

I WILL WALK BEFORE THE LORD  
IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

second  
sunday  
of LENT



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

March 1, 2015

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

In today's Gospel, Peter, James and John hear God ask them to listen to Jesus. We can well identify with their "hardly (knowing) what to say" and being "so terrified" by witnessing Jesus' transfiguration that they actually miss the point—they want to build tents and stay put, but Jesus leads them back down the mountain.

Peter, James and John not only witness Jesus' transfiguration. They themselves also undergo a transfiguration. Some change occurs within them so they are able to hear God's voice announcing Jesus' identity ("beloved Son") and the clear terms of their own discipleship ("listen to him"). We know they listened because they were "questioning what rising from the dead meant" and they followed Jesus as his disciples.



**Lent is meant to be our time of transfiguration.** We are transfigured—we are changed—when we take the time to listen to what God is saying to us through Jesus. This kind of listening leads to acting as faithful disciples. What change needs to occur in us so that we grasp the clear terms of our own discipleship?

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### INVITATION TO KEEP A HOLY LENT

*think about:*

...how I can love God more deeply;  
...those things for which I am most sorry.

**Pray daily.**

Offer acts of kindness that will help others  
and be signs of my love for God.

## CHOOSING-ACTING LENT

The hard part of our **Lenten journey** is the dying to self. Dying to self calls us to surrender ourselves to God, to be obedient (listen) even as Abraham was, and to listen to Jesus' voice in our own lives. Only when we embrace such a total listening-surrender can we begin to fathom the glory of the mountaintop. **Lent is our time in the desert to face our temptations and open ourselves to the Spirit** who is always present to us to guide and comfort us.

### a prayer for Lent

Dear God, help me to expand my soul  
to encompass your suffering world!  
Give me the wisdom and strength  
to recognize where you are sending me  
and to help somebody when I arrive!  
Amen.

**Lent Is A Subversive Opportunity**, an opportunity to learn, to discern (to use an Ignatian term) how to disengage from the spiritually eroding culture in which we live by the practice of **Five Lenten Disciplines** to reclaim ourselves as disciples of a personal God.

**#1 Interiority** *Even 10 minutes* of solitude a day—on the terrace, at the window or in the chapel—can get us in touch with ourselves - and with God. Who or what am I when I am not producing, pretending, planning or filling myself with noise? Might we discover that the unique gift we can bestow on the world is our capacity to give and receive love, hope and faith? In each of these virtues we are made vulnerable yet empowered as persons.

### Contemplative Gazing

Walk in an area of concentrated poverty,  
walk in an area of wealth.  
What do you see? Be honest with yourself.  
What do you not know?

## THE PRACTICE OF LENT

### Lenten Fasting

Traditionally, Christian penance has unfolded in three interrelated practices: almsgiving (practicing charity), prayer and fasting (from acts of intolerance, anger, selfishness and hardheartedness). Each of these practices is aimed at a key relationship in our lives: to others



(almsgiving), to God (prayer) and to ourselves (fasting). We are reminded that **Lent is a time to look at our whole selves and all our relationships.**

On the mountaintop Peter, James and John got a glimpse of the fullness of Christ's glory. Fullness can best be appreciated by a prior experience of emptiness. Such is the intent behind the **Lenten fast**. We empty ourselves so that we hunger only for God and are filled by God's presence. Our **Lenten fasting** practices are more earnest and austere than those during the rest of the year and are an opportunity for us to sincerely hunger for God and reflect on the grace of our own self-emptying. Fasting is a form of disciplining ourselves so that we can set our sights on who truly brings us satisfaction: God. Fasting is actually a form of listening-acting.

## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



Today's Psalm 116 was a psalm of thanksgiving sung to God after being delivered from death.

*"I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living."*

We can easily place the words on Abraham's lips after the voice from heaven stayed the knife he held over Isaac (first reading). We can hear its

words on the lips of Christ who, having died for our sakes, was raised to new life (second reading).

What does it mean for us to place these words on our lips on the **Second Sunday of Lent**? We sing this psalm knowing that what God desires for us is life, not death. We sing this psalm also knowing that to receive the fuller Life God wishes for us we must pass through whatever dying to self comes from listening to the call of God (first reading) and the voice of Jesus (gospel). Abraham listened and learned this. Peter, James and John listened and learned this. Now is our time to listen and learn

**the "Eucharist is the heart of the parish, source of its mission and presence that renews it continually. In fact, the parish is a community of baptized persons who express their identity above all through the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice." St. John Paul II, 2005**

For more Power in your Lenten experience, consider visiting Jesus truly Present in the Eucharistic Chapel once a week during Lent. Call Angie: 787-790-2398 or Susan 787-789-9453



## THE VOICES OF LENT

**Psalm 139** is a hymn to God's omnipresence and omniscience, in the form of a meditation in which the psalmist ponders the truths that the Lord sees and knows him no matter where he may be. He therefore resolves to abhor the wicked and to live sincerely in God's sight.



*"O Lord, you have probed me and you know me; you know when I sit and when I stand, you understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rest you scrutinize, with all my ways you are familiar. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know the whole of it. Behind me and before, you hem me in and rest your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; too lofty for me to attain."*

Ps. 139:1-6

## PURIM

This Wednesday and Thursday our Jewish friends and neighbors are celebrating the joyous feast of Purim that marks the deliverance from death of the Jewish community that lived in Persia some 2,500 years ago. Special temple services will be held that include the reading of the Book of Esther, the story of how God saved his people through the intervention of Queen Esther with King Ahasuerus who was threatening to annihilate the Jews of his kingdom. **Lent** seems an appropriate time for Christians to take notice of this ancient Jewish tradition of Purim and remember that we also, like the Jews of ancient Persia, have been delivered from death (sin) by that same Savior God. In this context, you may want to include the Book of Esther with its beautiful ancient recounting of God's faithfulness and care for his people in your **Lenten reading** this week.

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*  
1 Timothy 2:1

**LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY** for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter and Leida Fiorito. *Let us pray together as a community this week for all the children and families of minority groups who are being kidnapped, tortured, abused and killed by the Islamic State groups, especially in Iraq and Nigeria that God will comfort and support them in their sufferings while strengthening those agencies working to protect them.*

