



Second Sunday of Lent March 8, 2020

Christ Jesus . . . destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

— 2 Timothy 1:10b

CHANGE

Lent is all about change and change is usually not easy. In order to change we have to leave something behind. Today we hear about a very old man who decides to answer God's call. Abram experiences a tremendous amount of change when he leaves everything behind, risking it all for God's promise. Jesus changes, is transfigured, right before the eyes of his disciples. The Lenten scriptures issue the call for us to change, to be transfigured, so that we, too, will soon share in the glory of God. What is it that the Lord is asking us to leave behind? Are we willing to take the risk for the promise made by God? These questions are at the heart of the Lenten journey of conversion.

--J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINT FRANCES OF ROME (1384-1440) March 9

Nature and human nature—plagues and wars—turned late medieval Rome into a living hell, particularly for the sick and poor. Frances, by birth and marriage well provided for, was a devoted wife and mother; but like Benedictine Oblates, who to this day “pray and work” while living with their families and working in the world, she joined like-minded laywomen friends in ministering to society's most vulnerable. Frances' charity was not only “hands on” but “in home.” Her palace became a hospital after the plague claimed two of her three children. When her husband's death ended their loving marriage of forty years, Frances joined other widowed Oblates in community. In an interesting link to the United States, our nation's premier religious congregation for women of color, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, in 1833 established bonds of spiritual communion with these Oblates of Saint Frances in Rome. Though Black History Month is past, take a moment to learn about the good work that Mother Lange's spiritual daughters are doing still and consider supporting them as a Lenten project: www.oblatesisters.com.

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mt 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

Prayer Requests: Call 874-3812. Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen., Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo [Ed] Arnold, Castellini family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry Smith, and for all who live without adequate food, shelter, or help, we pray

NEXT SATURDAY: March 14 St. Patrick's Dinner at the Hall

Social Hour: 6pm. Dinner: 7pm. We will have a raffle. Price same as last year: \$25. Tickets on sale at church or call the office: 874-3812.

Finance Corner:

Weekly Offering



Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **February/March** offerings:

2/26: [Ash Wed.] Church in Central/East Europe: \$390.
3/1: 1st Collection: \$1611. Operating Expenses: \$1028.
3/8: Capital Expenditures. 3/15: No 2nd Collection.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: Wed., 4/15/20, at 10AM in Hall
Finance Council [FC]: Tues., 4/7/20, at 3PM in Hall

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30AM at St Philip
Coffee & Goodies: Following 8AM Sunday Mass and Wednesday/Friday after 9AM Mass, at St Philip Hall



Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tues. of month)

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Sat., March 7, 5pm Mass ✠ Jimmy Newlands
Sun., March 8, 8am Mass for the People
Sun., March 8, 9:30am Mass ✠ Jack Young
Sun., March 8, 11:15am Mass ✠ Joe Burwell
Mon., March 9, 9am Prayer Service
Tues., March 10, 8:50 morning Lent prayer & 9am Mass
Wed., March 11, 9am Mass & Stations of the Cross ✠ Tina Bartolo
Thurs., March 12, 9am Mass & Stations of the Cross
Fri., March 13, 8:50 morning Lent prayer & 9am Mass
Sat., March 14, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
Sun., March 15, 8am Mass for the People
Sun., March 15, 9:30am Mass
Sun., March 15, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins; International Women's Day
Monday: St. Frances of Rome
Friday: Abstinence

saint snippets  March 14 

Let us receive everything from God's hands and do everything out of pure love.

Bl. Giacomo Cusmano
19th-century Italian priest who founded a religious order focused on evangelizing and caring for the poor.
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Pope Francis Quote

"Dignity of the person, justice, subsidiarity and solidarity: this is the contribution of the Church's social teaching in our common pursuit of "algor-ethics". The Call that has been signed today is an important step in this direction."

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2020

On February 11th, 48 dedicated volunteers welcomed 98 families representing 110 adults, 28 children and 41 seniors, a total of 179 people receiving nutritional support. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations.

We have set goals of eliminating use of plastic bags and transitioning to reusable grocery bags by the end of 2020 to reduce our costs and to reduce our contribution to landfill. Please continue to collect reusable grocery bags, paper bags with handles, and clean egg cartons.

Spring cleaning? If you have clean, gently used sleeping bags or blankets, we are collecting now for distribution this fall when weather turns colder. Drop off at the parish hall.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sat., March 7, from 9:00 –10:00am repackaging in Parish Hall

Mon., March 9, from 10:00am – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall

Tues., March 10, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and to assist clients



"Nonetheless, I'd appreciate it if you'd stop upsetting folks by asking "Is that your *final* donation?" "

Lenten Scripture Discussion: Pat Griffith is offering a series of five discussions during Lent on "Why Jesus?" Each session will be 1 hour and will focus on three perspectives of Jesus: Messiah, Son of God, and Christ, and how they're described in both the New and Old Testaments. We will discuss "Why Jesus" is vital to understanding of our Christian Faith and celebration of his Resurrection. Discussions will be held in St. Philip Hall classroom on Tues. evenings at 6pm and Wed. mornings following the 9am Mass on the following dates: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, March 3 and 4; March 10 and 11; March 17 and 18; March 24 and 25; and April 7 and 8. If you are attending, please read these two scriptures in advance: Matthew Chapter 1 and John 1:1-14. To contact Pat and to RSVP, email: patrick@fairyhill.com

THE HEAVIEST LOAD

A chip on the shoulder is the heaviest load anyone can carry.

—Anonymous



Second Theme of Catholic Social Teaching: Call to Family Community and Participation [Part Two]

Community/Participation

Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of

community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. . . . Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. (*Pope Francis, On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si. . .]*, nos. 179, 219)

People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens, not as a mob swayed by the powers that be. Let us not forget that "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation." (*Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel [Evangelii Gaudium. . .]*, no. 220, quoting *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Nov. 2007, no. 13)

Subsidiarity respects personal dignity by recognizing in the person a subject who is always capable of giving something to others. (*Pope Benedict XVI, Charity in Truth [Caritas in Veritate. . .]*, no. 57)

The primary norm for determining the scope and limits of governmental intervention is the "principle of subsidiarity" cited above. This principle states that, in order to protect basic justice, government should undertake only those initiatives which exceed the capacities of individuals or private groups acting independently. Government should not replace or destroy smaller communities and individual initiative. Rather it should help them contribute more effectively to social well-being and supplement their activity when the demands of justice exceed their capacities. These does not mean, however, that the government that governs least, governs best. Rather it defines good government intervention as that which truly "helps" other social groups contribute to the common good by directing, urging, restraining, and regulating economic activity as "the occasion requires and necessity demands". (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Economic Justice for All*, no. 124)

In order that the right to development may be fulfilled by action: (a) people should not be hindered from attaining development in accordance with their own culture; (b) through mutual cooperation, all peoples should be able to become the principal architects of their own economic and social development. (*World Synod of Catholic Bishops, Justice in the World [Iustitia in Mundo. . .]*, no. 71)

But God did not create man as a solitary, for from the beginning "male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27). Their companionship produces the primary form of interpersonal communion. For by his innermost nature man is a social being, and unless he relates himself to others he can neither live nor develop his potential. (*Second Vatican Council, The Church in the Modern World [Gaudium et Spes. . .]*, no. 12)

Next week: Third Theme of Catholic Social Teaching RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SPRING WEATHER

In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.

—Mark Twain