

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:
February 27-28, 2021

We're still on the modified **Phase II restrictions of this Pandemic** that requires us to (1) sanitize our hands regularly and at prescribed times, places and situations, (2) wear our face mask or shield or both in public places including churches and other houses of worship, and (3) maintain the 6-foot social distancing. Let's keep vigilant. Thank y'all!

Reminder: If you have taken copies of Our Lenten Booklet "Word Among Us," Missalettes and any other giveaways that are available at all entrances of our church, please DO NOT RETURN them and DO NOT LEAVE them in the pews! Keep them with you and use them as needed. **Items left in the pews of the church will be thrown away.**

A Bulletin Insert was included in our Feb. 13-14 Bulletin to give y'all ideas about our Lenten observance this year. If you missed that weekend's Bulletin with this insert, please check our website and/or Facebook page for this information.

Please always remember **MADALYN DANIELLE HOSKINS**, our catechumen and **CATHERINE MARIE JEBLONSKI**, our candidate, in your prayers as they continue with their preparations for the Easter Vigil. Thank you.

The readings for this Second Sunday of Lent will give us an experience of when "**God speaks.**"

In the 1st reading (Gn. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18), God spoke to Abraham. After obeying the command of the Lord to go to a place where God will show him, Abram and Sarai was gifted with a child, Isaac. Now called "Abraham and Sarah," the Lord asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son. As the reading said, "God put Abraham to the test." We don't know what was going in Abraham's mind and heart upon hearing God's command but he obeyed God. In obeying God, Abraham was able to pass God's test and was rewarded with more than a son but with everything he could never have imagined. All his blessings came because Abraham listened and obeyed God.

The transfiguration story in the gospel reading (Mark 9:2-10), God spoke to Peter, James and John while Jesus was being transfigured before them

with the prophets Elijah and Moses. God's words to these three disciples was short and clear: "***This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.***" Peter was obviously shaken by hearing God's voice from the heavens and all he could think of was setting up camp on the mountain for all of them. He missed the point of the experience and the meaning of God's words. God said that Jesus IS HIS **Beloved** – most loved and treasured SON, not just another prophet or anyone holy, but God's own. God also told them (not asked, not begged or instructed), to **LISTEN** to Jesus. At this point in their relationship with Jesus, the disciples had moments of doubts about Jesus and His words. They were trying to understand Him and learn from Him, however, their minds and hearts were NOT yet opened to His words and message. Though they were already very close to Jesus, they were still trying to negotiate their relationship with Him at that time. Their relationship with Him will all change after the Pentecost when the Spirit opened their hearts and minds to the great experience of God.

God continues to speak to us – to you and me – today. Perhaps not as dramatic as the experiences of Abraham, Peter, James and John but God still speaks to us from the heavens and on the earth, from behind the clouds to the reality of our lives. Sometimes God words sound like some familiar voices you hear in the church, community, of family, friends, school and even strangers. Sometimes God's message comes from within your heart & consciences, your minds and from your soul. Sometimes God speaks to you in those times you know "you should have" done or not have done something, or "I ought to" moments when you realize great opportunities to be better are before you.

God still speaks and He's speaking to you right now! Are you listening?

Father Vic+

February 13th/ 14th		Weekly Offering
Weekly Envelopes		\$ 9,124.00
Weekly Loose		798.30
Monthly ACH		4,170.00
Weekly ACH		350.00
		\$ 14,442.30
Ash Wednesday		\$1,606.91
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		
<p>Our Sunday Bulletin is supported by the advertisers who are listed on our back page. What better way to say THANK YOU than to remember them the next time you go shopping.</p>		

The following were Baptized into the family of Christ recently:



Anna Rose
Tyler & Alyssa Berger

Brayden Joseph
Wes & Cara Himel

The Rosary is prayed on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM in Church.
All are welcome to join us.



Lenten Mass Schedule:
Weekday Masses will be held at 6:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM

Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent
(following 5:30PM Mass)



**2021 ABA—
Commitment Weekend**



St. Joseph Co-Cathedral is please with the very good early response to the 2021 Annual Bishop's Appeal, for which we are immensely thankful. We know that there are still many who have yet to make their commitment. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the ABA by returning your commitment card in the offertory of simply mail it to the diocese in the provided envelope, or you may also visit www.htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal to make your gift online.

Every gift no matter how big or small makes a difference across our diocese. Your prayers and gifts support 11 Seminarians' education, Caring for our 17 retired priests, Youth formation and religious education, and Catholic education through our Catholic Schools Office.

For more information, please contact the ABA office at 985-850-3122 or email nbernard@htdiocese.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Joseph Co-Cathedral Youth Formation department is in need of volunteer mentors for all grades .
Please call Sue or Patty at the Life Center at 447-1387 for more information.



Please remember
**Bobby Hebert &
Brian Bartell**

who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that their families may find comfort and consolation through their faith.