



## Journeying Through Lent A Time to Listen

*In Lent we learn how to listen to God and Jesus.*

The Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Lent have us journey to high places with Abraham and Isaac, and with Jesus and three of his disciples,

Peter, James and John. High places in the Bible are where God is encountered and people are tested. They are places where you go to get away from the mundane and the ordinary so as to encounter the extraordinary and the divine.

In the first reading we turn to the ancient story of the binding of Isaac. Abraham is put to the test by God. It is time to hand over to God in trust Abraham's most precious possession: his child. This child is his hope for the future, the tangible sign God made with him in the covenant. Now it is time to offer the child as a holocaust, a burnt offering, so that there is nothing left in Abraham's heart and it can be given over fully to God.

God points out the chosen place. Abraham dutifully builds the altar. He obeys or better he begins to obey. The messenger of the Lord (an angel) stays his hand and relays a message from God: "I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." God knows Abraham in this binding of Isaac, and Abraham knows that he is known by God. God has entered into Abraham, probed him, and discovers his fidelity and obedience. It is not Isaac who is bound here, but rather Abraham who is bound more closely to God.

This is a story of hope for all of us. God does not want human sacrifice. God wants us, our hearts, and lives and souls just the way he wanted Abraham. Abraham is a model for all of us who wrestle with the demands God makes of us. Also in Jewish tradition Isaac is transformed into a model of self sacrifice who went willingly to his death, (cont. p. 2)

### ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ Saturday Faith Formation meets March 14th & 21st
- ◆ Sunday Faith Formation meets March 15th & March 22nd
- ◆ Monday Faith Formation meets March 16th & March 23rd
- ◆ March 17: St. Patrick's Day



### MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ Sunday 5/6 meets March 15th & 29th (& special Thursday class March 26th)
- ◆ Sunday 7/8 meets March 22nd & April 19th
- ◆ Thursday 5/6 meets March 12th & March 26th
- ◆ Thursday 7/8 meets March 19th & April 2nd
- ◆ Middle School Movie Night:  
March 13: 6:00pm—8:30pm  
April 17: 6:00pm—8:30pm
- ◆ 8th Grade Lock-In March 27-28

**ST. GREGORY THE  
GREAT CATHOLIC  
CHURCH**

11451 Blue Cypress Drive  
San Diego CA 92131

Office: 858-653-3594  
Main office: 858-653-3540  
Fax: 858-653-3550  
E-mail: FF@stgg.org  
Cheryl@stgg.org



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which is adopted by Christians for Jesus, “the Son of God’ who “has loved me and given himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20).

**How and where do you find hope when things seem most hopeless?  
When life throws you a curve, how do you turn your heart to God?**

The second Sunday of Lent always presents one of the accounts of the transfiguration of Jesus before Peter, James, and John. They go up a high mountain and get a glimpse of the resurrection. Peter, impetuous as usual, and seemingly oblivious to the power of the moment wants to capture it by erecting shrines for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Peter likes the “special effects” on the mountain top and does not want to loose it for once he descends from the mountain he like all the disciples will set their face toward Jerusalem and the embracing of the cross. Like Peter we all think it is good to be here on the mountain top away from the hustle and bustle, pain and violence of the world below. Suddenly a booming voice is heard from the cloud saying: “This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to him.” ***Listen!***

**Reflection Questions**

- \* Am I an attentive listener to God and Jesus?
- \* When I listen to the Gospels am I a selective listener only listening to the part of the story I like and will accept rather than the whole Gospel?
- \* Who are the people who help me listen to God and Jesus?
- \* Who or what gets in the way of my listening to God’s beloved son?

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**WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD**

For Father Nick Clavin, Deacon Ron Diem, Deacon Ferris Bell, Father Ed Gallagher and Father John Gubbins, that the Lord lift them and make their daily loads light;

For those in positions of political and religious leadership, that they be willing to confront evil;

For Fr. Nick Clavin, that he continue to heal and recuperate;

For Tom Hobbib who is undergoing treatment for cancer;

For the catechists and children of Faith Formation, that their hearts open up to the wonder of God.

For those returning from the LA Religious Education Congress, that the fire (re)kindled there continue to burn brightly and spread to those around them;

For all these intentions and those in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

To submit a prayer intention for our Faith Formation family, please e-mail Cheryl@stgg.org