

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 3rd

5 P.M. – Joe L. & Robin Pekar

Sunday, March 4th

7 A.M. – Annie & Isodor Gaida &
Frank Koranek

9 A.M. – Eddy & Frances Kupka

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

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

Your Gift to God: February 18th

Sweet Home	\$1,521
Online Giving	\$220
Building Fund	\$10
DSA	\$5
Ash Wednesday (<i>Church in Eastern Europe</i>)	\$189
Rice Bowl	\$117
Koerth	\$898
Rice Bowl	\$68

May God reward your generosity!

Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

Operation Rice Bowl

During the season of Lent through Easter Sunday we will have the traditional almsgiving program, "Operation Rice Bowl" taken up as a second collection each weekend.

*"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner."*

Parish Website Problems

As some parishioners have mentioned, the last couple of weeks the parish website has been unavailable at times. The company that provides the service--eCatholic--suffered a hacking attack that caused many of the websites nationwide (all at one point) to not be accessible for periods of time. They believe they have the proper protections setup going forward so hopefully there won't be a repeat of this in the future.

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be next **Saturday, March 10th** at 9:00 A.M. at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room.

Catholic Relief Services App

For those looking for another "modern" help during Lent...Catholic Relief Services have designed an App for smartphones that is free and helps in better understanding the importance of almsgiving and the real needs in our world we easily take for granted. Search in the Apps for CRS Rice Bowl and download it.



The Emmaus Center:

Counseling in the Catholic Tradition

Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria

1508 E. Airline

Victoria, Texas 77901

For an appointment, go to

www.emmauscounselingcenter.com

or call 361-212-0830

Extending a Listening Heart to Those in Need

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

The Way of the Cross

Each Friday at 6:00 P.M. we will observe Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Easter Flowers

Those who would like to donate towards the Easter floral decorations are invited to use the envelopes in the church entrances. All memorial/donations will be listed in the bulletin after Easter.

Why I'm Catholic (and you should be too)

Has anyone ever asked you why you're Catholic? Have you ever wondered yourself? Would you like some good reasons? If so, you might enjoy this six part series presented by Fr. Jacob. Sessions will take place on the **Mondays of Lent from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Family Center. No deed to register – just show up!**

Cemetery Inquiries

Anyone with questions regarding the Catholic Cemeteries should contact the local representatives for the Cemeteries.

Queen of Peace:

Harvey Matussek & J. O. Hermes

St. John the Baptist:

Gene Velek & Jerry/Joyce Kurtz

They can provide the needed information and help with locating available plots. They will also provide the needed details to complete a purchase/reservation and receive a deed for record purposes.



Lead Me Retreat by God's Embrace March 9-11, 2018

Registrations are open for a Lead Me Retreat by God's Embrace. Come from wherever you are to experience a deeper walk with Jesus. Retreat will be held March 9-11 at the High Hill Conference Center of God's Embrace located at 2911 FM 2672, Schulenburg, TX. Weekend begins Friday evening and concludes with Sunday Mass. Open to couples and singles. Cost is \$100 for retreat and food. Overnight lodging is not provided, but discounted rate is available at Holiday Inn in Schulenburg. Register online at www.godsembrace.org or call 979-561-8883.



4 Ways Lent transforms us

Tom Hoopes

Why does the Church bring us to Mount Tabor at the beginning of Lent?

Lent is still just getting started when, on the Second Sunday of Lent (Year B), we accompany James and John up Mount Tabor to see Jesus Christ transfigured in glory.

Why does the Church tell us this story at the beginning of Lent? Because Lent is supposed to transform us, too, in several ways.

First, seeing who Christ really is transforms us.

“It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,” says the entrance antiphon today. “Hide not your face from me.”

Peter, James and John see how great Christ is when they climb up Mount Tabor and see Christ’s glory. Says the Gospel: “He was transfigured before them and his clothes became dazzling white.”

Peter is so overwhelmed, he says, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Jesus — eventually — granted his prayer. The word for “tents” here is the same word we use for “tabernacle.” We have, before us, in every Catholic Church, the tabernacle where Christ’s glorious presence never leaves us so we can always seek his face.

Second, Lenten obedience transforms us.

“Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them,” the Gospel continues. “From the cloud came a voice, ‘This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.’”

This is a direct call to obedience and the first reading gives us one of the greatest examples of obedience in the Bible: Abraham.

The obedience of Abraham is famous: His very future, his very identity, is tied up with this son, and yet he is willing to sacrifice him at the Lord’s command.

But Isaac’s obedience is also impressive. In the longer version of the story, Isaac seems to know something is up. But he goes along with his father’s plan anyway, even carrying the wood that his father meant to use to offer him.

Abraham and Isaac have become two of the most celebrated men in history — not for their great talents but for their great obedience.

Lent gives us the chance to be obedient like Isaac. We are following the Church’s instructions in climbing up the mountain of Lent, with our small bundle on our back. God will transform our sacrifice for us.

Third, Lenten sacrifice bears fruit.

In his willingness to follow his father’s will, Isaac foreshadows Jesus himself, who carried the wood of his own cross up Mount Calvary to his own place of sacrifice.

But in Abraham’s case, it only *seemed* like he would slaughter his only son. Isaac isn’t slaughtered.

Not so for Christ. The Stations of the Cross tell the story of this new Isaac’s journey up to the cross, but they end not with his rescue, but with his lifeless body being taken down by others and then buried.

Abraham and Isaac’s sacrifice resulted in a whole nation rising up in their name. What did Christ’s sacrifice result in?

St. Paul describes it in the Second Reading. “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?”

Fourth, Lent teaches us that God’s glory is inextricable from his sacrifice.

Mountaintops are important in the Bible. Today’s readings mention two mountaintops — Mount Moriah and Mount Tabor — and references others. Elijah and Moses had enormously significant mountaintop experiences. Mountaintops are places of special communion with God.

But looming behind all these is the “mountaintop” of Golgotha, the place of the skull, the place where Jesus will die at Lent’s end.

The lesson is that the suffering, revelation and glory all go hand in hand.

The painful experiences of our lives are not wasted times on the way to glory, they are precisely the places where we are closest to Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave the apostles a glimpse of his true glory not just on our Mount Tabors, but on our Calvarys, too.

**“If God is for us,
who can be against us?”**