



Dear Friends in Christ,

Take your son Isaac ... whom you love ... (and) offer him up as a holocaust. These are shocking words to us, but would not necessarily have been so for Abraham. Child sacrifice was an accepted practice in Abraham's time among the pagan religions. But our God does not desire human sacrifice, so God stops him. No pagan deity, no false god, would ever have stopped a sacrifice. God was putting Abraham to the test, and for his faithfulness he was granted righteousness and became the father of a great nation, through whom, *all the nations of the earth shall find blessing.*

Christ is a descendant of Abraham, and theologians point out the parallels between this episode and the crucifixion. Just as Jesus carried his cross, Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice. Abraham was *willing* to sacrifice his beloved son for God. God *did* sacrifice his Son for us.

God's sacrifice of his Son for us is at the heart of Saint Paul's message to the Romans today. *If God is for us, he says, who can be against us?* God loves us, and this love was made known when God *did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all.* Because of this we have reason to hope, since Jesus *intercedes for us.*

This hope is brought to light in today's Gospel account of the transfiguration of Jesus. Accompanied by three of his disciples, Jesus goes up a mountain. While they were there, Jesus *was transfigured before them.* Then Moses and Elijah appeared, and *they were conversing with Jesus.* Overshadowed by a cloud, the disciples hear a voice declaring, *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.* And suddenly they are once again alone with Jesus.

The transfiguration of Jesus demonstrated his divine nature and manifested the glory he had always possessed, and to which he would return upon his Resurrection. It is also a prefiguring of the glory we shall one day obtain in our resurrected bodies. If we live and die with Christ – if we do in fact *listen to him*, for he intercedes *for us* – then we shall take our place among our ancestors, as Christ showed on that mountain.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco

FUNERAL MASS For Sarah Crecilius will be at IHM on Tuesday, March 2nd. The viewing is at 10 am, and the Mass is at 11 am.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT Cardinal Gregory invites men in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, who are interested in learning more about the priesthood, to attend a discernment retreat led by priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. The retreat will be held the weekend of March 26 to March 28 at Saint John Paul II Seminary and the Washington Retreat House in Washington, D.C. The retreat will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the Seminary and priesthood. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Please register at <https://dcpriest.org/young-adults>. For more information, contact Fr. Mark Ivany at 202-636-9020. Please note that all COVID-19 protocols will be in place to ensure everyone's safety.

BASKET AND BAG RAFFLE St. John's School is hosting a weekly bag and basket raffle through March 17. Each week, new designer bags and fun gift baskets are available. View the weekly options and purchase tickets at <https://www.auctria.com/auction/SJSBagFundraiser>. Raffle winners are announced every Friday at <https://www.facebook.com/sjsbagbingo>.

HELP OUR MARRIAGE Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

CRS LENTEN RICE BOWLS There are new ways to donate this year! Along with the usual boxes that are available at the parish, you can submit your tithe over the phone at 1-877-435-7277, by mail at Catholic Relief Services CRS Rice Bowl P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, MD 21297-0303, or online at <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



March 1 — March 7

Monday	Dan 9:4-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/ Lk 6:36-38
9:00 am	Anthony Thomas (D)
Tuesday	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/ Matt 23:1-12
5:30 pm	Angela Brown (D)
Wednesday	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/ Matt 20:17-28
9:00 am	Hiltrude Hewitt (D)
Thursday	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/ Lk 16:19-31
5:30 pm	Ann Marie Thompson (L)
Friday	Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28/Ps 105:16-21/ Matt 21:33-43, 45-46
9:00 am	Kelly Cutchember (D)
5:30 pm	Hernandez Moreno (D)
Saturday	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
9:00 am	Kelly Cutchember
4:00 pm	Sarah Crecilius (D)
Sunday	Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8-11/1 Cor 1:22-25/ Jn 2:13-25
8:30 am	Christopher Forte (L)
11:15 am	Jacob and Mitchell (L)
1:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners

APOLOGETICS CLASS The next class is on March 1st from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at St. John's in Hollywood, in the St. Jude Room, of the Msgr. Harris Center. The next class will be "Martin Luther from the Catholic Perspective" Class is also available via Zoom: see the St. John's parish website.

LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC Ignatian Weekend Retreats March 5-7 (Men), March 12-14 (Women). The weekend retreat fee is \$245/ \$195 for first time retreatants or young adults (35 years and younger).

VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR During this time of physical separation, Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center is providing virtual retreats so that you can connect with others and feed your soul. Currently, these programs are being offered at no cost, and a suggested donation of only \$75 per person is greatly appreciated. For more information and to register, go to ourladyofbethesda.org.

LIVESTREAM MASS Join us for our livestream Masses: the 4 pm Mass on Saturdays in English, and 1 pm on Sundays in Spanish at mass.ihmrcc.org.

GOLF TOURNAMENT St. John's School is hosting its annual golf tournament on Thursday, May 6, at Breton Bay Golf & Country Club. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. Scramble tournament. \$125 per individual or \$500 per foursome. \$30 cheat packages (mulligans, throw, and string). Food and beverages included. Sponsorship opportunities available. Register at www.sjshollywood.org.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS Mass with Healing Prayers is on Tuesday, March 16th. Confession starts at 5 pm, with Mass at 5:30 pm. Healing Service with Eucharistic Adoration starts at 6:15 pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

SING ALONG DURING MASS For those attending Mass in church, online, or in the parking lot, please join us in song at songs.ihmrcc.org.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10:00 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Regan Corliss, Jack Makin, Belle Riddell, Corrine Geraty, Jane Keyon, Sarah Crecelius, Linda F. Gieser, Jim Brown, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Adele Bavani, Dinnette Briscoe

Please note: names will remain on these lists for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Follow us on

