

## From the Pastor's Office

### *2nd Sunday of Lent*

There seems to be a lot of God appearing and starry, starry night in the readings today. In the first reading, we have Abram, not yet Abraham. In our church tradition when someone begins a new life in the Church we give them a new name as well. Think of Baptism names, Confirmation names, pope's names, nun's names, etc. God invites Abram to see the starry, starry night. That is always a good place to be. Then God makes his covenant with Abram. What follows is a gory display of dead carcasses. This practice comes from a very ancient tradition. When two people made promises to each other they marked their bond by slaughtering animals and laying them out on the ground. The idea was to say, that if you do not live up to your end of the bargain, may you be cut in two and placed on the ground like these unfortunate cattle. Ugh...



The Gospel reading comes from the Transfiguration of Jesus. Something tells me that this probably happened at night as well. There seems to have been a lot of clouds about and Jesus looked as white as snow. Clearly, this is a supernatural showing. Jesus shows Himself as Divine. It is good for us to be here. I suspect each one of us got a glimpse of the Divine in Jesus at some time or other, and from thence we embraced the faith. Good story anyway. I wasn't there so I don't know. I love how Peter makes a fool of himself, as usual. When he should be focused on the Divine instead Peter is thinking of tourism, how to make a few bucks. Let's put up a few tents over there and let the people come. Not! Paul is not pulling his punches in his letter. He is critical. "Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their 'shame.'" Their minds are occupied with earthly things." A few weeks ago I commented how some parents come to me in tears telling me that their children have lost the faith. They were reared in Catholic homes. Did all the Catholic stuff but in the end, the children just seemed to walk away. Because it happens so often, I wonder if that is what is supposed to happen. Our children go away and experience the world for themselves. They are lured by all kinds of things. They have to figure out for themselves what is real and what is imagined. They keep what is valuable and they discard what is nonsense. Hopefully, in that place, they re-evaluate their faith again. I suggested in my homily that maybe some of our children did not have the faith in the first place. We live in our Catholic homes, we say our prayers, but maybe, without realizing it, using Paul's language, God was in our stomach. Our minds were occupied with earthly things. Is it possible to grow up in a Catholic home and never know the Lord Jesus? We assume that after 18 years of indoctrination, our children go out into the world with faith. Is that all there is to it? Is it that simple? Just asking...

With love,  
Fr. Pat