

Dear Padre,

As long as I can remember, our parish has offered the Stations of the Cross as a special devotion during the Lenten season. How ancient is this practice?

Over the centuries, many pilgrims would visit the Holy Land to retrace the steps of Jesus. When they returned to their home churches, many of these pilgrims paid for shrines to be built that represented the holy places they visited. In 1342, the Franciscans became the official guardians of the holy places, and they would guide pilgrims along the Way of the Cross. In 1668, Pope Innocent XI gave permission to the Franciscans to place Stations of the Cross in all of their churches. The number of these early stations varied, from as few as seven to as many as thirty-seven. Finally, in 1731, Pope Clement XII defined fourteen stations as the official devotion.

In recent years, two modifications of the Stations of the Cross have become fairly common. Some churches have a fifteenth station representing Jesus' Resurrection. Other churches have scriptural accounts that are not in the traditional station devotion. In more recent years, a popular Lenten devotion is the "Living Stations of the Cross." This is a play with music, singing, and dramatic speaking parts.

Regardless of their format or the liturgical season of the year during which they are celebrated, the Stations of the Cross are a gentle reminder that we journey with Jesus on his way to Calvary.

From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications
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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength... He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT OF PRAYER
FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MARCH 27, 2020

Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 22
The Chair of
St. Peter the Apostle
1 Pt 5:1-4
Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 23
Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 24
Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday
FEBRUARY 25
Lenten Weekday
Est C:12, 14-16,
23-25
Mt 7:7-12

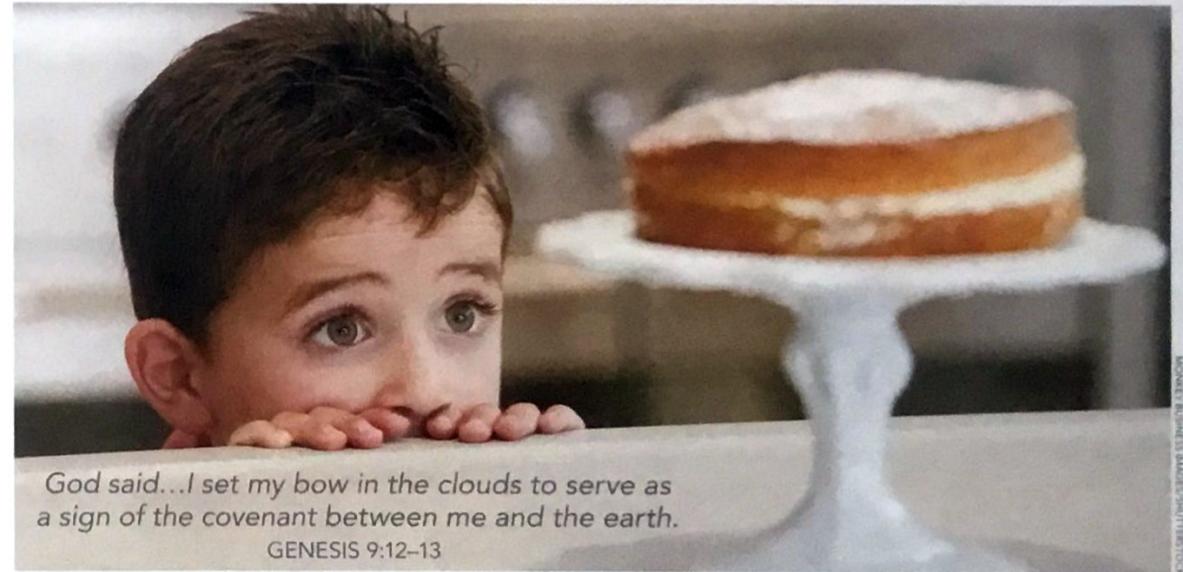
Friday
FEBRUARY 26
Lenten Weekday
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday
FEBRUARY 27
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday
FEBRUARY 28
Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13,
15-18
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent (B)
Gn 9:8-15
1 Pt 3:18-22
Mk 1:12-15



God said...I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

GENESIS 9:12-13

Lost at Sea

We often think that Lent is a time to concentrate on the sufferings of Jesus.

Actually that is the theme of Holy Week. The other readings of Lent suggest another theme—covenant-making. God initiates an intimate relationship with us and calls us to be faithful. This is the good news. Moreover, when we are unfaithful, God gives us another chance.

The first reading recounts God's graciousness in saving humankind from destruction. Noah and his family must have felt that they really were lost at sea. However, God's protection was always there. In fact, the waters they so feared were destructive only to what was evil. They had been saved and now, through the covenant, all of creation was given a second chance.

One might think that Jesus wouldn't have struggled with temptation. After all, he was God. However, today's Gospel says that he was tempted. He was in the wilderness, a place long known to be a place of

temptation because there the supports of normal life are gone. After forty days of fasting, one's defenses would be significantly weakened, if not broken down. In such a situation, the primary thought is survival. This Gospel does not describe the temptation itself, but it does present Jesus as someone like us—weakened, tempted, and perhaps even "lost at sea." However, God's protection was with him, in the guise of angels.

Both stories assure us that God's covenantal care is there supporting us, regardless of the difficulty or our apparent weakness.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ When you feel "lost at sea," recall that through baptism you have a close covenant relationship with God who is always there for you.
- ★ How do you strengthen yourself when you face temptation?



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Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Feb 22	8:00 a.m.	Dorothy Hoffman+
Tuesday, Feb. 23	8:00 a.m.	Favorable Weather
Thursday, Feb. 25	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention
Friday, Feb. 26	12:15 p.m.	Peter & John+
Saturday, Feb. 27	4:00 p.m.	Elaine Sack
Sunday, Feb. 28	9:00 a.m.	Larry Lane-Healing

February 20, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
February 21, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman
February 27, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
February 28, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
March 6, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
March 7, 9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones
March 13, 4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
March 14, 9:00 a.m.	K of C Members
March 20, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
March 21, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman
March 27, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
March 28, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT—FEBRUARY 21, 2021



This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

If you've ever been to a renewal of vows for a married couple, you know that it is a beautiful thing. To see two people get up in front of their family and friends and re-commit themselves to one another is truly a touching moment, one that can fill our hearts with real hope --- hope in our own relationships, hope in love and fidelity, hope in kindness and compassion, hope in steadfastness and perseverance, hope that the best things in this life don't need to fade away, but can last.

My friends, in some ways, this holy season of Lent is a kind of renewal of vows, an opportunity to re-commit ourselves to a life of faithfulness, recommit ourselves to a life of discipleship, recommit ourselves to a God who has loved us first and who has never stopped loving us.

And like a marriage, this covenant relationship with our God is not an easy one. It demands a lot. Truthfully, it demands our whole selves. Yet, one thing is certain --- we never have to wonder if God will somehow want out of the covenant, if God will somehow not be fully committed to us, that God will not love us in the complete way we need him to. We only have to look in one place --- at the cross --- to see the unbounded love of our God.

And so Lent begins. May we use this holy season to tell God in words and actions --- "I still love you more than anything or anyone. . . . I still want to go through life hand-in-hand with you. . . . And I still promise to put your wants above my own." Amen!

Have a blessed Lent everyone.

Fr. Peter Tran

COLLECTION for February 14, 2021: Envelopes: \$795.00; Loose: \$176; Online Giving: \$1,603.40; Total \$2,574.40; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under (+813.23) *Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you, Lupe & Robert Longoria, and your family on the passing of your son in law, Troy Albert. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May He Rest in Peace!

WEEKLY FRIDAY MASS –DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS We will reserve every Friday as the day, which we entrust our parish and all parishioners and those we love to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will change weekly Friday Mass from 8:00 a.m. to 12: 15 p.m. starting on Friday, 19th of February. Eucharistic Adoration will start right after Mass. Fr. Tran will be available to hear confessions from 4:15 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. We will end our devotion with Benediction and Evening Prayer. Let us come together as a community of faith to praise, give thanks to the Loving God and to help each other to grow in faith.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY FOR WEEKDAY MASS –If the local school district cancels, Mass in the parish will be cancelled for that day. We don't want to encourage people to be out when it isn't safe, and we have very limited resources for sidewalk clearance. Thank you.

CRS RICE BOWL - WE ARE CALLED - Join our faith community – and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States – in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the entryway of church. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Praying the “Stations of the Cross” is one of the most popular devotions for Roman Catholic and is often performed in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during His Passion. The object of the Stations is to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. **We hold Stations of the Cross led by Knights of Columbus every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. during Lent. We hope you will join us for this prayerful devotion.** A plenary indulgence may be gained by praying the Stations of the Cross.

VOCATION VIEW In order to hear a call from the Lord, our hearts must be opened to receive His Word. Lent begins with a call to repent so that all which clouds our ears might be stripped away to hear His voice clearly. (Mark 1:12-15)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that “there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism . . . that people place their gifts, their resources – their selves – at God's service in and through the Church.”

PRAYER OF THE WEEK Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my eyes as you do. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind that you might think in me. I give you my spirit that you may pray in me. Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me, your Father, and all mankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me. (Laudate)

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK (Mark 1: 12-15)

Deserts Because deserts were dangerous places physically – they offered little food, water, or shelter – they came to represent spiritual struggle or challenge. People went into the desert to confront their demons and to learn to depend solely on God.

Forty The number forty refers to a long, full length of time. Mark doesn't tell us that Jesus fasted, but such behavior was common for those who undertook a spiritual journey in the desert. Moses fasted on Mount Sinai as God gave him the laws of the covenant (Exodus 34:28). Elijah fasted as he walked to that same mountain (1 Kings 19:8). Both of these men emerged from their solitary fasting to continue serving God and God's people.

Wild beasts There are two explanations for Mark's mention of the wild beasts. They could intensify the danger Jesus faces. If Jesus controls these beasts, however, then they are a sign of God's kingdom in which hostile animals become tame. This second meaning recalls the prophesy of peace in which carnivorous animals become non-violent (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Angels An angel protected God's people when they fled Egypt (Exodus 14:19). An angel fed and revived Elijah after the prophet fled a pagan queen who threatened to kill him (1 Kings 19:5-8). An angel joined three Jews after a pagan king cast them into a roaring fire for failing to worship his idols (Daniel 3:91-94). God likewise sends angels to his Son.

Tempted After God led them out of Egypt, the Israelites spent forty years in the Sinai desert, learning to depend on God (Deuteronomy 8:2). Despite being God's chosen people, they frequently complained and rebelled. Although Mark doesn't elaborate on how Jesus is tempted, Jesus clearly responded much better than his ancestors: Jesus emerged from the desert to begin a ministry to which he remained faithful even when confronted with death itself. The time Jesus spent in the desert is thus probably not the only time he experienced temptation. [oursundayreadings](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK (Genesis 9:8-15)

A second creation In the first biblical story of creation God brought forth life against the abyss, the churning waters that symbolize emptiness and death (Genesis 1:1–2:4a). God then blessed his creation, wanting it to flourish. When human beings became sinful and flooded the earth with evil, God used water to cleanse his creation (6:5-7, 11-13). Here, similar to his initial blessing, God vows to uphold his creation. **A vow of mercy** God's promise never to cause such complete destruction is a pledge of mercy in the face of humankind's persistent sinfulness. God accepts the weak state of his human creation and decides to respond with patience and forgiveness. When his recreated world falls back into sin, God will find a different way to renew the work of his hand.

PREPARATION FOR LENT –ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17, 2021)

Fasting: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat) is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

Abstinence: Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of complete abstinence (from meat) for all who have completed their 14th year.

Questions and Answers about Lent and Lenten Practices

Q. My child was invited to a sleep-over at a friend's house on a Friday during Lent. I told him he could go if he promised not to eat any pizza with meat on it. When he got there, all they had was sausage and pepperoni and he had some. How do we handle this in the future? And why is meat OK on Friday the rest of the year?

A. Meat or no meat...that is the question.

It's true that the requirement to abstain from meat now only applies to Lent. In the past it applied to every Friday of the year. So one may ask the question, "Why? Is there something wrong with meat? Why is it ok during the rest of the year but not Lent?" This is a good question. Let me explain.

First, there is nothing wrong with eating meat itself. Jesus ate meat and this is a part of God's plan for our lives. Of course there is no obligation to eat either. One is free to be a vegetarian, but not required.

So what's the deal with not eating meat on Fridays in Lent? It's simply a universal law of abstinence decided upon by the Catholic Church. What I mean is that our Church sees great value in offering sacrifice to God. In fact, our universal Church law is that every Friday of the year is to be a day of fasting of some sort. It's only in Lent that we are asked to sacrifice in the specific way of giving up meat on Fridays. This is of great value to the entire Church in that we all share in the same sacrifice during Lent together. This unites us in our sacrifice and enables us to share a common bond.

Furthermore, this is a rule given us by the pope. Therefore, if he decided on another form of sacrifice on Fridays in Lent, or any other day throughout the year, we would be bound by this common law and be asked by God to follow it. Truth be told, it really is a very small sacrifice in comparison to the sacrifice of Jesus on Good Friday.

But your question also has another component to it. What about your child accepting an invitation to a friend's house on Fridays during Lent in the future? I'd also suggest that this could be a good opportunity for your family to share your faith. So, if there is another invitation, you could simply share your concern with the other parent that, as a Catholic, you give up meat on Fridays in Lent. Perhaps this will lead to a good discussion.

And don't forget that this small sacrifice is given to us as a way of better sharing in the one sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross! Therefore, this little sacrifice has great potential to help us become more like Him. (mycatholic.life)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT DOING THE RIGHT THING

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going! (Prepare the Word)

PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA HACER LO CORRECTO

Hoy, algunos de nuestros vecinos van a hacer una elección contracultural. Van a firmar el Libro de los Elegidos, señalando su decisión de ser bautizados, confirmados y recibir la Primera Eucaristía en la Vigilia Pascual de este año. Estos elegidos han estado estudiando durante meses o años para abrazar la vida de la iglesia. ¿Por qué haría alguien esta elección en el siglo XXI? Para algunos, puede haber empezado como una curiosidad intelectual. Para otros, es un viaje del corazón. Para todos, lo que hace que el cristianismo católico sea una elección inspiradora es lo que han visto en gente como nosotros. ¡Ayudemos a mantener la inspiración!