

# Dear Padre,

## Was Lent always associated with sacrifice, sin, and penance? Did Lent have some other purpose in Church history?

A set period of Lent was not observed during the first centuries of Christianity. Rather, Christians prepared for the Easter celebration with an all-night vigil and a fast. This vigil concluded with a morning Eucharist. Gradually, Christians extended this celebration to include Jesus' own Passover (the supper on Holy Thursday and the death of Jesus on Friday). By the end of the second century, baptism became linked to the Easter Vigil, and the time leading to Easter became a period of intense preparation for baptism. At first, this preparation period lasted only three weeks. This baptismal preparation program eventually extended to forty days. The idea of forty days came out of Mark's Gospel (1:13), where we read about Jesus going into the desert for forty days to prepare for his ministry.



JESUS CERVANTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Today the Lenten period serves a double purpose. It is still a time of intense preparation for the catechumens, as they anticipate celebrating the sacrament of baptism at the Easter Vigil. But Lent also has become a time for baptized Christians to reflect on their own baptism. During Lent, the baptized are challenged to turn away from sin and choose again the deepest meaning of their baptism: the fact that they have died and risen with Christ and are now alive anew in Jesus. This renewal is done through the traditional penitential practices of fasting, prayer, and works of charity.

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Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

We learn from Abraham to pray with faith, to dialogue, to argue, but always ready to receive the word of God and to put it into practice. We learn to talk with God as a child with his father: to listen to him, respond, argue, but transparent, as a child with his father.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 3, 2020



## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 1

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10

Lk 6:36-38

### Tuesday

MARCH 2

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Mt 23:1-12

### Wednesday

MARCH 3

Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18-20

Mt 20:17-28

### Thursday

MARCH 4

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10

Lk 16:19-31

### Friday

MARCH 5

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a,

17b-28a

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

### Saturday

MARCH 6

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### Sunday

MARCH 7

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or

20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

1 Cor 1:22-25

Jn 2:13-25

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

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

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

## Future Gazing

Some spiritual writers and psychologists tell us how important it is to live in the present. Still, many of our decisions are made with an eye toward the future. Life commitments are always future oriented. Each newborn child carries promises for the future. Because we are part of the emerging universe, we are always called into the future. Today's readings also carry implications for the future.

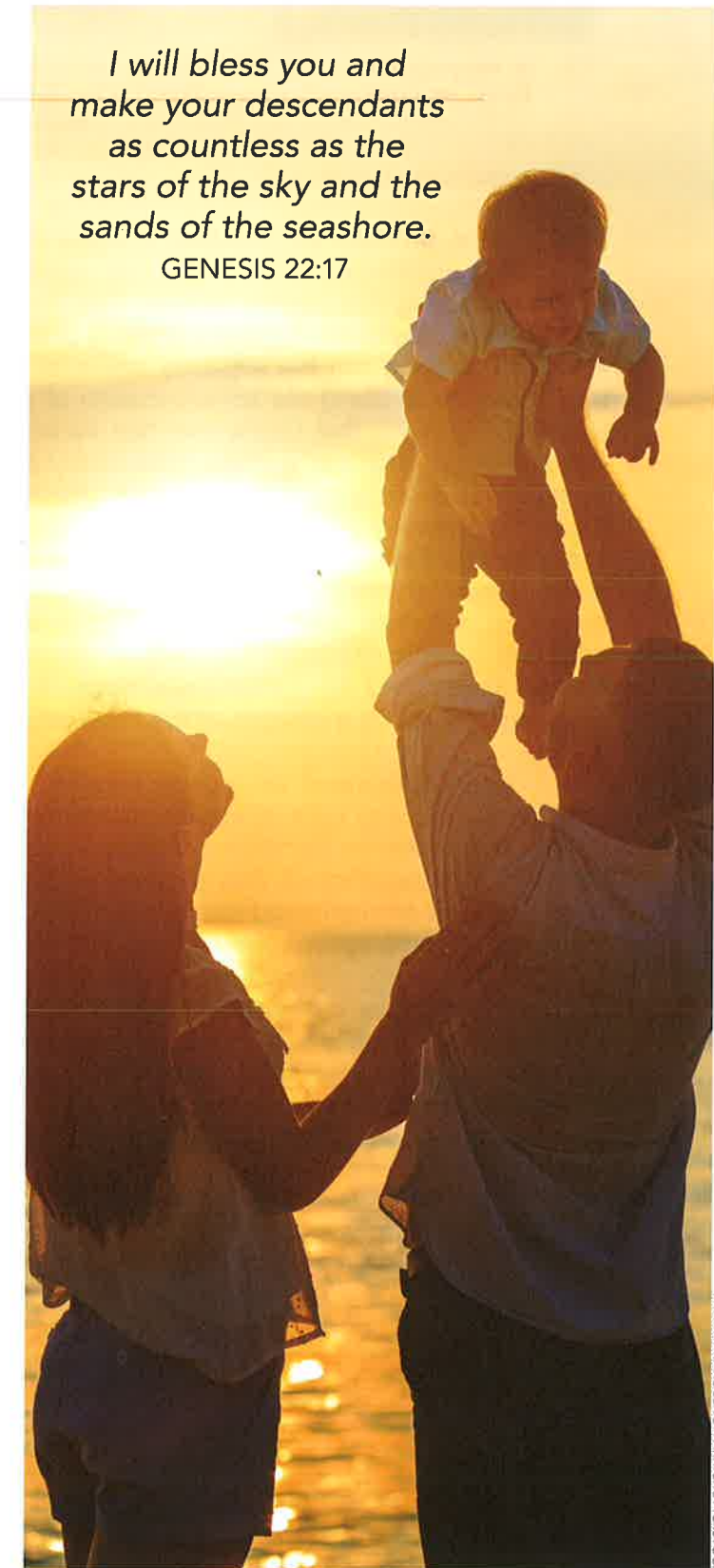
Isaac was not only Abraham's beloved son; he was Abraham's legacy and future dynasty. Isaac's death would have put an end to Abraham's memory in the future. Consequently, this was more than a test of obedience. Abraham was presented with a choice: Choose Isaac and all that the future might bring to your family and memory through him. Or, trust that the promise God made—that your descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky—would be fulfilled even if Isaac dies. God asked Abraham to place his future in God's hands.

Some scholars believe that the real meaning of Jesus' transfiguration lies in its effects on the disciples who witnessed it. In this experience they came to see Jesus in a significantly new way. They saw that he has somehow associated with Moses, an agent of the law, and Elijah, a great prophet. In other words, Jesus was somehow associated with the very core of Jewish religion. The disciples did not understand how, nor did they grasp what "rising from the dead meant." Still they placed their future in his hands.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ Have you ever felt like your whole world has collapsed? How did you get through it?
- ★ True disciples must place their lives in God's hands. Pray for this grace.



I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore.

GENESIS 22:17

PIYAWAT NANDENKOPPARIT/SHUTTERSTOCK



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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 common theme of today's readings is a challenge for metamorphosis or transformation, especially during this Lenten season. The first reading explains how his faith in God's mercy and power and his blind obedience to God's order to sacrifice his only son born in his old age, transformed the life of Abraham, making him the supreme model of our Faith. Second reading tells us that God showed God's love for us by allowing the transformation of the glorious preaching and healing ministry of the Son to a tragic end, proving that God's love has no limits. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 116) speaks of God's distress at the death of anyone. "Too costly in the eyes of the LORD is the death of His faithful." In the Transfiguration story in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed in His Heavenly glory, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow him to consult his Heavenly Father and ascertain the Father's plan for His Son's suffering, death and Resurrection. God's secondary aim was to make Jesus' chosen disciples aware of Jesus' Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial. A third aim of transfiguration was to give Jesus the conviction that he will be the Son of God, his loving Father, even during his suffering and death. Finally, by describing the theophany of Jesus' Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their Faith in Him.

Every sacrament we receive transforms our lives. For example, Baptism transforms us into being children of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation transforms us to be brave witnesses of and warriors for Christ. Reconciliation transforms sinners to be saints. In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are transformed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus. Just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal especially during this Lent.

Christ's transfiguration gives us the message of encouragement and hope. In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, pains and suffering, the thought of our future transformation in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to God's consoling words: "This is my beloved son." Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord so that, through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to him in his suffering, may share in the carrying of his cross and finally may share the glory of his second "transfiguration," namely, his Resurrection.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

**SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
03/01	Monday	No Mass Today		
03/02	Tuesday	5.30 PM	Bridgeport	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/03	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
03/04	Thursday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/05	Friday	11.30 AM	Bayard	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/06	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Adoration & Mass (health of Laynette Van Ann)
03/07	Sunday	800 AM	Bayard	Adoration & Mass (John Weitzel)
03/07	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Adoration & Mass (Velma Backer)

**ALL SOULS  
617 P STREET  
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336**

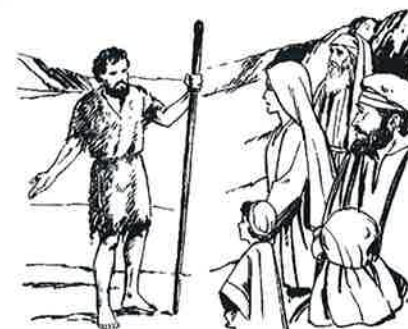
**MASS TIME**  
Tuesday — 6:00 PM  
Sunday — 10:30 AM

**Stations of the Cross:  
March 02, Tuesday  
at 6.00 PM  
followed by Mass**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$755.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$63.00
SUBTOTAL	\$818.00
MASS STIPEND	
EASTERN EUROPE	\$105.00
TOTAL	\$923.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$1,100.00
BALANCE	\$4,946.00

- 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.



**SACRED HEART  
1003 AVE B  
BAYARD NE 69334**

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

**Stations of the Cross:  
March 05, Friday  
at 6.00 PM  
followed by Mass**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$606.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$143.00
SUBTOTAL	\$749.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$749.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$1,280.00
BALANCE	\$3,627.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SAINT MARY'S  
718 FRANCIS ST  
DALTON NE 69131**

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

**Stations of the Cross:  
March 04, Thursday  
at 6.00 PM  
followed by Mass**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$1235.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$30.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1265.00
MASS STIPEND	\$20.00
EASTERN EUROPE	\$55.00
TOTAL	\$1340.00
BUILDING FUND	\$70.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6,439.00
BALANCE	(\$303.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

