

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*



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



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



Our Parish COMMUNITY

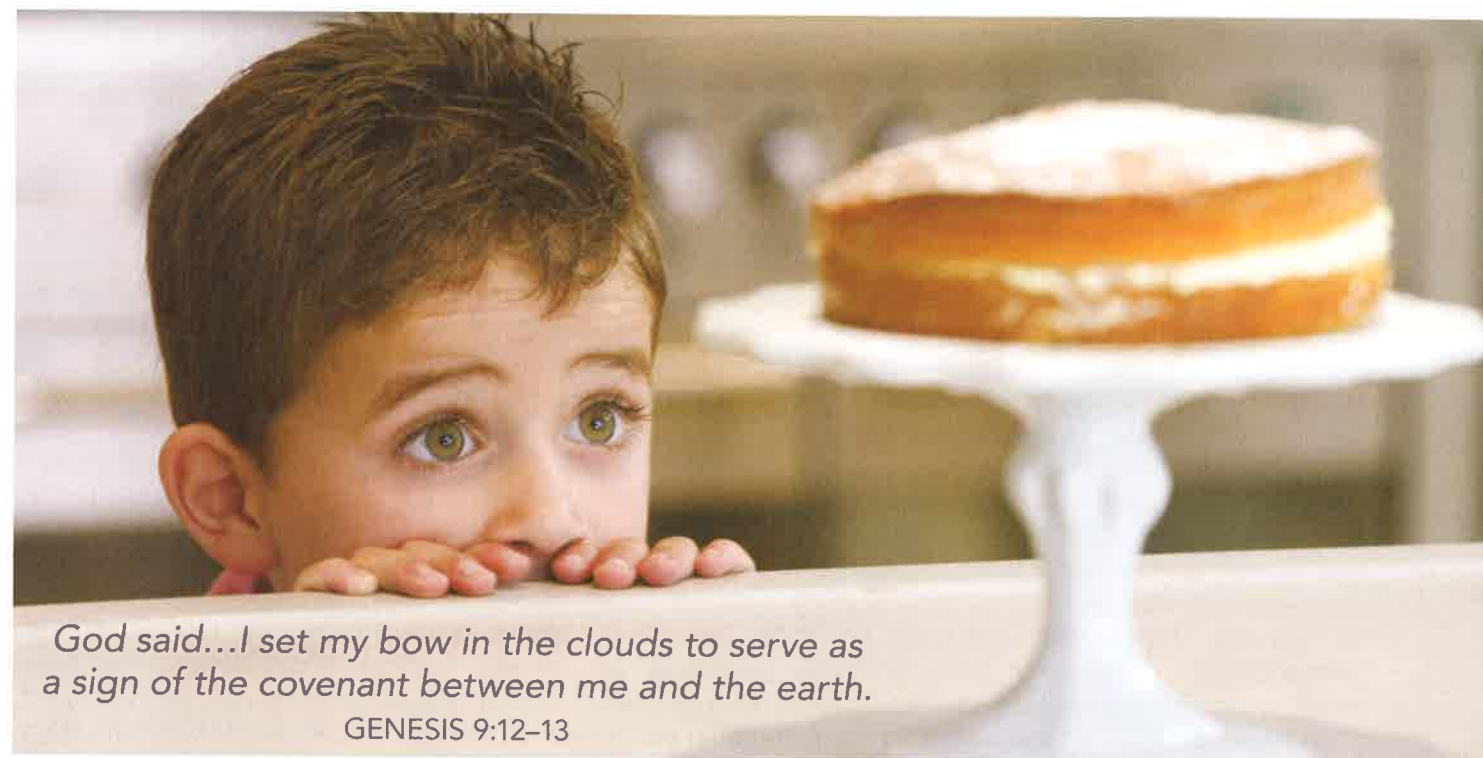
February 21, 2021

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

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?*



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

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Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The primary purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the celebration of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The Church tries to achieve this goal by leading her children to *metanoia* or true "repentance," by reordering their priorities, and the changing their values, ideals, and ambitions through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and self-control. Since by Baptism we share the death and Resurrection of Jesus, today's readings refer to Baptism directly or indirectly.

The **first reading** tells us how humans irrevocably broke the *original covenant* God had made with Adam and Eve, and how the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew the covenant. Noah's rescue from the flood symbolizes how we are saved through the water of Baptism which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ. Today's **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 25) is an exquisite penitential prayer, humbly acknowledging human insufficiency and our radical dependence upon God, His mercy and His forgiveness. The psalmist lists some of God's Own characteristics that will shape the life of the forgiven penitent: truth, compassion, love, kindness, goodness, uprightness, humility, and justice. In the **second reading**, St. Peter shows us how Noah's episode prefigured Baptism. He reminds us that, as Noah and his family were saved from the waters of the deluge, so we are saved through the waters of Baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of the New Covenant that God has made with His people. It makes us adopted children of God, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit. **In the Gospel**, we are told that Jesus faced and defeated the tempter by his forty days of prayer and penance in the desert immediately following his baptism. It also tells us how Jesus started preaching his Messianic mission: "*The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent. Believe in the Gospel.*"

Let us conquer our temptations as Jesus did, using the methods Jesus employed. Jesus conquered his tempter, the devil by prayer, penance, and timely use of the word of God. During this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by talking to God, by listening to God speaking to us through the Holy Bible, and by practicing self-control to subdue our evil tendencies. Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by: a) participating in the Sunday and weekday Mass b) setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer; c) reading some Scripture, alone or with others. d) setting aside some money we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment, or clothes and giving it to an organization which takes care of the less fortunate in our society; e) abstaining from smoking, alcohol, and other evil addictions; f) receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent and participating in the Stations of the Cross.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
02/22	Monday	No Mass Today		
02/23	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
02/24	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
02/25	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
02/26	Friday	11.30 AM	Bayard	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
02/27	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Intention - Anna Faye Van Anne
02/28	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Albert & Mary Lou Weitzel
02/28	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Oneva Lummel

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Stations of the Cross:
February 23, Tuesday
at 6.00 PM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$415.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	
SUBTOTAL	\$415.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$415.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3,615.00
BALANCE	\$2,431.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.
- Looking for a few couples willing to spend an hour a week to relax and grow their marriage and their faith life. Call Mike O'Neal @308-631-6717 for details.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM

Stations of the Cross:
February 26, Friday
at 11.30 AM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$95.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$1502.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1597.00
MASS STIPEND	
EASTERN EUROPE	\$15.00
TOTAL	\$1612.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$2,915.00
BALANCE	\$1,992.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.
- Looking for a few couples willing to spend an hour a week to relax and grow their marriage and their faith life. Call Mike O'Neal @308-631-6717 for details.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM

Stations of the Cross:
February 25, Thursday
at 6.00 PM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$495.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	
SUBTOTAL	\$495.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$495.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$4361.00
BALANCE	\$1,775.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.
- Looking for a few couples willing to spend an hour a week to relax and grow their marriage and their faith life. Call Mike O'Neal @308-631-6717 for details.

