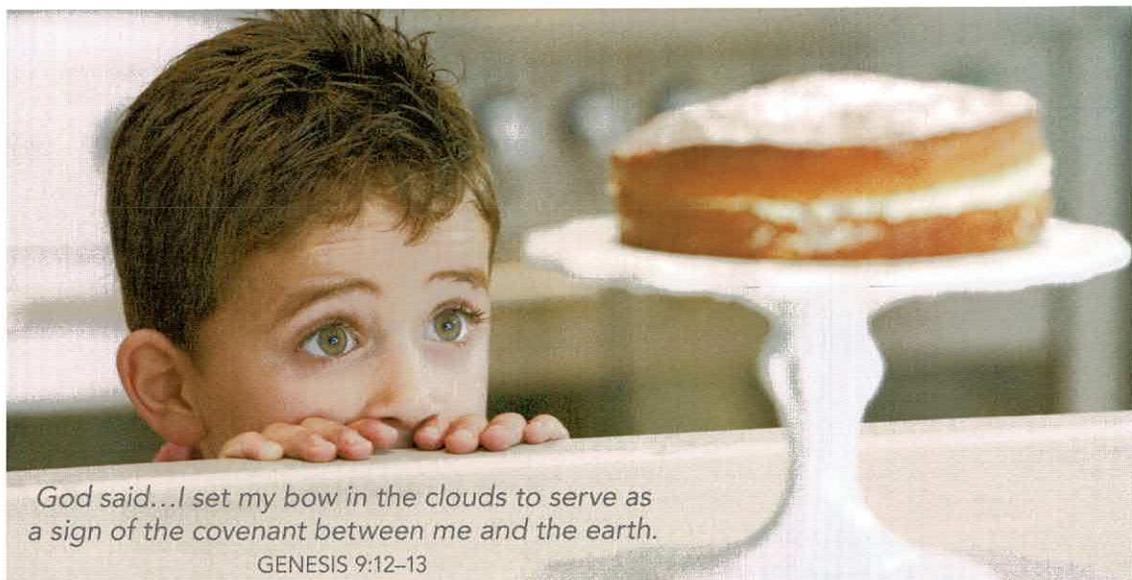
February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent (B)

Gn 9:8–15

1 Pt 3:18–22

Mk 1:12–15



God said...I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

GENESIS 9:12–13

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Lost at Sea

We often think that Lent is a time to concentrate on the sufferings of Jesus.

Actually that is the theme of Holy Week. The other readings of Lent suggest another theme—covenant-making. God initiates an intimate relationship with us and calls us to be faithful. This is the good news. Moreover, when we are unfaithful, God gives us another chance.

The first reading recounts God's graciousness in saving humankind from destruction. Noah and his family must have felt that they really were lost at sea. However, God's protection was always there. In fact, the waters they so feared were destructive only to what was evil. They had been saved and now, through the covenant, all of creation was given a second chance.

One might think that Jesus wouldn't have struggled with temptation. After all, he was God. However, today's Gospel says that he was tempted. He was in the wilderness, a place long known to be a place of

temptation because there the supports of normal life are gone. After forty days of fasting, one's defenses would be significantly weakened, if not broken down. In such a situation, the primary thought is survival. This Gospel does not describe the temptation itself, but it does present Jesus as someone like us—weakened, tempted, and perhaps even “lost at sea.” However, God's protection was with him, in the guise of angels.

Both stories assure us that God's covenantal care is there supporting us, regardless of the difficulty or our apparent weakness.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *When you feel “lost at sea,” recall that through baptism you have a close covenant relationship with God who is always there for you.*
- ★ *How do you strengthen yourself when you face temptation?*

Upcoming Schedule

| <i>Date</i> | <i>OLPH</i> | <i>Saint Boniface</i> |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| <i>February 20 / 21</i> <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i> | 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass Stations of the Cross | 5:00 pm ~ Mass |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 5:30 pm ~ Mass | |
| <i>Thursday</i> | 5:30 pm ~ Mass | |
| <i>Friday</i> | 6:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross | |
| <i>February 27 / 28</i> <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i> | 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass Stations of the Cross | 5:00 pm ~ Mass |

| | <i>OLPH</i> <i>Mass 9:00 am</i> | | <i>ST. BONIFACE</i> <i>Mass 5:00 pm</i> | |
|---------------|--|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Date | February 21 | February 28 | February 20 | February 27 |
| Lector | Joe McNaughton | Mandy Hall | Mary Jo Leygraaf | Lynne Begluitti |

| Mass Intentions | OLPH | St. Boniface |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| February 20 / 21 | † Andrew Laschon | Intentions of Catholic Extensions |
| February 27 / 28 | Intentions of Catholic Extensions | Poor Souls in Purgatory |

| Our Gifts | OLPH | St. Boniface |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| February 20 /21 | \$410.00 | \$190.00 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Michael Hall

February 21

**The Rice Bowl Lenten Program began on Ash Wednesday.
Please remember to pick up your rice bowls.**

Reading I

Gn 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:

“See, I am now establishing my covenant with you
and your descendants after you
and with every living creature that was with you:
all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals
that were with you and came out of the ark.

I will establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed
by the waters of a flood;
there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.”

God added:

“This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come,
of the covenant between me and you
and every living creature with you:

I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign
of the covenant between me and the earth.
When I bring clouds over the earth,
and the bow appears in the clouds,
I will recall the covenant I have made
between me and you and all living beings,
so that the waters shall never again become a flood

to destroy all mortal beings.”

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Good and upright is the LORD,
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and he teaches the humble his way.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Reading II

1 Pt 3:18-22

Beloved:

Christ suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God.

Put to death in the flesh,
he was brought to life in the Spirit.

In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison,
who had once been disobedient
while God patiently waited in the days of Noah
during the building of the ark,
in which a few persons, eight in all,
were saved through water.

This prefigured baptism, which saves you now.

It is not a removal of dirt from the body
but an appeal to God for a clear conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven
and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Verse Before the Gospel

Mt 4:4b

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Gospel

Mk 1:12-15

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.

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Gospel Reflection

Lent bids us to return to the innocence our baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of Baptism, Peter reminds us in today’s Epistle.

And God’s covenant with Noah in today’s First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation.

We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today’s Gospel.

Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God, living in harmony with the wild beasts, being served by angels.

Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death, Jesus is victorious.

This is the good news, the “gospel of God” that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God’s kingdom.

In the waters of Baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son. We were made children of God, new creations.

Like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness.

We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Savior—the way and the truth we sing of in today’s Psalm. He feeds us with the bread of angels, and cleanses our consciences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows — to repent and believe the gospel.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Marian Colette, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gary Hackler, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, all those of our families who are affected by Covid-19, and the Donner family.

UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle ~ Feast

February 22

Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

February 23

Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Saint Boniface

76 W. Sycamore Street, P. O. Box 330

Williamsburg, KY 40769

(606) 549-2156 / olph.boniface@gmail.com

Dear Padre,

As long as I can remember, our parish has offered the Stations of the Cross as a special devotion during the Lenten season. How ancient is this practice?

Over the centuries, many pilgrims would visit the Holy Land to retrace the steps of Jesus. When they returned to their home churches, many of these pilgrims paid for shrines to be built that represented the holy places they visited. In 1342, the Franciscans became the official guardians of the holy places, and they would guide pilgrims along the Way of the Cross. In 1668, Pope Innocent XI gave permission to the Franciscans to place Stations of the Cross in all of their churches. The number of these early stations varied, from as few as seven to as many as thirty-seven. Finally, in 1731, Pope Clement XII defined fourteen stations as the official devotion.

In recent years, two modifications of the Stations of the Cross have become fairly common. Some churches have a fifteenth station representing Jesus' Resurrection. Other churches have scriptural accounts that are not in the traditional station devotion. In more recent years, a popular Lenten devotion is the "Living Stations of the Cross." This is a play with music, singing, and dramatic speaking parts.

Regardless of their format or the liturgical season of the year during which they are celebrated, the Stations of the Cross are a gentle reminder that we journey with Jesus on his way to Calvary.

*From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*

Calendar

Monday

FEBRUARY 22

The Chair of

St. Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4

Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday

FEBRUARY 23

Lenten Weekday

Is 55:10-11

Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

FEBRUARY 24

Lenten Weekday

Jon 3:1-10

Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

FEBRUARY 25

Lenten Weekday

Est C:12, 14-16,
23-25

Mt 7:7-12

Friday

FEBRUARY 26

Lenten Weekday

Ez 18:21-28

Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

FEBRUARY 27

Lenten Weekday

Dt 26:16-19

Mt 5:43-48

Sunday

FEBRUARY 28

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13,
15-18

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

THOMAS SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength... He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.



EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT OF PRAYER
FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MARCH 27, 2020