

**For The Bulletin Of
February 21, 2016**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF
LENT**

From Father Robert

Shortsightedness limits potential, cuts off possibilities, diminishes growth. Peter wakes from sleep to behold shining glory. His response is surely quite shortsighted: he wants to pitch tents and stay put on the mountain. He “did not know what he was saying.” We can imagine he was flabbergasted so much at the vision that he blabbered the first thing that came to mind. The gospel doesn’t directly tell us that Peter heard “Moses and Elijah” speak of Jesus’ “exodus.” But maybe he did. Maybe this prompted his blabbering. Maybe Peter chose shortsightedness rather than an unknown, seemingly inglorious future. Only by disciples going through suffering and death to risen Life – can they shatter the limits of potential, open up new possibilities, and embrace flowering growth.

In this telling of the Transfiguration event, Moses and Elijah speak of exodus, of going forth to Jerusalem. By contrast, Peter speaks of pitching tents, of staying on the mountain in the moment of glory. He chooses to stay with the beauty and wonder of the glory he sees, but by doing so he would deny his own share in this same glory. Are we to stay? Or to go? Both! Disciples must stay in Jesus’ Presence and “listen to Him,” and go to their own Jerusalem to pass over from death to new Life.

Stay or go? Both! Our own transfiguration lies in both going and

staying. Only by choosing the longer vision of going to Jerusalem with Jesus can we hope to share in His glory. Only by staying close to Jesus can such a journey end in a share of His glory.

Jesus’ transfiguration – in all its glory – cannot erase the stark reality of the self-giving that traveling to Jerusalem with Him requires. Simply put, glory only comes through embracing the passion. This is the paradox of the paschal mystery: that something as desirable as a share in Jesus’ transfigured glory only comes through our embracing something as demanding as dying to self for the good of others. Even in this glorious moment of transfiguration – which gives us encouragement and hope on our Lenten journey – we are reminded that the only way to remain in that glory is to die to self. We have to come down off the mountain and go our own journey through death to glory.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Luke’s allusions to Jesus’ death in Jerusalem prompt us to consider our being plunged into Jesus’ dying and rising in the baptismal waters. We are invited this Sunday to see our baptism in light of the transfiguration.

Baptism isn’t simply a ritual we perform, but initiates a covenant with God that we live out the rest of our lives. During Lent, as we walk with the Elect through their final preparation for baptism, we, too, prepare to renew our covenant with God at Easter. This means that we not only already share in God’s Life and look forward to that day when we will share eternal glory with God, but we also embrace the suffering and death.

Let's face it: constant dying to self gets tiresome. This Sunday we are given a glimpse of glory to help ease away the discouragement of a lifetime of self-emptying. This tells us something about how we might keep Sundays. If each Sunday is a day of rest, a time to be good to ourselves, to do something special that is uplifting, to enter into a moment of glory, we would be better fortified to continue dying to self. Sunday is a weekly opportunity for us to enter into the glory of transfiguration.

As we begin this Second Week of Lent, what changes have you made in your life? How you implemented the three-fold discipline of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving? Has Lent made any difference this year?

- I am most attentive to listening to Jesus when...What helps me stay with Him is...
- My own Jerusalem where I pass over from death to new Life is...
- I experience a share in Jesus' transfigured glory when...

Deanery Communal Penance Liturgies
Beginning Wednesday, March 2nd, the Deanery will offer a series of Communal Penance Liturgies in preparation for Easter. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 2, St. Anthony, Oakley, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 7, Good Shepherd, Pittsburg, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 10, St. Peter Martyr of Verona, Pittsburg, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 14, Holy Rosary, Antioch, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15, St. Anne, Byron, 7:00 p.m.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Antioch, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 21, Our Lady Queen of the World, Bay Point, 7:00 p.m.

Chrism Mass

The annual celebration for the Blessing of the Holy Oils, The Chrism Mass, will take place on Wednesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m., at The Cathedral. This liturgy is open to all members of the Diocese of Oakland. During this liturgy, the Oils of the Sick and Catechumens are blessed and the Oil of Sacred Chrism is consecrated. Representatives from each of the 84 parishes bring their vessels to be filled with the newly blessed and consecrated oils and then returned to their respective parishes for the celebration of the Easter Sacraments. The Blessed Oils are presented to each community during the Gathering Rite on Holy Thursday.

Our Lenten Fish Fry

Our Knights of Columbus have started another spectacular year of Lenten Fish Frys. Last Friday's event was filled to overflowing, so much so, that additional tables and chairs had to be set up on the patio to accommodate all who came. You will not want to miss this wonderful tradition with parishioners and friends from all over East County. The meal is delicious, plentiful, and the Bingo entertaining. What better way to spend a Friday evening in Lent? Come and join the fun!

Deanery Planning Process

The next Deanery Planning Process meeting will take place on Thursday, March 3, at St. Peter Martyr of Verona School, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. A summary of the evening's deliberations will be given in the Insert of March 6th.

New Members Brunch

A New Members Brunch will take place on Sunday, March 6th, following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy. All those families who have registered in the parish since last September are being invited to be present and to be introduced to the members of the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, and the Finance Council. Additionally, they are given the history of the parish, and introduced to its current goals and objectives, as well as its ministries, programs, and outreaches. The members of the Pastoral Council prepare the brunch and facilitate the gracious welcome given to our newest members.

Palm Sunday Preparation

We invite you to join us in preparing for Palm Sunday by coming to the parish hall and kitchen on Friday morning, March 18th, at 9:00 a.m. to cut, wash, dry, and bundle the more than 2000 palm fronds that will be blessed and distributed to all those who come to our Palm Sunday Liturgies. Please bring your own scissors and gloves.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday Vigil, March 19, **5:00 p.m.** **(Please note the time change as we return to Daylight Savings Time).** *The Blessing and Distribution of Palms, Liturgy of the Word, Reading of the Passion, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.*

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Sunday, March 20, 8 and **10:30 a.m.**
Blessing and Distribution of Palms, Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Reading of the Passion, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Monday of Holy Week, March 21
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 22
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 23
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday of Holy Week, March 24
8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – *Procession, Presentation of the Holy Oils, Liturgy of the Word, Washing of Feet, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Adoration until 10:30 p.m.*

Good Friday, March 25
8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayer
12:00 Noon Ecumenical Service
3:00 p.m. Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death – *Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion*
7:30 p.m. Tenebrae – Scripture passages of the Passion and Death of the Lord, Veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday, March 26
8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter – *Lighting of the New Fire, Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, Eucharist*

Easter Day, March 27
8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m.**
*Procession, Liturgy of the Word,
Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Liturgy
of the Eucharist.*

The Easter Environment

You are invited to be a part of a wonderful tradition by contributing to the Easter Environment. Your support makes possible the trees, lilies, blooming plants, fabric panels at the Icons, and other special environmental pieces that proclaim "Easter!" for the entire seven weeks of the season. Your gifts may be made either in honor of or in loving memory of family members, loved ones, and friends. Please be sure to mark your donation envelope accordingly. The Easter Season environment presents the greatest challenge to the members of the Environment Committee as they must sustain the environment for such a long period of time. Thank you for what you will do to help our environment proclaim the new Life of Easter.

Night Walk Against Violence

On Friday evening, February 12th, we joined the most recent Night Walk Against Violence. There were more than 200 participants who joined the event from various denominations. The Bishop presided at a brief ecumenical prayer service before we began the walk and witness. On behalf of all of us, I want to thank the members of our parish who participated: **Carolyn Krantz, Peter Degl'Innocenti, Oscar Jovel, Lee Oliver, Will Avitabile and Catherine Vidaurri, Bobby Zabroski, and our adopted seminarian, Mario Rizzo.**

St. Joseph's Festival Dinner

Following all the liturgies this weekend, the tickets for our upcoming St. Joseph's

Festival Dinner will be sold in the Gathering Plaza. This year, the dinner actually falls on a Saturday, March 19th. This is always a SOLD OUT event! In order to get a seat, it will be important to get your tickets as soon as possible. The evening begins with wonderful Italian appetizers, followed by a Mixed Green Salad, followed by Pasta and garlic bread. Desserts come from the magnificent St. Joseph's Table. A raffle and both silent and live auction, along with entertainment, round out the evening. I hope you will join us.

The Bishop's Appeal

At each liturgy last weekend, we passed out brochures that detail the scope of this year's Bishop's Appeal. Please be sure to see the bulletin for detailed information. This weekend is Commitment Weekend. We have asked for a one-time donation of \$60 from each registered household in order to meet our goal. If everyone contributes at that level, we will not only meet our goal, but also exceed it! Thank you for your participation and generosity.

Thank You To This Week's Volunteers

...to those who cleaned the church and parish hall: **Carole Miller, Steve Rojek, Angela Bueno, Jun Bajet, Rose Salamanca, and Mency Osborne.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Steve Rojek, Gino Ramos, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections. Because of confidentiality, we do not disclose the names of the counting team members, but rest assured we are thankful for all that they do.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin collating team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla, Delcia Aparicio and Belen Farin.**

...to our facilities volunteers who assisted Rich Confetti: **Don Benson and Jose Palomino** (aka: RDJ).

The Rite of Election

Last Sunday afternoon, our RCIA Team accompanied our two candidates for reception and initiation into the church. Our congratulations to **Tina Costanza and Xochi Perez** who were "elected" for the Rite of Reception, Confirmation, and First Eucharist and the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) respectively. The Book of the Elect, signed by The Bishop, has been placed next to the Tabernacle for the remainder of Lent as a reminder for all of us to pray for our sisters as they continue the journey through Lent to the Easter Sacraments. Also, special thanks to **Pablo Villegas** who did the beautiful calligraphy in the Book of the Elect.

Annual Report for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Holy Rosary Conference

(Submitted by Bob Liles)

The Society wishes to convey its sincere appreciation to the generosity of the parishioners of **Most Holy Rosary and St. Ignatius of Antioch** for allowing it to continue its good works. About 1150

bags of food were given out as well as almost 300 turkeys and a grocery gift card at Christmas and 150 food baskets donated by the parishioners at **St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Peter Martyr School** with turkeys at Thanksgiving. The Society spent \$25,000 buying food. The number of people coming to our food pantry dropped by 17% from the previous year, which we hope is an indication that the economy is getting better. With fewer people using the food pantry the Society stepped up its home visits and averaged more than one a week. Using our own funds and by partnering with other organizations we were able to give \$25,000 to families for rent, furniture and utilities. We bought beds for people that were sleeping on the floor. We helped someone move into an apartment when they were living on a friend's front porch. We paid the PG&E bill for a disabled lady whose husband walked out on her. We always try to give a hand up and not a hand out. Which is why we are happy that about 75% of the people that come to our food pantry do so less than four times in a year. We are there when they hit a bump in the road and need a little help to get back on their feet. We also responded to almost 400 phone calls asking for help. If you would like to join us in visiting the poor and helping them then please call 757-0941.

And please remember that while the Society serves the poor its main mission is to lead men and women to grow spiritually. They do that by helping the poor and seeing Christ in the poor and having the poor see Christ in them.

