

# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2021



## Reading I: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Yahweh gives Abraham the ultimate test, that of sacrificing his favorite son, Isaac. Observing Abraham's unquestioning obedience, Yahweh calls off the killing, accepting the sacrifice of a nearby ram. He also promises Abraham abundant rewards, including the growth of a great people as his descendants.

## Reading II: Romans 8: 31b-34

St. Paul provides his readers a solid basis for their hope, specifying along the way the unique power of Jesus' intercession for us with His Father. He also asks "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

## The Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

The transfiguration of Jesus was such a dazzling experience for Peter that he nervously proposes setting up three tents so that the three people from the world beyond could stay and prolong it. But immediately after, Jesus brings the three apostles down to earth to complete their earthly mission.



- 5 p.m.: Mary Olsen, Shamus & Teresa Moran,  
Rose Ryder and Tadeusz Pawlowski  
10 a.m.: Chris Pierce, Marilyn Boland Stein,  
Mary Catherine Stein, Rusty Dalton

## LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

- 5 p.m. Saturday, February 20: **39**  
10 a.m. Sunday, February 21: **55** in the church;  
**19** in the hall

## TREASURER'S REPORT

February 14-21: Totaled \$ 5,056.38  
Envelopes: \$ 2,276.00 – Online: \$ 2,780.38

## TRANSFIGURATION'S MESSAGE

The exhilaration one feels in the wake of dramatic weight loss or an addiction broken is often enhanced by compliments received. Friends applaud the transformation, especially if they remember the old you. The accomplishment is also a good example for others trying to do the same. Change matters.

There is a certain similarity here with the glorious event of Christ's transfiguration. When the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity humbly hid His divine nature by accepting a human one, He took it on completely with all its limitations. We tend to forget that He was "like us in all things, except sin."

So the Lord in many ways looked ordinary to most observers, although He was at the same time a special Man. For example, He was undeniably approachable. Many men give off an air of cool indifference, especially to strangers. Jesus even attracted children, who are among the best detectors of phoniness.

Our Lord grew tired at the end of the day. He experienced the weariness of living with His mainly ignorant Apostles, but He had to guard against using any spectacular devices in attracting followers. Only when He worked one of His miracles out of compassion, or as a teaching lesson, did the source of His power gradually



become revealed. His apostles first came to Him because He was different in all the best ways. Gradually they recognized that He was also genuinely holy and close to God.

On this one occasion, He pulled back the veil over His divine nature to allow them (and us) to glimpse His glory - one in which Moses and Elijah, both long dead by human reckoning, were suddenly quite alive in another dimension. It had to be a spectacular sight for Peter, James and John. It must have included a massive dose of awe, joy and happiness – along with a rebirth of trust in their Hebrew hope of a Messiah.

Let us here reflect not on the sounds and sights, but on the generated hope. As such, it is one of the three theological virtues, along with Faith and Charity, so-called because they "relate directly to the living God." "They inform all the moral virtues and give them life" as the Catholic Catechism describes them.

St. Paul indirectly refers to hope when we hear him ask today: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Hope, like all virtues, is also a "power" or ability given us by God that ushers trust in Him, injecting us with dynamism for the present and optimism for the future.

This story of the transfiguration placed here at the start of Lent energizes us to reach up in our struggle to be God's friends when all around us is a gravitational pull downward. We can posit our own future transfiguration when we will repeat St. Peter's words: "Lord, it is good to be here."

**God love you and give you His peace,**  
- **Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Cieslewitz family upon the recent death of Betty Ann Cieslewitz Sutton. Please keep them in your prayers.

*"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."*

- Henri Nouwen



## IN THE LOOP



Next weekend is **Commitment Weekend** for the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal. To learn more, particularly where gifts go, visit [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org) or watch the video on our website ([stpaulsbullville.org](http://stpaulsbullville.org)).

Thank you to those who have already participated. If you have not made a gift yet, please prayerfully consider doing so. For your convenience, you can use either the enclosure in letter that you should have received or the in-pew envelopes next weekend. Your generosity is appreciated.



Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley is inviting men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation to:

**Coping With Life Alone:** A one-day remote program that will be held on Saturday, March 6, or Saturday, May 1. For information or to register please call Jim at 569-9452 or Denise at 325-3147.

**Healing Weekend:** An in-person retreat at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon from June 4-6 (unless cancelled because of COVID-19 restrictions). For information, call Janice at 490-7466 or Phyllis at 914-261-5812.



We are continuing to share resources for insight into the current issues of social justice from a Biblical/Church perspective. This week's reflection, "Catholic Social Thought and Racial Solidarity," can be accessed on our website ([stpaulsbullville.org](http://stpaulsbullville.org)).

## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE



It was movie night last week, No, they didn't watch a flick. Rather, Youth Ministry members did some California Dreamin' as they talked about the movies in which they'd like to have a role.

"Harry Potter," "Dr. Strange" and "Star Wars" were popular. And classics such as "Clueless," "Back to the Future," "ET" and "Twister" were joined by relative newcomers such as "Little Women," "The Greatest Showman" and "Cobra Kai" in their appeal to our kids.

Maybe a star has been born?

Here are some of the Scriptures then shared:

**2 Samuel 22:29-30** - You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into light. 30 With your help I can advance against a troop[a]; with my God I can scale a wall.

**2 Timothy 1:17** - 17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.

**Genesis 3:19** - By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

**John 3:8** - The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

**Proverbs 21:3** - To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.



the  
**CARDINAL'S**  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL  
*Sharing God's Gifts*

From supporting needy parishes and religious education to charitable outreach and COVID-19 relief, your generosity makes a difference. As of February 19, \$17,970 toward our goal of \$43,000 has been received/pledged by 43 families. Thank you.

Visit [www.cardinalsappeal.org/donate](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org/donate)

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

RALSTON-LIPPINCOTT-HASBROUCK-  
INGRASSIA FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"FAMILY OWNED"

ANTHONY AND SHANON INGRASSIA LIC. DIRECTORS

72 WEST MAIN STREET  
MIDDLETOWN, NY 10940

845-343-6023

[WWW.OCFUNERALHOMES.COM](http://WWW.OCFUNERALHOMES.COM)

“

9