
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 16, 2025

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Genesis: 15:5-12, 17-18

God is manifested in a starry sky, fearful darkness, a smoking pot and a flaming torch.

Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

When God lights our way, of whom can we be afraid?

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1

Our citizenship is in heaven, where a glorified existence awaits us.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

Jesus holds a summit with Moses and Elijah about his coming exodus.

Focus: *We are called to place our trust in God and persevere in faith.*

During the season of Lent, we focus on Christ's suffering and death, but today's readings show us that the passion of Christ cannot be separated from his resurrection. This Sunday's Gospel foreshadows both the resurrection and Christ's second coming.

In both the New and Old Testaments, God communicates his presence through signs. The smoking fire pot that passes between Abram's sacrifices represents God's presence. On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the cloud both hides Jesus from sight and reveals his identity as God's Son. The smoking pot confirms that Abram will see God's promises fulfilled. Jesus' Transfiguration confirms what he has just told his disciples about his passion and death – namely that they will lead to his glory.

Luke's account of the Transfiguration is the only one that includes what Jesus, Moses and Elijah discuss on



the mountain. Their discussion recalls not only the Exodus of the Old Testament, when God brought his people out of Egypt into the Promised Land, but also Jesus' coming exodus – that is, his passion, death, resurrection and ascension. It is through Christ's exodus from death to new life that we gain access to heaven.

In his Letter to the Philippians, Paul reminds his readers that to live a life centered in Christ, we must embrace both the cross and the resurrection. It is at the final coming of Christ that he will give us glorified bodies like his own and "bring all things into subjection to himself." Christ has already won the battle over sin and death, but until we reach the final victory, we must contend with our earthly bodies.

Our Lenten practice of fasting reminds us of this truth. No matter how close we grow to God or how many spiritual favors he grants us, as long as we dwell on this earth, we will live in mortal bodies, subject to weakness and that desire deep within us that makes sin attractive. Therefore, as Saint Paul writes, we must "stand firm in the Lord."

Without the cross there can be no resurrection. In a few moments, Christ will become present to us in a unique way, and yet his glory will be veiled under the appearances of bread and wine. It is not until Christ comes again that we will see him in his glory. We may experience hints of it now in our own "mountaintop" moments, but today's readings remind us that we must persevere in faith like our father Abraham. With our eyes fixed on the Resurrection, we must endure the crosses we choose, and the crosses chosen for us.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m. Deacon John, Brenda Cipriani and Joseph Zak

10 a.m.: Frances Hernandez, Jessica Lancellotti,
Joe Britto and Mary Szulwach

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Beginning March 31, the **Scripture Discussion** group will once again discuss the Gospel of Mark using the Ignatius Study Bible. Zoom meetings take place from 10-11:15 a.m. on Mondays.

Former members and new members are welcome. Contact Gail Van Tassel at 845-457-3432 or gailvantassel@yahoo.com to join and to get the book.

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 106

10 a.m. – 141

DURING LENT ...

Why not consider joining your fellow parishioners after Mass on Sunday to **reflect and share your thoughts about the Gospel reading**. Please note that you can still attend even if you did not sign up beforehand, and you do not have to attend every Sunday to participate.

And **The Stations of the Cross** is a simple, yet powerful, way to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus. You will have that opportunity at 7 p.m. in the main church the Fridays of Lent, through April 11.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

March 2f-9: \$ 9,050.77

Envelopes: \$ 3,654.00 – Online: \$ 5,396.77



IRISH

FEAST

What happens when 160 pounds of corned beef, 60 pounds each of cabbage and potatoes, 60 bangers and assorted libations are combined with 105 revelers bedecked in green?

A feast that would make St. Patrick proud!

Ann Shannon, the unofficial MC at this event, was as expected in full regalia – and a different outfit from last year.

“I have a few,” she says.

She even offered a green tutu to Fr. Sean.

“No wonder people run when they see me!”

But not everyone flees. Along with the traditional meal, which Ann says is nothing short of excellent, is the opportunity to spend time with friends who perhaps attend a different Mass or have moved away but still

heed the call of the cabbage.

“I’m a people person and it’s always heartwarming to get together and catch up,” says Ann.

Let’s not forget the bubbly and efficient youth volunteers. They received praise from the crowd and kitchen crew alike – and kudos to the kitchen crew, too!

And in true community spirit, leftovers were taken to the Town of Crawford Police Department that evening.

Ann joked about one disappointment though. Upon arrival for Mass, she went into the kitchen to claim the loaf of homemade Irish soda bread that was set aside for her. She tucked it away, and it wasn’t until she returned home that she realized a leprechaun must have done a switcheroo.

That bread bore the ShopRite label!



CARDINAL’S APPEAL UPDATE

This is Commitment Weekend. As of last Tuesday, March 11, \$ 21,675.00 toward our goal of \$ 50,600 has been received/pledged by 49 families. If you have not already done so, consider participating this weekend as part of your Lenten almsgiving. Thank you.

*‘Never trust a dog
to watch your food.’
- St. Patrick*

