

From the cloud came a voice:
“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

MARK 9:7



SECOND
SUNDAY OF
LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Feast of Faith

The Opening Prayer

At the conclusion of the Introductory Rites of the Mass, the presider says or chants the words “Let us pray,” followed by the Opening Prayer. This prayer is also called a “collect” because it gathers or “collects” the prayers of the entire assembly into one. The Roman collects that we pray in our liturgy—noted for the brevity, clarity, and conciseness of the Latin originals—date from a variety of periods. Some are quite new; others reach back more than a thousand years. They are truly treasures of our tradition. The Opening Prayer can be divided into four main parts: 1) the invitation, or “Let us pray”; 2) the silence that follows, during which each member of the assembly lifts up before God his or her own prayers; 3) the collect itself, spoken or sung by the priest; 4) and finally the Amen, by which the assembly says, “yes,” “may it be so,” making the prayer their own.

The collect itself almost always follows the same pattern. It begins with an invocation to God. A petition follows, usually very general. We ask for health, strength, wisdom, grace, forgiveness, faith, awareness. Every collect concludes by offering the prayer to God through Jesus Christ. With the Amen of the assembly, the Introductory Rites of the Mass come to an end.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

The art of listening

If you want God to listen to you when you pray, shouldn't you listen to God when God speaks to you?

—Anonymous

History of Salvation

The first reading today continues the “history of salvation” narrative that we hear throughout Lent this year. Today's story was among the best-loved in the Jewish tradition (surely Joseph told the story to young Jesus as he formed him in the ways of their faith); the early fathers of the Church were very fond of it as a means of explaining the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The overall tone of the first reading, psalm, and second reading seems a little incongruous with the dazzling Gospel, until we remember that the Transfiguration was placed as the Gospel for this Sunday precisely to remind us of the glory that awaits those who live faithfully and obediently to the will of God. In the life of Jesus, it is a preview of the glory of his resurrection; for us it is a glimpse of the destiny of those who continue, as we heard in last week's Gospel, to repent and believe in the Good News.

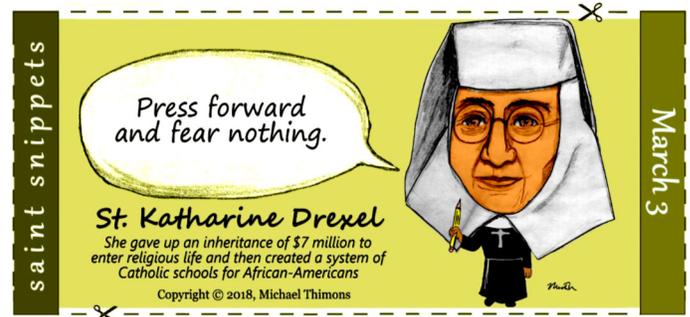
Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday:	Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25 Alternate readings (Year A): 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]

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Second Sunday of Lent; Penitential Rite for Candidates for Full Communion
Wednesday:	St. Katharine Drexel
Thursday:	St. Casimir
Friday:	First Friday; World Day of Prayer; Abstinence
Saturday:	First Saturday



Today's Readings

First Reading — The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18).

Psalm — I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116).

Second Reading — If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31b-34).

Gospel — Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white (Mark 9:2-10).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Second Sunday of Lent February 28, 2021

**If God is for us, who can be against us?
—Romans 8:31b**

Treasures From Our Tradition

The basis of Abraham's test in the first reading is the fact that his neighbors followed a religious system that demanded human sacrifice. In offering Isaac's life on an altar of sacrifice, he is following long-accustomed religious practice. Ancient people accepted this because they thought that life was an ever-renewing circle: what had been lost would be restored in time. But here, God springs this trap and gives Abraham, Isaac, and you and me, a future. From now on, God will provide the sacrifice. From this point on, our lives have a direction, a purpose, a goal.

The faithful following of Lent and its consoling, challenging scriptures strengthens and prepares us to remember the Lord's passion and resurrection. Today, many parishes welcome home the elect, men and women chosen on the First Sunday of Lent for the Easter sacraments, from a celebration with the bishop. The scriptures today are chosen with them in mind, to steady their steps, to clear their vision, to strengthen their resolve: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Second Sunday of Lent This is a Test

I used to wonder how God could lie to Abraham about sacrificing his son Isaac. But the story begins by telling us God put Abraham to the test. Abraham himself seems to know it's a test--in verses left out or our reading, he tells the servants that he and Isaac will return after the sacrifice; he also tells Isaac that God will provide the offering. Apparently, I'm the only one fooled by God.

I don't know if I would have passed the test. I would have at least argued with God about it, begging him to spare my son. Yet in our second reading, St. Paul reminds us that God did not spare his own son. (Rom 8:32) He passed his own test. Jesus was sacrificed so that God could show us how much he loved us: By dying, Jesus showed us the promise of resurrection, which shows us that we can also have new life by the forgiveness of our sins. If God loves us so much that he gives his Son to die for us, why would he not forgive us? Or as Paul says, if He is on our side, who can hurt us?

What does that tell us about life? You may have noticed that things don't always go your way. We sometimes suffer for no apparent reason. We may lose someone we love through death. We may be tempted to lose faith when we see wars, killer tornados, terrorist attacks--if "God is for us," why does he allow these things? Because he is still testing us. And not necessarily testing the victims of these troubles. If I get angry at God because I hear about someone's death, I haven't passed the test.

Does that mean those tragedies are our fault? No, God gives everyone free will and some people choose to do wrong. And some accidents are just accidental; no one is necessarily at fault. God intervenes sometimes and lives are saved. Other times, God intervenes by saving us after death with our resurrection. But as long as people doubt God's love, there will be tests. That's why it is so important to proclaim the Kingdom: so that someday all people will know God's love and not need to be tested.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Carbonara Funeral Home



**Traditional Funerals • Cremations
Memorial Services • Immediate Burials**
1515 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park

Pre-Arrangements, with or without prepayment of services

Affordable pricing that meets your needs

Michael A. Carbonara, Michael L. Carbonara, Joseph R. Carbonara

Bus: (708) 343-6161 Home: (708) 865-8124 Cell: (708) 724-7500
www.carbonarafuneralhome.net

Ed the Plumber Ed the Carpenter

708.652.1444

Best Work • Best Rates
WE DO ALL OUR OWN WORK



PARISHIONER DISCOUNT

CARNITAS DON ALFREDO FAST MEXICAN FOOD

708-338-0844
2501 W. Lake St. • Melrose Park



Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.

Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
(CST 2417986-70) www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com



Flood Brothers

DISPOSAL/RECYCLING SERVICES

We Take Service Personally

Contact us today for a customized, reliable waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote.

630-261-0400



Bormann Funeral Home

Established in 1893

Meeting the Needs of Our Community with Dignity and Without Bias at the Most Reasonable Cost

**FUNERALS – PRE-NEEDS
CREMATIONS**

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

GERARD MORGAN JR.
Funeral Director/Owner
1600 Chicago Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160

(708) 344-0714

www.BormannFuneralHome.com

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

- ✓ Ambulance Solutions as Low as \$19.95 a month
- ✓ Police ✓ Fire
- ✓ Friends/Family FREE Shipping
- FREE Activation
- NO Long Term Contracts



CALL NOW! 800.809.3352



This Button SAVES Lives! As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

catholicmatch® Illinois



CatholicMatch.com/myIL



Russo's HILLSIDE CHAPELS



Family Owned and Operated
Old World Values with
Modern Day Services
Traditional Funerals, Cremation
Service, Alternative Services

Joseph A. Russo
Owner / Licensed Funeral Director

4500 Roosevelt Rd., Hillside
www.RussoHillsideChapels.com

708.449.5300

Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!



Receive a \$25 Darden card with FREE in-home estimate

All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one per household. Company reserves, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age, if married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be returned, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Darden and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 03/31/21

Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration

CALL NOW 708-462-6373

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.



LeafGuard® is guaranteed never to clog or we'll clean it for FREE*

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

ENGLERT
LeafGuard®
Get it. And forget it.®



Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

Larry's Plumbing • Sewer • Electrical

2316 17th Avenue
Franklin Park, IL 60131

larrys_plumbing_co@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 847.455.4150
Fax: 847.455.5303

WHERE'S LARRY?



ONE PARISH

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!



Download Our Free App or Visit
www.MY.ONEPARISH.com

Protecting Seniors Nationwide

Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation



Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

"Let me assist in pre-planning your burial arrangements."

Cindy Madrigal 630-750-3438

cmadrigal@cathcemchgo.org

Hablo español

