

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2010

While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. Luke 9: 28-36

The Old Woman and the Spider

A young woman is walking along the river near her village when she sees an old woman. She is struck by the radiance of the old woman's face - her eyes and smile reflect great tranquility and grace.

The old woman is bent over some branches that stretch out into a fast flowing eddy. The old woman's hand reaches into the branches and then, suddenly, pulls her hand out. As the young woman moves closer, she sees what is happening. A spider has impaled itself on a thorn and the old woman is trying to free it - but every time she attempts to lift the spider off the thorn, the spider bites her. She removes her hand, sucks the poisonous blood from her finger, and tries again.

"Dear mother," the young woman asks, "what foolishness is this? Leave the spider to its fate. Every time you try to help it, it repays you with a sharp bite."

The old woman smiles that radiant smile. "Child, it is the spider's nature to bite. But mine is to save. Should I sacrifice the good I possess because of a spider's viciousness?"

Today's Gospel mirrors that struggle to do good in the face of evil, to maintain the values of God in the midst of Godless Jerusalem, to continue the work of the prophet as the "spiders" seek to destroy both the prophet and the prophesy. In our own lives, there is often a chasm of some depth between what we say we believe and how we live those convictions, between the promises we make and our commitment to work to make these promises realities. Lent calls us to take a hard look at the Jerusalems we have built, the temples and objects we worship. This forty-day journey with the Lord to Easter is a time to cross the divide between the values of God and the values we live, to re-center our lives on the faithfulness, integrity and selflessness demanded by the Gospel we have embraced.

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday: Daniel 9: 4-10; Luke 6: 36-38
Tuesday: Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20; Matthew 23: 1-12
Wednesday: Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28
Thursday: Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-31
Friday: Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13, 17-28
Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20;
Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15;
1 Cor 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9

Pot of Gold Winners

(\$25) John R. Kerg, Ann Wiggenhorn, Nadine Eames, Anthony J. Heibili, Jackie Ronan; (\$100) Herbert Trayte



Coffee & Donuts

Join us for coffee, donuts and conversation after the 9AM and 11AM Sunday Masses.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, February 28 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM For the People of the Parish
11:00 AM Rev. Joseph J. Schmit

Monday, March 1 - Lenten Weekday

5:15 PM Thomas Durma

Tuesday, March 2 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Vito Donofrio

Wednesday, March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel

5:15 PM Mike & Lucille Busciglio

Thursday, March 4 - St. Casimir

8:00 AM For Those Who Died in War

Friday, March 5 - Lenten Weekday

5:15 PM Kenneth Kessler

Saturday, March 6 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Joseph Antal

5:15 PM Ed & Johanna Coyne

Senior Clementines & Friends

All older adults are invited to join the Senior Clementines and Friends on Thursday, March 11th from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in St. Clement Church Hall. Back by popular demand is the Cleveland TOPS (Tough Old PROS) Swing Band. There is no charge for the event, however, we are asking each attendee to bring a donation of food that will be given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society (eg - peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, stew, ham, Chinese chow mein, oatmeal, raisins, macaroni and cheese). Also, wear something GREEN. If this will be your first time attending a meeting, please call Jean Lombardo at 226-5878.

What's Happening this Week in the Parish

Sunday, February 28: First Communion Parent Meeting
7 PM - Hall

Monday, March 1: Family PSR
7 PM - Hall

Tuesday, March 2:

Wednesday, March 3: RCIA
7 PM - Rectory

Thursday, March 4 : Scripture Treats 10:45 AM
Bible Study Group
7 PM - Hall

Friday, March 5: Stations of the Cross
6 PM
AA Gratitude Group
7 PM - Hall

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Dear Rev. Workman & Parishioners:

I want to acknowledge and thank you for your parish collection to the El Salvador-Latin American Collection. It is one of the most important appeals of the year because it directly supports our priests and religious missionaries who work in El Salvador. Between the parish collection and the clergy contributions to this appeal, we have been able to maintain our long history of service to our Diocesan Mission. Your parish collection contributes to the salary and health benefits of our missionaries, as well as the gas for their vehicles and food for their tables. When these most basic needs of our missionaries are covered, they are freely able to serve the people in this poor country. Thank you again and may God bless you for your goodness in supporting our Diocesan Mission in El Salvador.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. R. Stephen Vellenga
Diocesan Mission Director

40 Days for Life - Spring 2010 Campaign

From February 17 to March 28 our Cleveland Diocese will take part in the national 40 Days for Life campaign. Ash Wednesday starts the beginning of this focused 40 day effort of prayer, fasting and public witness to life aimed at ending the tragedy of abortion. Consider giving one hour of your time during these 40 days or 1 hour each week in peaceful prayer outside of either the Preterm Abortion Clinic located at 12000 Shaker Blvd. or Planned Parenthood located at 20800 Center Ridge Rd. Schedule your time of prayer by contacting Mike Campanelli 216-533-6106 or Mark Setele 216-832-4648, or go to www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland. Visit www.40daysforlife.com and sign up for the latest updates and the daily devotional by completing the "latest updates" box.

Finance Corner:

Collection for weekend of February 21 - \$ 9,008.77

Envelopes used - 198

Black & Indian Mission Collection - \$360.00

Eastern Europe Collection - \$141.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity for the parish.

Lenten Retreat Announcement

Our next session of the Lenten Retreat will be held at St. Luke Church on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:00 PM. This evening will include a brief review of the first week and an in-depth look at the Elder Son. It is probably obvious to most of us when we have experienced those times in our lives like the "Prodigal Son" and have moved away from God or our families; but, isn't the reaction of the Elder Son in the story perfectly understandable? After all, 'all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed any orders of yours, certainly I have done nothing wrong.' As so often is true in the Gospel stories, Jesus is talking to both the "sinners and tax collectors" and the "Pharisees and Scribes" in the story of the Prodigal Son. In order to determine our greatest need for reconciliation, we must be able to see which characters are more like us. The remaining weeks of our retreat will be aimed at helping identify this and prepare us for the Penance Service on March 24th at St. Clement. If you are planning to join us at St. Luke's, please consider bring a toiletry item (shampoo, toothpaste, feminine product items, etc.) as a good will offering for donation to the Lakewood Christian Service Center. Also, if you know of someone who wanted to come to our first session but could not make it because of transportation issues, please consider giving them a ride. God Bless You. We hope to see you Wednesday.

Deacon Danny Bryan

Magnificat Father's Club

Join us for a night of Reflection on March 8th at 7 PM at Magnificat High School in the LGI (across from the cafeteria). Free will offering \$5. Terry Pluto, author, sports and religion writer for the Plain Dealer, will speak on "Faith at Work: A Difficult Balance." Please email Julie Gibbons at jgibbons@magnificaths.org to RSVP.

Night at the Races—St. Joseph Academy

Join us for our annual Night at the Races on March 13th. Cost is \$18/person. Reserved tables available. Price includes beer, snacks, pop, pizza, subs and desserts. Enjoy sideboards, 12 races and gift basket raffle. Doors open at 6 PM and festivities continue until 11 PM. For ticket order and participation forms go to www.sja1890.org.

Poor Clares' Prayer Line

Do you need prayer today? Are your loved ones, co-workers or neighbors in need of God's loving guidance? Call the Poor Clares' Prayer Line at 216-361-0783.