

Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday:

Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday:

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday:

Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/
Mt 20:17-28

Thursday:

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday:

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday:

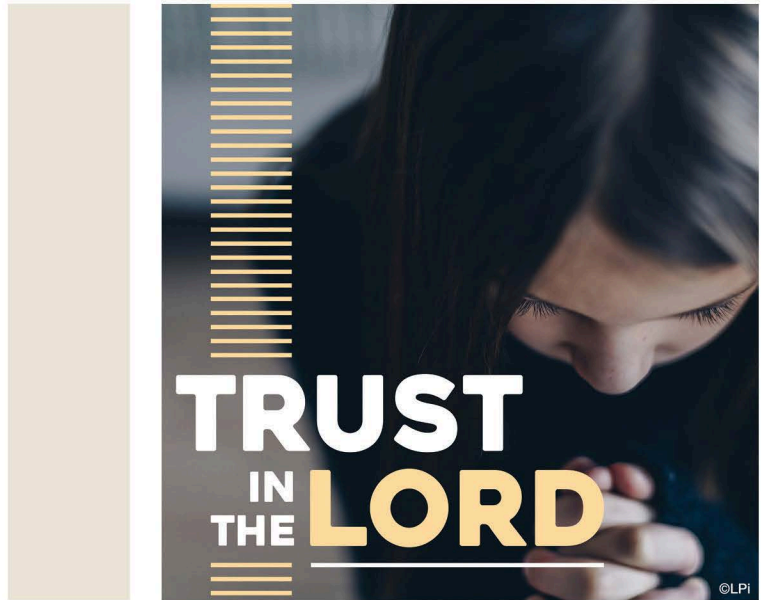
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, “Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent.” I did. In my heart, the answer came: “Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days.” I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can’t do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God’s command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: **“Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”** Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chafes us that *God sets the terms* of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: “What do you want me to give up?” He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn’t make it easy.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

On the Mountain

Why climb a mountain? “Because it’s there,” George Mallory famously said, before perishing in an attempt to scale Mount Everest.

God is an event planner; every detail matters, and the location is most crucial of all. On the mountain, God demanded the sacrifice of Isaac. On the mountain, he restored Isaac to his father. On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured, revealed in all his mystifying glory as the beloved Son of God, the sacrifice which would finally balance the scale.

These things happened on a mountain because they could only happen on a mountain. The mountain is where the reckoning happens. It is where God takes, where He gives back, where He hands down.

In Lent, we encounter the mountain. We are removed from the distractions of ordinary life and placed outside the confines of our everyday habits. We find silence and mystery, pain and truth. We struggle and we become tired, and there is always a moment when we wonder if, perhaps, it would have been easier not to climb. There is always a moment when others look at us and think: “Why climb a mountain?”

I confess, I am not much of an outdoorswoman. Hiking, in my family, is any walking you do on a trail that is not paved, so I am far from qualified to comment on whether or not the view from the summit was worth George Mallory’s life. But I do know a thing or two about struggling through a difficult experience. I know the strange peace that exists in the moment after it’s all over and you catch your breath and realize you are a better, stronger, wiser person for the pain.

The mountain is there. Let’s climb it.

“God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, ‘Abraham!’ ‘Here I am!’ he replied.” — Genesis 22:1

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we hold hands during the Our Father?

Answer:

The practice of members of the assembly holding hands while praying the Lord’s Prayer during the Mass is a custom that developed organically in the 1970s and 1980s. While some commentators acknowledge that the practice varies from place to place, it is a fairly universal reality in parishes across the United States. For some, this action symbolizes the communion of Christians praying together as one family of believers honoring the Father of All. Critics of the practice sometimes express concern that holding hands can be a distraction from the more significant unity that is experienced when we process to the altar to receive sacramental communion.

And so, we’re left to ask, what is the answer?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document that offers specific instructions for the celebration of the Mass) is silent on the practice, saying only that “all the faithful say the prayer” with the priest. The website of the US Bishops simply observes that “No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture during the Lord’s Prayer.” And so, we’re left to discern within ourselves and within our parish and religious communities what is an authentic gesture of praise during this important point of the Mass. For some, this means continuing to hold hands, while for others, this may mean adopting another posture of prayer.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I know now how devoted you are to God,
since you did not withhold from me your own
beloved son." (Gn 22:12)

Psalm:

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

Second Reading:

He who did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along
with him? (Rom 8:32)

Gospel:

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

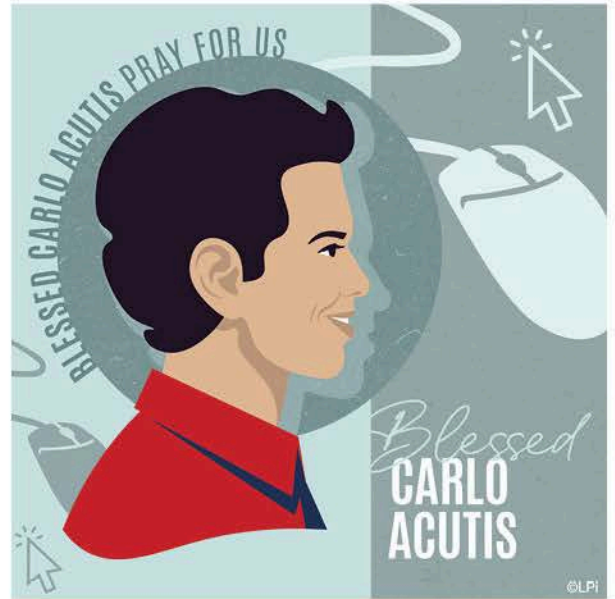
The Transfiguration left the disciples with more questions than answers. What had they just seen? What had they just heard? They were confused, but they trusted Jesus. Let's follow in their example, trusting in God's care as we journey deeper into Lent.

Observances for the week of February 25, 2023

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: St. Gregory of Narek,
Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 and is the first millennial to be beatified. Despite dying of leukemia at age 15, he developed a website that showcases Eucharistic Miracles around the world, demonstrating that holiness knows no age.

Prayer of Trust

Dear Lord,
Your ways confuse me sometimes. Often, I don't fully understand what You are doing. But I believe that You are working in a way that will one day make sense. Until then, keep me close to You, trusting blindly in the ways You lead me. Amen.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. - Mk 9:2-3

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Abraham passed God's test to offer his beloved son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Have you ever felt tested by God?

Second Reading

Paul speaks of God's generous love and affection for us, ever willing to defend and protect us. As we continue the Lenten journey, to whom might you offer some comfort and care this week?

Gospel Reading

After witnessing Jesus' transfiguration, hearing God's voice, and commanded to silence, Peter, James, and John must have been spiritually and emotionally drained. What helps energize you spiritually?



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“
OPEN YOUR HEART AND RUN TO MEET THE SUN OF ETERNAL LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES ALL MEN.
”

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, COMPOSER

- ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN



I will walk
before the Lord.

PSALM 116

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Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. - Mk 9:7-8

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