



Transfigurations in a Mutilated World

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

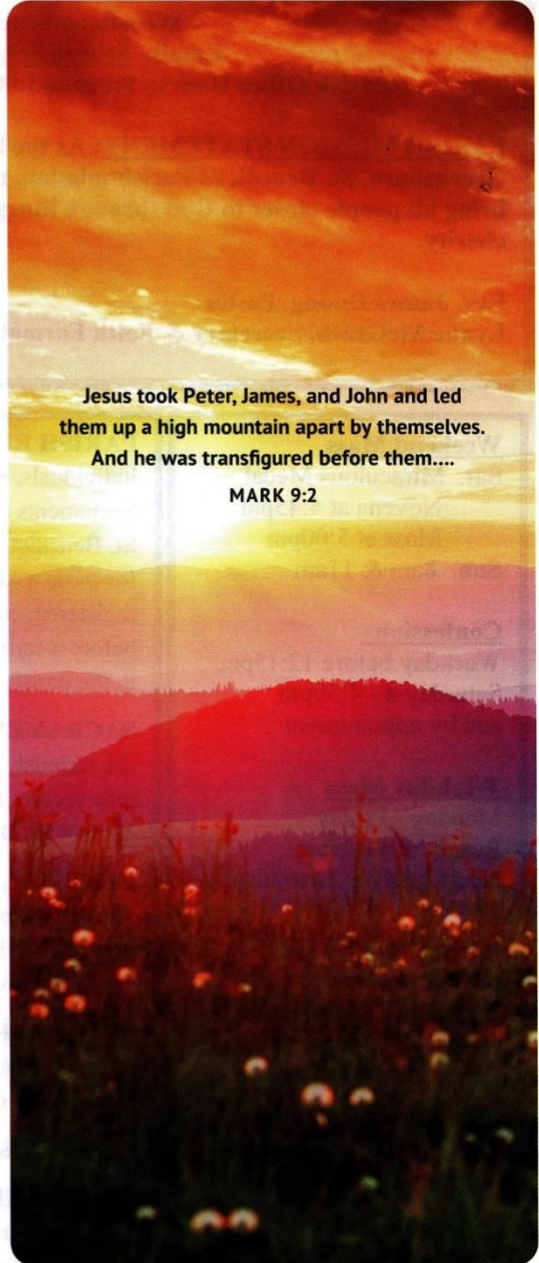
I've never met anyone who thought today's story in Genesis of Abraham and Isaac to be a good story. Abhorred, they ask, "Why would God test someone by asking him to sacrifice his son?" But what if we change the question and ask, "Why would the Hebrew people include that story in their most holy writings? Why would they tell it over and over?" Because of the ending—that's why. Like a movie we watch over and over even though we know how it ends, we watch it, in part, because the ending is satisfying.

The ending of the Abraham/Isaac story shows God is not interested in death and human sacrifice, contrary to the gods of that time. The God of the Hebrews is a God of Life—that's the surprise ending they love, and they keep telling it over and over lest they forget. For them, the part about the testing is simply a means to that unbelievable ending when God insists upon life, contrary to false gods.

In his poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," Adam Zagajewski writes of life's Godly moments in a world we have mutilated by violence, greed, division, and more. He muses on tender moments when we fall in love, on laughter until our sides hurt, on nature's dazzle, on the sweet taste of wine—all simple moments of a life-giving God transfigured in a mutilated world, for our God insists upon life. ●

Reflect

***Remember and give thanks for the moments
of this past week that made you smile.***



**Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led
them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them....**

MARK 9:2

Saint Benedict Catholic Church
336-272-0303

Website: stbenedictgreensboro.net

Email: Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.

Rev. James Duong, Pastor

Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator

Weekend Mass

Sat. Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

Sun. 8am & 11am

Confessions

Weekday before 12:15pm

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

and by appointment

Weekday Mass

Monday - Friday

Rosary at 11:45am

No MASS on Thursday

Weekly bulletin requests

must be in the Parish

Office by 12:00pm on

Wednesday, ten (10) days

***in advance of the weekend
of publication.***

PARISH REGISTRATION: Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS: If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

FAITH FORMATION: All classes from Pre-K to High School are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

RCIA: Please call the parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 25, 2024

May every human person,
from conception to natural death, be recognized
as precious and beloved in the eyes of the Lord.

MASS SCHEDULE

2/24	Saturday	5:00 PM
2/25	Sunday	8:00 AM
		11:00 AM
2/26	Monday	12:15 PM
2/27	Tuesday	12:15 PM
2/28	Wednesday	12:15 PM
2/29	Thursday	NO MASS
1/1	Friday	12:15 PM
1/2	Saturday	5:00 PM
1/3	Sunday	8:00 AM
		11:00 AM

INTENTIONS

Intentions of Father Duc
For the Parishioners
Emily Rose McGrath - birthday
Marta Locatelli – health & peace
+ Gioan Lasan & deceased of his family
Room at the Inn
Guadalupe Doyle
+ Shawn Laskow
+ Victor Bliden
For the Parishioners

Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers

Capt. John Brock	Mohammad Karim
Mark Bracich	Michael Knudsen
Cpl. Kevin Bryan	Danny McGranahan
Lt. Andrew Chess	Capt. Kyle Payne
Maj. Timothy Chess	Jose Rodriguez
Jason Davidson	Christopher Simmons, E3
Aaron Gaither	Sgt. Bryanna Spade
C. Grubey, PFC	Sgt. Kyle Spade
Sgt Tony Grant	Fred Todd
Richard Hughes	Sgt. W.R. Williams III
Lt. Jg. B. Javery	Stephen Zenbileski
	Maj. Russel Henderson

Sick and Shut-In

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass:

Richard Collings, Martha Eakes,
Bill Kalbaugh, Angie Kuklinski,
Bonnie McIntyre, Angela Miller,
Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Manny &
Laura Rodrigues, Ed Sopp, Vivian
Speetjens, John & Bunny Stuart, Beth
Wilson, Brian Wilson, Deborah
Wilson, Jean Wilson

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory	\$ 3,317.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 275.00
Maintenance	\$ 130.00

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: March 2 and 3, 2024

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
5 PM	Bob Nutt	Bob Nutt	
8 AM	Trudy Menzzentto	Leslie Brown	
11 AM	Pat Nolan	Ed Sopp	



REFLECTION

'Here I am!' he answered." - Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, "*Here I am, Lord,*" when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "*Here I am, Lord,*" when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not always easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

LEAVE A LEGACY Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. St. Paul reminds us that God Himself "did not spare his own Son." Are my gifts to the Lord – of my resources, of my time, of myself – also sacrificial?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How do I think God would want my life to be transformed this Lent?
Am I willing to say "hineni" to accept that change to my life?



PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL 2024**

ONE *Body in* **CHRIST**

DIOCESAN SUPPORT (DSA) 2024

Your pledge to the Diocesan Support Appeal is shared with the educational, multicultural, vocational, and social service ministries of the diocese. Thousands of people depend on your generosity. You may complete a pledge envelope and return it to the parish office or go to charlottediocese.org/dsa to make a gift online. This year's goal for St. Benedict's is \$28,753.

FIRST FRIDAY is this Friday, March 1. We will have adoration and benediction following the 12:15 p.m. Mass.



COLD/FLU/COVID SEASON It is cold/flu/Covid season again. If you are coughing, sneezing or not feeling well, please consider remaining at home until you are no longer contagious. If you do attend Mass or other parish functions, please share your act of kindness by wearing a mask and distancing yourself from others as added protection for yourself and others. Thank you for understanding.

This week let us say **Happy Birthday** to:

Maritza Perez (2/24), Estrella Garcia (2/25),

William "Frank" Kauder (2/25), Credo Mensah (2/28),

Isabella Mensah (2/28), Joyce Dorley (3/1)



FAITH FORMATION



During Lent, all parishioners are welcome to join us in the parish hall at 10:30 a.m. as the children of St. Benedict's Faith Formation pray the Stations of the Cross.



LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Weekdays of Lent:

There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent)

All who have reached the age of 14 are bound to totally abstain from meat.

LENTEN SCHEDULE AT ST. BENEDICT

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday of Lent at 6 p.m. (Beginning Friday, February 16)

Penance Service:

St. Benedict's TBA

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:



Telling the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus was an important part of the early Christian's experience. In the late fourth century, people began making pilgrimages to the Holy Land, where they would follow the path that Jesus took to Calvary. During the Middle Ages, when outbreaks of war made it impossible for people to travel to the Holy Land, people created a Via Dolorosa, or "Sorrowful Way," in their towns and villages. They erected paintings or sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ along a processional route or inside a church. By the mid-18th century, the number of stations was fixed at 14 and the devotion known as the Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross, became widespread.



February 25, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 | Rom 8:31b-34 | Mk 9:2-10

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Just two weeks ago, when Christians walked around all day with a cross of ashes on our foreheads, we may have received puzzled looks. Who bothers with fasting and almsgiving for 40 whole days? Many of us live with great abundance in this country; the only time we actually *need* to fast might be for lab work. With this in mind, it's helpful to remember the *why*: because Christ sacrificed himself for us, and he calls his followers to participate in his redemptive mission through our own sacrifices. Without sacrifice, we simply cannot be like Christ, nor will we see our own transfiguration in the resurrection to come. So Lent is a blessed season of reorienting our lives to Christian sacrifice: that of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Perhaps this season can also dispel some of the complacency that has a tendency to creep into our lives. The poor and hungry and disenfranchised still exist, and Christ depends on us to be his hands and feet to serve them. But how can we serve them if we do not embrace Christ's example as a living sacrifice? Ask the Lord for the grace to see and hear what he is asking us to do for him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's readings show an incredible arc from Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for God to Christ's Transfiguration after his Passion. Without Abraham's willingness to give up that which he wanted most and finally obtained, he would not have earned his greatest blessing from God in having countless descendants; and without Christ's sacrifice on the cross, all of mankind would not have been saved. Maybe we aren't called to great sacrifices such as these in our own lives, but we as Christians are called to offer our lives as a living sacrifice to our family, our neighbor, those in need, and God himself. Lent is a reminder not only to help us reorient our lives to God and his call for our lives, but to live it, too. By our own witness and prayer we have the ability to help bring others to the Lord and his promise of eternal life.

ACCOMPANY What is something you have always appreciated being done for you? What is a specific sacrifice, large or small, that you know has been made on your behalf? Make an effort this week to identify a specific need you know someone has, pray for that person/need, and offer to God a sacrifice of treasure, time or even your suffering for the fulfillment of that need.

Dear Padre,

***What are the guidelines for producing a passion play?
My pastor said there are special guidelines to follow.
What are they?***

Please read "Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion," issued in 1988 by the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of what was then called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (The document is located at uscbb.org.)

Passion plays should emphasize the saving action of Christ's death and resurrection without becoming stumbling blocks to understanding the role of the Jewish people in salvation history. The document warns that "'stock ideas,' unfortunately, can become vividly alive in passion dramatizations. It is all too easy...to resort to artificial oppositions...to heighten interest or provide sharp contrasts between the characters." We must avoid portraying the Jewish tradition as "a religion of only justice, fear, and legalism with no appeal to the love of God and neighbor."

It is simplistic and incorrect to blame Christ's death on certain historical groups and neglect the complexities of the Gospel portrait and of Christ's life. Christ freely undertook his passion and death because of the sins of all, so that all might attain salvation. This is the truth that passion plays should strive to communicate most clearly. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 26	February 27	February 28	February 29	March 1	March 2	March 3
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: "Listen to Jesus!" The Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. "Listen to Jesus!" Don't forget.

ANGELUS, MARCH 16, 2014