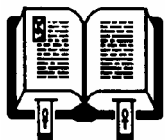


TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 1, 2009



### **Scripture Readings for Today**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22

**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15



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."

### **Scripture Readings for March 8<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 8:31b-34

**Gospel:** Mark 9:2-10

### **The Effects of the Transfiguration in Us**

Saint Peter Damian

The truly wise man, he who is intent on the guarding of his salvation, watches over the curbing of his vices with such anxious care that he binds with the girdle of perfect mortification his loins and his reins, his belly and his flanks. He achieves this when the greedy gullet is kept in check; when the wanton tongue is compelled to be silent; when the ears are shut to scandal-mongering; when the eyes are forbidden to look upon unlawful things; when the hand is bound, for fear it would strike cruelly, and the foot, lest it should wander idly; when the heart is withstood, for fear it should envy the prosperity and happiness of another, or desire or covet that which is not its own, lest it should be cut off from brotherly love by anger, or raise itself above others in its pride, or succumb to the delights of enticing pleasure; lest it should be too much weighed down by grief, or lay itself open to the seductions of joy. Since, then, the human mind cannot be utterly empty, but must always be concerned with love of something, it must be completely surrounded with this wall of virtue; that which is not permitted to expand in its own surroundings must necessarily be carried above itself.

***Lent is a time to reflect on our relationship with God. We are called to focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in our Lenten stewardship.***

### **THE MASS COUNT FOR FEBRUARY 21-22<sup>ND</sup>**

5 PM – 246	7:30 AM – 152	9 AM – 353
10:30 AM – 260	12 PM – 259	Total – 1270

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL** of Mary L. Petti.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**, especially those in hospitals – Mary Krischik, Kitty Walters, Margaret Booker, Cecelia Brushwiler, and Cathy Parsons.

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED:** for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: David Weber, Dottie Lappe, Concetta Fowler, Sandy Miller, Ruth Crofts, Rose Schultheis, Patty Kuzmak, Charles Payne, Catherine Cleaver, Mary Van Dusen, Florence Fink, Milton Getka, Dolores Carver, Fr. Vitesse, Margaret Blinke, Lou Kaminski, Charles & Jacque Harris, Maribelle Kursch, Mr. and Mrs. William Lang, and Noreen Newcomb.

**PRAYER FOR OUR SERVICE PEOPLE:** We ask you to remember the parishioners, family & friends serving in the military: USMC – Cpl. Joseph Bytella, LCpl. Sean Fitzpatrick, LCpl Alex Webb, LCpl. John J. Cohee, Jr., Sgt. David Burton; Nat'l Guard – Pfc. Ryan Kamauff, David Parker; Navy – Daniel Gately; Army – Andy Deponai, Timothy Muhl, Sgt. Joshua Callow, Specialist Stephen Grenfell, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stephen Winter, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sheldon Broedel, Recon Scout Matt Lambert.

### **THE COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 21-22<sup>ND</sup>**

Envelopes .....	\$14,227.00
Loose .....	\$1,035.22
Poor Boxes .....	\$330.37
Children's .....	\$39.65

*Mass Intentions***MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2-8<sup>TH</sup>**

MONDAY 3/2	6:30 a.m. – Mary Plazek 8:00 a.m. – Rae Jean Ramsden
TUESDAY 3/3	6:30 a.m. – Ruth McGinley 8:00 a.m. – Mary & Leo Nicaise
WED. 3/4	6:30 a.m. – Bromby “Ann” Gilliam 8:00 a.m. – Bob Mellendick
THURS. 3/5	6:30 a.m. – Tressa Carroll 8:00 a.m. – Louis Kiszner
FRIDAY 3/6	6:30 a.m. – Rose Di Pietro 8:00 a.m. – Marshall Love
SAT. 3/7	8:00 a.m. – Jenny B. Kehoe 5:00 p.m. – Virginia Miller
SUNDAY 3/8	7:30 a.m. – Cecelia Turbe 9:00 a.m. – For the Parishioners 10:30 a.m. – George & Mildred Mitchell 12:00 p.m. – Deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Monday</b> 3/2	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 25:31-46
<b>Tuesday</b> 3/3	<i>St. Katherine Drexel</i> <b>Reading:</b> Isaiah 55:10-11 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday</b> 3/4	<i>St. Casimir</i> <b>Reading:</b> Jonah 3:1-10 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 11:29-32
<b>Thursday</b> 3/5	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 7:7-12
<b>Friday</b> 3/6	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Ezekiel 18:21-28 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5:20-26
<b>Saturday</b> 3/7	<i>St. Perpetua &amp; St. Felicity</i> <b>Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 26:16-19 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5:43-48

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** begins at 2 am Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour next Saturday night!

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** will be prayed this Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:15 p.m. Please join us and experience the power of God's love and mercy.

**THE SECOND COLLECTION** taken up at all the Masses next weekend will be the annual Archdiocesan collection for Catholic Relief Services, which was originally scheduled for Feb 7. An envelope was in your regular February monthly mailing. Please make checks payable to St. Agnes Church. Thank you for your generosity.

***The Light is On for You - Reconciliation on Wednesday nights in Lent:*** This year during Lent, our parish is participating in an Archdiocesan-wide Reconciliation program initiated by Archbishop O'Brien called ***The Light is On for You***. On five consecutive Wednesdays in Lent – March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 – the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered here at St. Agnes from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Every Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will have Confessions available on these five Wednesdays and we invite you to join us here for this Sacrament. If you have been reluctant to come to the Sacrament or have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon Confession time, this is a great opportunity to receive Penance. To remind you about the parts of Confession and the Act of Contrition, a new brochure is available on the Church windowsills or at each entrance to guide you through this renewing Sacrament.

**FAMILY ROSARY** - Join us for the Family Rosary, Wed, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Church. We will be praying the Sorrowful Mysteries. Family fellowship will follow in the Old School Hall.

**CONFESSIONS** will be held this Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in preparation for First Friday.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASSES** will be held this Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 & 8:00 am.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** will be held this Fri, March 6<sup>th</sup>, following Stations of the Cross until 8 a.m. Saturday. A sign-up sheet can be found in the front of church. Join us and allow the *real* presence of Jesus to speak to your heart.

**PRAYER, FASTING, ALMSGIVING** – All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence - no meat is to be eaten by anyone who is 14 or older.

**LENTEN SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**

Daily Mass – 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday.  
8:00 a.m. Saturday.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held each Friday during Lent at 1:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**SOUP AND STATIONS** will be held each Friday during Lent. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. in the Old School Hall. Stations of the Cross will be held at 7 p.m. in the Church. Bring the whole family! Handicap lift is available. If you would like to donate a crock pot of meatless soups, call Denise Zambotti at 410-247-3754.

**THE WORD AMONG US** family edition for Lent is available on the church windowsills. This book offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings, inspirational essays and stories to deepen your Lenten prayer time.

**RICE BOWLS** for your Lenten Contributions can be found on the church windowsills this weekend. Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten Program for Catholic Relief Services and helps us to Pray, Fast, Learn and Give in solidarity with those in need. Proceeds will help our less fortunate neighbors in our diocese and around the world.

**OUR PARISH MISSION: MARCH 29 – APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>**

Fr. Joachim Giermek, OFM Conv., Former Minister General of the Conventual Franciscan Order, will be our Mission Leader. Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Come and be renewed this Lenten season.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be held Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM in the Chapel at St. Mark in Catonsville. World Day of Prayer is the one and only time that the various congregations, in and around Catonsville, gather for worship and fellowship. This year, we will pray for peace in New Guinea. You are invited to bring a non-perishable food donation for the poor.

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL** is planning an All Class reunion Saturday, June 6. If you are interested in attending or in helping plan, please send an email to [sasallclassreunion@yahoo.com](mailto:sasallclassreunion@yahoo.com) with your name (maiden name), address, phone #, graduation year and email address or call Sue Bianco at 410-788-3537 or Susan Thompson at 410-465-6999.

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!**

**Congratulations!** All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who applied to Catholic high schools were accepted. Well done, Class of 2009! We are proud of you!!

**Dates to Remember!**

**3/6** End of Trimester 2  
**First Friday Mass** 9:00 am  
**Stations of the Cross** 1:45 pm  
**Spirit Night** – 6:00-9:00 @ Mt. St. Joseph High School. We hope to see all of our families there!

**3/10** **H.S.A Meeting** / 7:00 in the cafeteria  
Come see our boys who placed in the Mt. St. Joseph's Speech Contest. You will be impressed!

**3/13** **Stations of the Cross** 1:45 pm  
Report cards sent home.\*\*

**Save the Date!**

**3/18 & 3/19 7:00 pm School Play**  
**Aladdin and his Wonderful Magical Lamp**  
A fun event for the whole family.

**\*\*Progress Reports are coming!** Parents, please check your child's backpack for these important reports. They will be sent home with your child on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please sign the envelope and return to your child's homeroom teacher on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation!

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL FUNDRAISER:** Before you go to the store, stop by the Food Certificate table after Mass and purchase a \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 or \$100 food certificate to put toward your groceries. You get dollar for dollar value, and St. Agnes School will receive up to 5% of your grocery bill -- at no cost to you! Certificates are available in both the School and Parish offices.

**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE** – St. Agnes Council Knights of Columbus will host a St. Patrick's party at the council home, 2021 Frederick Rd. on Sat. March 14 from 7-11 pm. Dinner will be corned beef and cabbage or ham with all the trimmings, beer, wine & soda. Tickets are \$17. DJ Ken Jackson will play big band and easy listening for dancing. For tickets call Bernie McNulty at 410-480-0661 before March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**TUITION ASSISTANCE** – applications for tuition assistance for the 2009-10 school year are available in the Parish Office. Applicants must be registered, active parishioners. Completed applications are due in the Parish office by March 31, 2009.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

All students in grades 2-8 will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during class on **Sunday, March 15**.

#### **ATTENTION 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE PARENTS!**

The \$10 fee to cover the First Holy Communion banner kits was due February 22. Please turn this in to your child's teacher or to the Office of Religious Education as soon as possible. Checks may be made payable to St. Agnes Church.

#### **CONFIRMATION NEWS**

The registration form (blue form) from the Confirmation packet (distributed at the meeting on January 18) was due February 8-9. Please return the form and a payment for the Confirmation Fee (\$90) to your teacher or to the Office of Religious Education.

#### **CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE:**

The annual conference will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Towson Catholic High School. Among the speakers will be Archbishop O'Brien, who will also preside at the Mass following the conference. It's always a great day for the men who attend; sons of high school age and older are also welcome. For details and registration info go to [www.catholicmensfellowship.com](http://www.catholicmensfellowship.com). Or call Mike Burke 410-788-0171.

### **ST. AGNES YOUTH MINISTRY**

#### **Sunday, March 1 – Movie Night**

Join us as we view "Expelled," starring Ben Stein. Bring a snack and a friend and join us at 7 pm in the new school "gym room".

#### **Sunday, March 8 – Service Night**

Whether you need service hours for school, to attend a youth group outing, or just because you want to help, join us for our next service night!

### **RESPECT LIFE CORNER**

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland March for Life: Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, St. Mary's Church, 109 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. The evening begins with registration at 5:00 pm. followed by a 5:30 pm Mass with Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Celebrant, and then proceeds at 6:40 with the March to Lawyer's Mall at the State House. Let your voice be heard on the protection and sanctity of human life, particularly pregnant moms and their babies. A minibus will be provided to transport those unable to do the walk – however, there is no lift. <http://www.marylandmarchforlife.org>

**Pregnant, Need Help?** Call the Gabriel Network – 1-800-ANGEL-OK

**Suffering Post-Abortion Stress?** Call Project Rachel – 1-800-286-4224

If you are interested in joining the St. Agnes Respect Life Committee, contact Joe Healy at 410-788-4325.

**A MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT** will be held at the Priestfield Retreat Center, WV, on March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3. These retreats have been held for over 35 years and couples who attend come away feeling spiritually refreshed. For more info, call Elaine & Frank Galeone at 410-252-5355 or visit website [www.marriedcouplesretreat.com](http://www.marriedcouplesretreat.com).

**LOAVES & FISHES:** St. Agnes Parish regularly donates nonperishable food items to two local food ministries in the Catonsville area on Monday mornings: My Brother's Keeper and Catonsville Emergency Assistance Network. As you are able, please consider assisting those in our area who are less fortunate, by dropping off donations to our sacristy when you come for Mass. For more information, please contact Lee or Kacy Thomas at 410.744.8681.

**WALK FOR HOPE:** Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 2:40 pm, Seton Keough will be holding the Second Annual Kathleen Bowen Walk For Hope. This walk commemorates Mrs. Bowen, the former campus minister, and remembers all those in the school community who are battling cancer. All proceeds go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Donations can be made by contacting Jennifer Casey at 410-646-4444 x 1402.



## A Brief History of Lent

The early Christians recognized the need to prepare for the great feast of Easter by praying and fasting, but different Christian communities developed different practices. Some communities prayed and fasted for one day, some for two days, some for 40 hours, some for a full week.

By the fourth century, the practice of beginning to pray and fast six Sundays before Easter became the accepted preparation for catechumens, who would be baptized at the Easter Vigil, and for public sinners, who had become separated from the Church.

By the eighth century, Lent as we know it today – beginning with Ash Wednesday, ending on Holy Thursday and not including Sundays – became established as a time of fasting, prayer, penance and almsgiving for the entire faith community.

*Our Sunday Visitor, February 3, 2008*

## Lenten Facts

In English, the word “Lent” comes from an Anglo-Saxon word that means “lengthen,” a reference to lengthening days as spring approaches. In Greek, French, Italian and Spanish, the word for Lent comes from the word 40, a reference to the 40 days of the season.

The duration of Lent is 40 weekdays, beginning with Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday.

The remainder of Holy Week – beginning with the Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday – are called the Triduum, which means three days.

The Lenten liturgical color is purple, the color of royalty, which symbolizes the suffering of Jesus and anticipates the glory of the Resurrection. It is also the color of penance.

During Lent the Gloria is omitted from the Mass.

The word alleluia, which means “praise the Lord,” is not spoken or sung during Lenten liturgies.

*Our Sunday Visitor, February 3, 2008*

### **MEMORY VERSE**

### **MATTHEW 4:4**

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

## Stations of the Cross

By Paul Turner

The 14 Stations of the Cross adorn the walls of almost every Catholic church and chapel. Many parishes commemorate the Fridays of Lent with a prayerful remembrance of the passion of Christ by walking the stations with him.

Throughout our history, Christians have longed to literally walk in the footsteps of Christ. The shrines of the holy places in and around Jerusalem have drawn pilgrims inspired by the life and death of their master.

However, not everyone is able to travel to the Holy Land. So, ever since the middle ages, churches and chapels began erecting images devoted to an aspect of the passion. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Franciscans had developed a devotion they called “stations.” The word means a place where people stand still or gather together. So even though it implies something “stationary,” the service obviously must include the movement of pilgrims following the footsteps of Christ. It took a while to fix the number and the names of the stations, but in 1731 Pope Clement XII established the 14 we know today.

We still find some variation on the number. Many places add a 15<sup>th</sup> station, for example, the resurrection of Jesus. Discontent with leaving Christ in the tomb when our faith expresses so much more, worshipers have found consolation in completing the story of the cross.

Over the years our church has authorized various versions of the stations for different occasions. For example, Pope John Paul II altered the traditional stations for his Good Friday service in Rome. He eliminated some stations that derived from tradition, and substituted them with events from the Gospels. Here are the stations that he used: 1. Jesus in the Garden of Olives; 2. Jesus betrayed by Judas; 3. Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin; 4. Jesus denied by Peter; 5. Jesus judged by Pilate; 6. Jesus flogged and crowned with thorns; 7. Jesus carries his cross; 8. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene; 9. Jesus encounters women of Jerusalem; 10. Jesus is crucified; 11. Jesus promises the kingdom to the good thief; 12. Jesus on the cross; 13. The mother of Jesus and his disciple at the cross; 14. Jesus is placed in the tomb.

The stations inspire us all to follow Christ through suffering to peace.

Copyright © 2008 Resource Publications, 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505