



Transfigurations in a Mutilated World

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

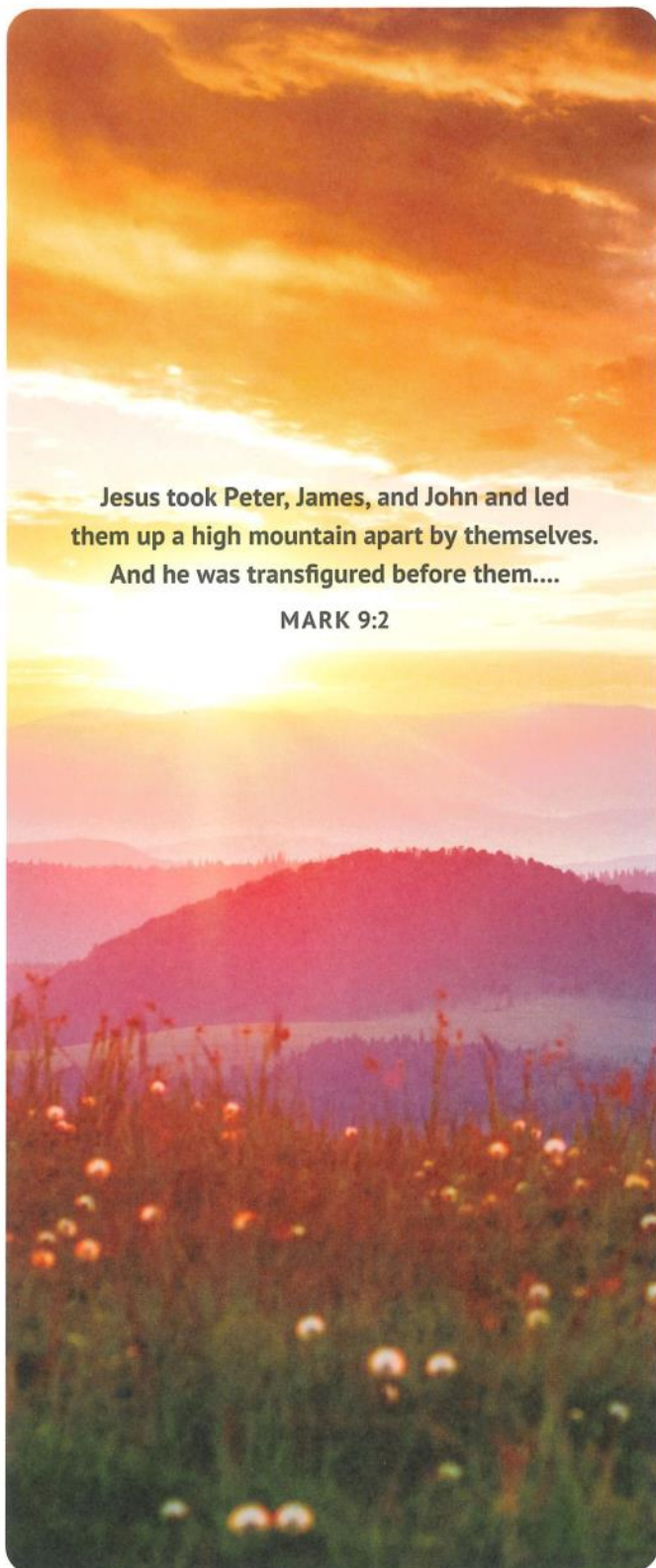
I've never met anyone who thought today's story in Genesis of Abraham and Isaac to be a good story. Abhorred, they ask, "Why would God test someone by asking him to sacrifice his son?" But what if we change the question and ask, "Why would the Hebrew people include that story in their most holy writings? 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 Michael's Catholic Church

17150 - 88th Ave, Coopersville, MI 49404
Parish Office: 616-384-4026

Saint Michael's Catholic Community is a family challenged by Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to care for others and to become the body Of Christ through worship, hospitality and service.

Pastor: Fr. Michael Hodges—frmhodges@grpriests.org
Deacon: Deacon Tom Roberts—troberts@saintmarysmarne.org

For more information on staff, councils, ministries and schedules,
visit our website : www.saintmichaels.us
Prayerline: Chris Albrecht, 616.403.7110 or Judy Driedger, 616.899.2470

Mass Intentions

Saturday February 24

4:30PM † Mike Magnotta by M/M Rob Rander.....MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday February 25

8:30AM † Chuck Albrecht by Chris Albrecht and FamilyMI
10:30AM † Agnes Schwartz by Knights of Columbus #11581MA

Monday February 26 No Mass

Tuesday February 27

9:00AM Our Parish Family.....MA
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday February 28

9:00AM Our Parish FamilyMI
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday February 29

9:00AM Our Parish FamilyMA

Friday March 1

9:00AM † Winnie Spencer by Joe & Amy Armock.....MI

Saturday March 2

4:30PM † Winnie Spencer by M/M Tom Kline.....MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday March 3

8:30AM † Bobby Raczkiwicz by Pam RaczkiwiczMI
10:30AM † Rhonda Grabinski by M/M Dave Benedetti.....MA
4:30PM Our Parish FamilyMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

MA=St. Mary MI=St. Michael's

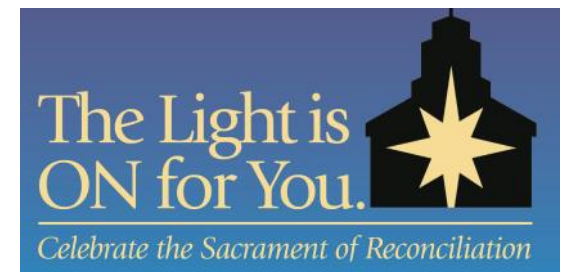


St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 3 / 8:30 AM	Mar 3 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Bryson Lindberg Melena Lindberg Kenzie Harker	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Denise Nelson Sharon Carlson Cindy Lindberg Chris Albrecht Joe Hitchings Rosemary Weigel	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Lector	Jeff Johnson	Joe LeMieux
Sacristan	Judy Driedger	Sue DeVos
Ushers	Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Peter Nielsen Mary Bueche	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	March 2 - 4:30PM	March 3- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Isaac Patterson Lucas Patterson	Calvin Davis Noah Davis
Precious Body	Sara Patterson Rob Rander Lori Rander	Deacon Tom Bruce Kamp Christina Withers
Precious Blood	Geary Farrell Breton Petruskas Need Two	Janette Ney Jim Looks Marian Looks Need One
Hospitality	Need Four	Nettie Leale Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Doug Frantz	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



As we begin the season of Lent, the Diocese of Grand Rapids will once again offer a special opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

"The Light is ON for You:

An Evening of Penance" Thursday, March 14 5 - 8 p.m. in almost every parish of the diocese

Visit GRdiocese.org/penance for details

Wed, March 13 at St Michael 2PM- 5PM

Thurs, March 14 at St Mary from 5PM-8PM

Additional Opportunities for Confessions during Lent.

Tuesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Mary

Wednesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Michael

Saturdays - 3:30PM-4:15 - St Mary

Sundays - 3:30PM-4:15PM - St Michael

St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News—Scrip totals will be updated next week. .

CSA 2023 — Thank you for your gifts to 2023 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Our parish goal for 2023 is \$59,280.00 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. To date, we have pledged \$44,875 (or 75.70%) toward our goal. We still have \$14,405.00 to go to reach this goal. If you haven't already contributed, please consider doing so soon. Any remaining balance at the end of the campaign will come out of our general operating funds. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

St. Michael's Parish Family

Remembers in Their Prayers: Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, George Langlois, Brooke Campbell, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, Dennis Goosen, Jean Mayse, Ken Heflin, Payton Patterson, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

Photo Directory — If you haven't already turned in your family photo for our directory, please do so ASAP. You may email a photo to: secretary@saintmichaels.us or call the office (616) 384.4026 to schedule a time to stop in and have a simple photo taken by Beki. It is not too late to take part, and we want all to be included!

St. Michael's Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy of the Word: program is offered on Sunday during 8:30 Mass. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week as we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint.



We include the Gospel Acclamation so children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. In this week's Gospel Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John, illuminating them in the radiance of the light of the World. We, too, are called to place ourselves without fear in the hands of God, who longs to transfigure us more deeply in his image and likeness.

Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm.

Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30 am Mass from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Paula Raczkiewicz
by Pam Raczkiewicz

Knights of Columbus News

St. Michael's Fish Dinners—

Dinner includes: Deep fried fish OR baked fish, fries, rolls, coleslaw, green beans, dessert and beverage; grilled cheese sandwich also available. Fridays during Lent (not Good Friday), from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. PRICES:



Adults - \$13.00, Children – Ages 6-10 - \$6.00, Children under 6 – Free. If you'd like to donate a dessert, please bring a "sweet treat" with you on Friday night! **STATIONS OF THE CROSS—Fridays at St. Michaels, at 7PM following the Fish Dinner.**

A Fun Night of Trivia

At St. Michael's, on March 2, 7-9 PM.



Teams of 8 or less, please bring a snack to share and your own drink. Signup in the glass hallway.

Giving Back to God

February 18, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$2,646.00
Loose Cash	\$180.00
Children's Envelopes	\$19.75
Holy Day	\$50.00
Total	\$2,895.75
Building Fund	\$90.00
Financial Assistance	\$40.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Retirement for Religious	\$40.00

Thank you for your continued support!

St. Michael's Preschool

Have you considered St. Michael's Preschool for your child or grandchild? If not, you should! Come see what a great experience St. Michael's Preschool can provide. Come meet our Director/Teacher, Cindy Lindberg! Preschool meets on MWTF from 8:45—11:45 am. For more info, call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026. **There will be an Open House on Tuesday, March 12, from 6-7 PM.**



February 25, 2024 ~ The 2nd Sunday of Lent

Cluster News and Community News and Events



Join us on the Meditation Path.
Pray The Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 22 at 7PM

Hosted by the
Knights of Columbus Councils
#11581 & #9909
St Mary Church - Marne

(weather pending / in case of rain or snow prayer service
will be moved inside the church)



Sensory Sensitive Easter Egg Hunt for Special Needs Families

On **Saturday, March 23, from 9-12pm**, area churches are partnering together to host a Sensory Sensitive Easter Egg Hunt at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marne.

This event is for families with special needs individuals of any age to come and enjoy this fully inclusive and accessible event! Families will be given a fun, decorated indoor space to hunt for eggs without the overwhelming crowds. Eggs can then be turned in for a giant prize egg filled with goodies for the whole family! Snacks and drinks will be available, as well as a quiet area set aside with calming activities. Coopersville United Methodist and St. Mary's Catholic Churches are partnering together to host this event for our community. **Families are asked to RSVP by Tuesday, March 19.** Volunteers are also needed to run the event. Groups can sign up to decorate rooms and hide eggs. Event information and sign-ups can be found at CoopersvilleUMC.org/special-needs-ministries. Donations of funds, prizes, and snacks are also appreciated. For more information, contact Office@CoopersvilleUMC.org.



Fr Mike's Musings



We understand Jesus better by carefully reading the Old Testament. We would miss out on the significance of Matthew's genealogy of Jesus in Chapter 1 of his Gospel if we did not know the Old Testament characters to whom he refers. We would fail to grasp that Jesus' ancestors were a mixed bag as ours are, that the women mentioned there were Gentile either through birth or marriage--deliberately inserted by Matthew since the Church at his time was composed of those who were Jews and Gentiles.

Another reason for the importance of the Old Testament is its prophecy of a coming Messiah. To put it another way, parts of the Old Testament are understood best if read as referring to Jesus. When we read parts of the Old Testament as referring to Jesus, even if the authors did not know their writing had this second meaning, we call this a "Christological interpretation". This is the spiritual re-reading of the Old Testament. In this course we will read parts of the Old Testament christologically (as referring to Christ/Messiah yet to come).

Part of the Nicene Creed which we pray at Sunday Mass states, "On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures." This phrase was taken by the fathers of the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD out of 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 which reads "...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was buried; and that on the third day, he was raised to life, in accordance with the Scriptures." Christians in the early Church scoured the Old Testament for references to Jesus and read the Old Testament as implicitly referring to Jesus. Jesus Himself saw the Old Testament referring to Himself and being fulfilled in Him. According to Luke 18:31-32 Jesus saw His passion, death and resurrection predicted in the Old Testament, "everything that is written by the Prophets about the Son of man is to come true" and likewise in 24:46-47, "So it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead..."

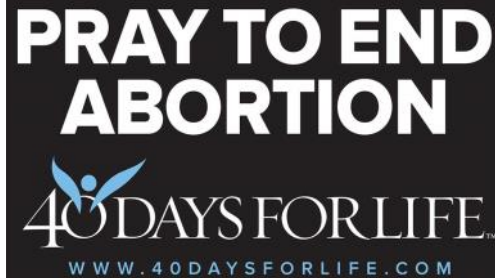
Needless to say, Matthew did not see himself doing an injustice to the Old Testament, nor did the early Church since it included his Gospel in the canon of the New Testament. We cannot see every event in the Old Testament prefiguring Jesus, but the New Testament writers certainly saw Jesus written in many of its pages. The patron saint of biblical studies, St. Jerome, saw the Old Testament as proleptic to (anticipating) Jesus and wrote, "When I read the Gospel and find there testimonies from the Law and the prophets, I see only Christ. I so see Moses and the prophets that I understand them of Christ."

That mention of the Law and prophets should remind us of the Transfiguration narrative in Matthew 17:1-8 where Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the prophets) were talking to Jesus about His passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. In other words, they were talking about His Passion and death. This symbolizes that the Law and the Prophets were anticipating Jesus and all would be fulfilled in Him.

40 Days for Life ~ March 8, 2024

Would you be willing to pray for one hour?

40 Days for Life is a unique pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in front of abortion clinics. This will be the 29th campaign in Grand Rapids, and it will take place in front of Planned Parenthood- 425 Cherry Street SE Grand Rapids. This facility provides the abortion pill and refers for abortions. Dozens of area churches have adopted a day of prayer. **Our parish family has chosen Friday, March 8, 2024** We need 2 prayer volunteers from 7 am till 7 pm throughout the day. This is a powerful and proven effective way to close abortion centers and show the Mother's that we are praying and thinking about them and their babies. Please consider a hour of your time~ If you are unable to attend that day you may go to the clinic and pray any time! Thank you for your commitment to LIFE!



February 25, 2024 ~ The 2nd Sunday of Lent

St. Mary's Parish News

St Mary Religious Education

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

During 10:30AM Mass.

This is the Second Sunday in Lent. Today in CLW, we talked to the children about this week's Gospel. In the Transfiguration story, we are not only told that Jesus is God's Beloved Son, but also that we are to "listen to Him."

We told the children that Jesus and God are inseparable. When we listen to Jesus, we show our belief in both God and Jesus (CCC, 151).

Religious Education Classes

1st-7th Grade

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:15- 7:30pm

Please keep our second-grade students in your prayers as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion on April 28, 2024.

8th Grade -Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:15- 7:30pm

Please keep our eighth grade students in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934
dre@saintmarysmarne.org



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

CALLING ALL ADULT MALE PARISHIONERS:

The **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** would like to have you as a member of their council. Do you think you're too busy to join? Your time commitments includes church activities that you may already be supporting, such as Choir, Hospitality ministry, Eucharistic ministry, etc. Just keep doing the things you are already doing, nothing more. **Being a Knight should compliment your life, not complicate it.**

Get involved only when you have time. If you are bust, that's OK.

Just being a member is helpful and shows your support. Ask a Knight to sign up or do it online at KofC.org. / RobRander82@gmail.com / 616.283.7483

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first. **To learn more** about the Knights of Columbus' activities and what they do to support our parish community, the surrounding area and the world, please contact Grand Knight: Rob Rander at: robrander82@gmail.com or come to a General Membership Meeting. Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in St Mary's Parish Hall.

Next Meeting - March 7 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

SAVE THE DATE! Next Blood Drive & Donuts - June 2, 2024



Giving Back to God Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass:	Feb 14 -17/18
Feb 14 / 6:00PM: 294	
Feb 17 / 4:30PM: 102	
Feb 18 / 10:30AM: 146	
Adult Contributions	\$4225.00
Children Contributions	\$19.00
Loose Contributions	\$132.00
Capital Improvement	\$50.00
Online Giving	\$935.00
Ash Wednesday	\$1034.80
Total	\$6395.80
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5611.76
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)	+7614.61

**Thank you for your continued support
and generosity!**

Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7PM During Lent

- Mar 1 - Led by Our Lady of Fatima Guild
- Mar 8 - Led by Gary Karr
- Mar 15 - Led by Pastoral Council
- Mar 22 - Led by Knights of Columbus Councils #1158 & #9909 at the Outdoor Meditation Path

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



Soup Supper

March 16, 2024 at 5:30PM

An Evening of Food and Fellowship ~ ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Soup Super tradition is of gathering to pray and share a simple meal during Lent. At this meal we share by placing our abundance in a common pot, eating less ourselves, and bringing the surplus to those in need.

This year, we will enjoy two simple soups and bread. And there will be a "pot" at the door for contributions to the Saint Mary Parish Christian Service Fund (Poor Box).

PLEASE RSVP by March 10

Sign up form is available in the Narthex or call Cathie at the parish office 677.3934.

Meal Train for Fr Mike

Scheduling now for March & April It really is as easy as making an extra serving of whatever you are preparing your family for dinner. Put it in a microwavable container and drop it off at the Parish Office on your way to (or home) from work.. Or call the office to make special drop off arrangements. (Sign up online: or call the parish office) <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/8vv97n> **Thank you to everyone that has dropped off a meal to Fr Mike. He appreciates your thoughtfulness and generosity.**

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

SOBIE MEATS

Tim & Teresa Sobie ~ 3450 Remembrance Rd NW ~ 616.453.7201

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

Welcome to the Cluster Parishes of St. Mary and St. Michael



Why is there something
rather than nothing?

Why is everything so
obviously messed up?

What if anything has God
done about it?

How should I respond?



Ever ask yourself these questions?

We invite you to join us for The Rescue
Project.

Together we can discover The Story.

**Please join us Wednesday evenings during Lent,
from 6:15 -7:30pm, for this video/discussion
series by Fr. John Riccardo**

**We will provide you with a pizza dinner
and a video with discussion afterwards.**

*Please RSVP to the Parish Office each week
for food planning purposes. (616) 384-4026*

MEAL | EPISODE | DISCUSSION
All Adults and Teens are welcome!

FISH DINNERS

Fridays during Lent at St. Michael's



Sponsored by:

ST. MICHAEL'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #9909

Dinner includes:

Deep Fried Fish OR Baked Fish

French fries, tater tots, rolls, coleslaw, green beans, dessert and beverage

Grilled cheese sandwich also available

WHEN: The First (6) Fridays during Lent (beginning Feb 16)
TIME: 5:30 – 7:00 PM
WHERE: St. Michael's Family Center
PRICE: Adults - \$13.00
Children – Ages 6-10 - \$6.00
Children under 6 – Free

FISH DINNER DATES

Feb 16

Feb 23

Mar 1

Mar 8

Mar 15

Mar 22

(No Fish Dinner on Good Friday, Mar 29)

TAKE A BREAK! LET US DO YOUR LENTEN COOKING
JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP
Stations of the Cross to follow at 7 PM

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