

# COME BACK TO ME!

second  
sunday  
of **LENT**



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

February 21, 2016

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**I**n this telling of the transfiguration event, Moses and Elijah speak of exodus, of going forth to Jerusalem. By contrast, Peter speaks of pitching tents, of staying on the mountain in the moment of glory. Are we to stay or to go? Both! Disciples must stay in Jesus' Presence and "listen to him" *and* go to their own Jerusalem to pass over from death to new Life. Stay or go? Both! Our own transfiguration lies in both going and staying. Only by choosing the longer vision of going to Jerusalem with Jesus can we hope to share in his glory. Only by staying close to Jesus can such a journey end in a share in his glory.



Even in this glorious moment of transfiguration—which gives us encouragement and hope on our Lenten journey—we are reminded that the only way to remain in that glory is to die to self. We have to come down off the mountain and go our own journey through death to glory.

**Words to reflect upon: Stay, Go, our own journey through death to glory**

## PRAYER FOR LENT

Psalm 116

O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid.  
To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
And I will call upon the name of the Lord.

## CHOOSING-ACTING LENT

We need to choose to let our homes be a place full of the holy—things that help raise our minds and hearts to God. Our world is full of so many images that lure our minds and hearts elsewhere. Here are some symbols that will carry the ongoing meaning we give them, for us and for our families and loved ones.

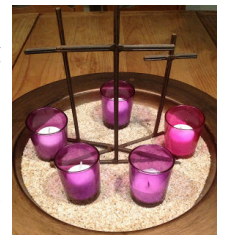
### Water



A simple bowl of water, in a central place, can be transformed into an ongoing reminder of our journey to the font of baptism for the renewal of commitment and life in Christ. Perhaps we can pray over it. "Lord, may this water remind us of our baptism and be a blessing for our home, where our dying and rising in you is lived each day. Bless us, as we sign ourselves with it each day."

### A Crucifix

If you don't already have a crucifix in your home, Lent is a wonderful time to buy one and place it in a central place. Even a child's drawing of Jesus' death for us can be a powerful, stirring reminder of God's love.



### Sand

Perhaps a bowl of sand can help us remember our journey. God led the people in their journey in the desert. Jesus himself reenacted that journey to face his own temptations. The desert can be a place of retreat, where there is a freedom from distractions. It can be a good place to be led and to face our temptations.

*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 and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie and Don Maziarz**. *Let each of us consciously join our hearts and our souls every day during Lent, praying and sustaining each other, remembering that together we are a community of faith and that we love each other.*

## PRAYING LENT

*...put Thou my tears in thy bottle!  
Are they not in thy book?*

When King David cried out his lament in **Psalm 56** he was scarcely 30 years old. Despite his youth, he had already suffered much in the service of God and of his people but he was comforted in the knowledge that the Lord God took particular notice of his suffering and of his grief. David paints this picture so beautifully, saying that God has a bottle where he collects all of his people's tears and a book where he notes their afflictions, so that he will never forget them. David is so sure that God does not forget the pain of his people that he takes heart and goes on praising God in faithful service. Can we do any less? What is your lament this Lent? Where are your tears? Do you realize yet that they are all being collected in God's bottle?



**LENT IS A CALL TO WEEP** for what we could have been and are not.

**LENT IS THE GRACE TO GRIEVE** for what we should have done and did not.

**LENT IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE** what we ought to change and have not

## MERCY-ING

*Some suggestions for keeping to mercy during this Holy Year of Mercy:*

- Put down the phone and really listen to some one else. With eye contact.
- Have alternative drinks, other than water, for times when those who have been struggling with alcohol come to visit.
- Take advantage of sales to buy small toothpastes, soaps, shampoos, socks and feminine products/toiletries; make gift bags and have them ready to hand out where needed (keep them in your car).
- Create a short end-of-day ritual to ask for (and extend) forgiveness with those you live with .... *"do not let the sun set on your anger"*.
- Make a list of your "enemies". Then, every day, say a prayer for them.

## MEDITATION

**Lent** is one of the oldest devotions of the church year, marked by special prayers, by various but regular fasting practices and, most basic of all, by giving increased attention to the depth and breadth of our own spiritual lives. **Lent is a time for refocusing our entire lives.**

After the Christmas season, it is **Lent** that centers us in a consciousness of the daily-ness of the Christian life, about what it means to live in this world in a way that makes the life of Jesus as real now as it was then. It is about what it takes to live the systems and routines and relationships of life well. We see Jesus modeling a world quite unlike the one he lived in. We watch him trapped by systems more devoted to their own power than to the needs of the people and we become aware of the spiritual significance of our own small lives in the midst of a global world.

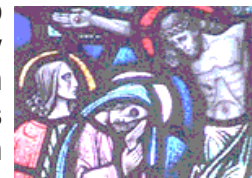


**Lent well-lived stretches our hearts** to the point where we can begin to see that it is the small, the commonplace, the quotidian things of life that both mold our spiritual mettle and challenge it. It is the way we function in the world from day to day as well as on the great feasts that determines just how spiritually courageous and deeply heroic we are.

**Response:** Write a letter to yourself called **"Lent 2016"**. Tell yourselves what you want to develop in yourself this **Lent**. And how you are going to do it.

## DOING LENT THIS YEAR

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.



### Meditation 10

Come, come, whoever you are,  
Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving—  
It doesn't matter.  
Ours is not a caravan of despair.  
Come, even if you have broken your vows  
A hundred times  
Come, come again, come.

**Rumi**