

**For The Bulletin Of
March 1, 2015**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

From Father Robert

High mountains are a challenge to the adventuresome. They are just there, simply begging to be conquered. At 29,029 feet, Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. There were attempts already in the 1920's to reach the top, but they failed; yet climbers kept trying. In 1953 Edmund Hillary was the first person to put his foot on the summit. Many have followed his ascent since. No doubt for those who reach the top, there is a sense of conquering the world. Indeed, from that height the world lays at one's feet. No wonder in Scripture mountains were often locations where theophanies – manifestations of God – took place. The Gospel we hear today tells of three theophanies and hints at two others.

On the mountain Peter, James, and John witness the first three theophanies: Jesus the transfigured One, Jesus the “beloved Son,” Jesus the “Son of Man.” As the transfigured One, Jesus reveals what is yet to come. As the “beloved Son,” the Father reveals an intimate, divine relationship. As the “Son of Man,” Jesus reveals that He is the new Israel, the Messiah Who would bring salvation. All three of these theophanies, these revelations of Who Jesus is, point to something entirely new happening. But to embrace the new has its cost.

Coming “down from the mountain,” Peter, James, and John would witness Jesus passing through death to the full

revelation of what had been foreshadowed in His transfiguration: the theophany of His risen, glorified Body. This is a whole new Presence of the divine in our midst, a risen One Who would never again face death. Finally, when Peter, James, and John choose dying to self, they are transfigured by Jesus' risen Life. They too become theophanies. So can we. But like Jesus and the apostles before us, our being transfigured by Jesus' risen Life has its costs as well. We can become a theophany of God only when we embrace Jesus' dying to self, His self-giving life of compassion, love, and mercy. We can become a theophany of God only when we surrender ourselves to the mystery of salvation, identify with Jesus, and live the Gospel He proclaimed as faithful members of His Body. We can be a theophany of God because we are the Body of Christ, the risen One.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Coming down from the high mountain of transfiguration, of theophany, the apostles questioned “what rising from the dead meant.” Our whole Christian life is living this question. In the risen Christ, we are a theophany of God's desire for an intimate relationship with us. This relationship has its cost: we must learn to die to self so we can share in Jesus' transfigured glory.

When we make it a habit to key into the dying and rising of the paschal mystery, we begin to see its rhythm everywhere. In today's gospel the rhythm of dying and rising plays out between transfigured glory in the first part of the gospel and the allusion to Jesus' dying in the last part (“rising from the dead”). In our daily lives the paschal mystery might

play out between work and leisure, between times with loved ones and times away, between success and failure, between doing something we would enjoy and doing something someone else would enjoy more. Our faithful dying to self is the way to share in Jesus' risen Life. Faithful dying to self is a way we are theophanies of God's Presence.

What will you take away with you from this morning's scriptures and liturgy?

- What impedes my ability to look for God is...What impedes my ability to see God is...When I see God, I...
- Dying to self means...requires...leads to...
- I am a theophany when I...Others who have been a theophany for me are...

About Liturgy: Lenten Sundays

There are many reminders during the Lenten Sunday Liturgies that we are observing a penitential season. The readings at the Sunday Liturgies bring to mind Lenten motifs and spur us on to fidelity in penance. Our Lenten Liturgies are less celebrative than even the Liturgies during Ordinary Time; for example, there is no "Gloria," no "Alleluia," and less exuberant instrumentation. The penitential Royal Purple of the vestments and other appointments keep reminding us that we are in a penitential season, as well as does the simplicity of the environment and the lack of flowers.

This being said, the Sundays during Lent are not Lenten days at all. At a time when the symbolism of forty was heightened, the beginning of Lent was pushed back to the Wednesday before the First Sunday of Lent so there would

be forty fasting days (hence, the period of Lent is actually longer than forty days). The Sundays of Lent are still days on which we celebrate the Lord's resurrection. Especially on this Second Sunday of Lent when we hear about the transfiguration of Jesus are we reminded that dying always leads to rising to new Life. In our very liturgical celebrations we see the paschal mystery rhythm. Lent is a time to practice the discipline of dying to self, yet we still have one day a week on which we always celebrate the new Life promised by Jesus' resurrection. What might be ways we can truly celebrate new Life even on Lenten Sundays, without getting out of the spirit of Lent?

Eucharist and Healing Service This Afternoon

Once again, we have invited **Sr. Emma de Guzman, Seer and Healer**, to return to our parish for Eucharist and a Healing Service. It takes place this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. The liturgy will be followed by a reception in the parish hall. The service includes the Laying On Of Hands and Anointing with the Oil of the Sick. The Liturgy will be that of the Second Sunday in Lent and music will be under the direction of **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence**, and our Cantors. All are invited and welcome to join us for this special Lenten Liturgy.

Silver and Gold Visit to the New Funeral Home at Holy Angels/Holy Cross

I will be leading a visit to the new Funeral Home recently opened at Holy Angels/Holy Cross Cemetery here in Antioch. It will take place this coming Wednesday, March 4th, beginning at 10 a.m. You will have an opportunity to

see the new Chapel, the Columbarium Chapels, the Arrangement Offices, and Reception areas. All are invited and welcome to join us. **Deacon David Holland and Director Chris Trotta** will give the tour of the new facility.

First Saturday of the Month Cemetery Liturgy

This coming Saturday, March 7th, I will be presiding and preaching for the Monthly Liturgy at Holy Cross Cemetery, 11:00 a.m. in the Resurrection Chapel. All are invited and welcome to attend.

New Members Brunch

The Pastoral Council is hosting a New Members Brunch next Sunday, March 8th, following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy. The newly-registered parishioners are being formally received at the liturgy and then honored with Brunch in the parish hall. Members of the Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council, and Finance Council will be present to introduce themselves and share with our new families the story of our parish as well as inviting their participation in ministry. Letters of Invitation from the Pastoral Council have been mailed out. Please be sure to RSVP so that adequate meals may be prepared.

Deanery Communal Penance

Once again this year, the parishes of our Deanery are offering Communal Penance Liturgies. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 18th,
St. Anne, Byron, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 19th,
St. Ignatius of Antioch, 7:30 p.m.**

Monday, March 23rd,
Holy Rosary, 7:00 p.m.

Chrism Mass

You are invited to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on Thursday, March 26th, at 7:00 p.m. This is the liturgy at which the Oils for the coming year are blessed and consecrated. Representatives from each parish in the Diocese bring the Oil vessels to the cathedral from their respective parishes and then return them when the liturgy is over. This is also the liturgy at which the clergy of the Diocese renew their Priestly Commitment.

Palm Sunday Preparation

You are invited to take part in one of the wonderful traditions of Holy Week here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. On Saturday morning, March 28th, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, we will cut, wash, dry, and bundle the palm branches that will be blessed and distributed at each of our liturgies. This is a great way to meet new parishioners as well as to help in the preparation of our Palm Sunday liturgies. Please bring gloves and scissors.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 29th is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Please note that our schedule for this Sunday as well as Easter is being changed. The times of our liturgies are as follows:
Saturday Vigil - 5:00 p.m., March 28th
Sunday Morning - 8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m.** Parking lot security will be provided by our Knights of Columbus to meet the needs of the greater crowds on both of these days.

Holy Week

There is no week that is more holy to us as Christians than Holy Week. I hope you will make every effort to be with us for most, if not all, of the liturgies that are celebrated. These are our “high holy days.” Our schedule is as follows:

Monday of Holy Week, March 30th
Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31st
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion, 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1st
Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.

The Great Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 2nd
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:30 p.m. (*Procession, Presentation of the Holy Oils, Liturgy of the Word, Washing of Feet, Holy Eucharist, Candlelight Procession to the Altar of Repose, Adoration until 10:00 p.m.*)

Good Friday, April 3rd
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Service, “The Seven Last Words,” 12:00 Noon

The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion and Death, 3:00 p.m.
(*Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion*)

Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m. (*A service of scripture passages, music, and Veneration of the Cross*)

Holy Saturday, April 4th
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

The Great Paschal Vigil, 7:30 p.m.
(*Lighting of the New Fire, Candlelight Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Initiation, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy of the Eucharist; Reception for the Newly-initiated in the parish hall following the liturgy*) This service is not recommended for infants and small children as it lasts approximately three hours.

Easter Day, The Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 5th
Festive Choral Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.
(*Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy of the Eucharist*)

Festive Choral Eucharist, **10:30 a.m.**
(*Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy of the Eucharist; Parish Choir, Cantors, Organ; Please note the change in the time of the liturgy*)

Because there are so many parishioners and guests who have both allergies and asthma, incense will not be used at any of our liturgies.

Parking lot security will be provided by our Knights of Columbus. Please observe their directions and let them know how much you appreciate their presence.

Easter Environment

You are invited to be a part of a wonderful tradition of helping to provide the Easter Environment for the entire 7 week period of the Easter Season. Donations may be made in honor of/in memory of loved ones. Your contributions will be acknowledged in the Easter Season bulletin.