

**For The Bulletin Of
February 25, 2018**



**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF
LENT**

From Father Robert

Mountains have always been a place for us to seek the transcendent. Mountains were considered the realm of the gods from antiquity. We recall the ancient Greeks and Mount Olympus, the home of Zeus. In the Old Testament we know of Mount Sinai and Moses' encounter with God there. In today's gospel we hear of another encounter with the divine on a mountain, the place of the transcendent. This encounter takes place not in front of the crowds, the disciples, or even of the Twelve. This encounter is special; it is unique. For this special event, Jesus takes Peter and the sons of Zebedee.

The language of this encounter is steeped in symbolism, beginning with the mountain itself, but including the white garments, the cloud, the voice from heaven, and the figures alongside Jesus. The garments Jesus wears are turned "dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them." Modern

ears may wonder about the word "fuller," which is not commonly used today. The word comes from Latin, via the Old English, and refers to one who cleans cloth, especially wool. In any case, Jesus' garments were made *really* white. The symbolism should be clear: Jesus is pure.

Moses and Elijah, appearing alongside Jesus, represent the Law and the Prophets. Jesus fulfills both; His ministry is in continuity with Moses and Elijah. He is not doing anything contrary to either. Rather than rest in the moment, and simply take in the wonderment of it all, Peter breaks into the scene with an idea to make three tents, which would be places of worship, commemorating this event. His response is so often typical of our own. He wants to preserve the occasion, mark it in some way. But no sooner had he voiced this proposal than God Himself, the voice from heaven, speaks in a way reminiscent of Jesus' baptism. At Jesus' baptism the voice from heaven was heard by Jesus alone: "You are my beloved Son; with You I am well-pleased." (Mark 1:11) Now the three disciples, not present at Jesus' baptism, hear the voice too. And with that, the episode ends. The three disciples are left alone with Jesus to come down from the mountain, struggling to understand what this experience and Jesus' own admonition meant.

When considering the symbolism associated with this mountaintop experience, we can relate it to our own lives when we have an experience of the transcendent.

Living The Paschal Mystery

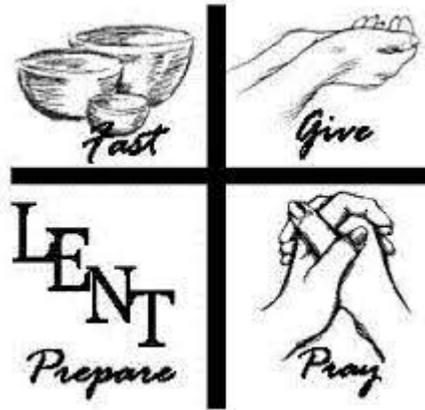
Mountaintop experiences are rare, and we cannot stay there, as much as we would like. The Scriptures give us a glimpse into that reality. Without warning Jesus was transfigured. The encounter with the divine often happens that way, without warning. And it seems that as soon as we have the encounter, it is over and we are left to descend the mountain. We can share Peter's desire to commemorate the event. It seems natural to erect a monument or some marker so that we may return to this place of encounter again and again. But that is not to be. The three are left wondering what the experience means, and what Jesus' saying about rising from the dead might mean. Of course, this experience and Jesus' saying will become clear in hindsight, after the crucifixion and exaltation.

And this is a model for us of how the paschal mystery is lived. We have peak experiences followed by moments of wonder and discernment. The Christian life is not one grand, never-ending peak experience. In fact, such experiences may be rare, even as they were for the disciples. And the Christian life is not all wonder and discernment, as meaning develops gradually and in light of unfolding events. We stay faithful Jesus and accompany Him in the peak experiences, and also in the struggle to discern meaning.

Today begins the Second Week of Lent and our journey to Easter. How are you doing with "imitating Jesus, giving no offense, and giving God the Glory in all things?"

- In what ways can the "divinity" that exists within us make a difference to others?

- When are we confronted by both the Christ of the transfiguration and the Christ of the crucifixion?
- What has been the hardest thing that God has asked of you – and how was your trust rewarded?
- What have you learned from your own experiences of suffering, anguish, and pain that had a profound and lasting effect on your life?



The Elect

Last Sunday during our 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, we celebrated The Rite of Sending for our catechumens who were "elected/chosen" for the Easter Sacraments at the Cathedral by The Bishop. The Book of the Elect now stands next to the tabernacle for the remainder of Lent, reminding us to keep them in prayer as they prepare to die and rise with Jesus through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Congratulations to: **Charles Frank, Adam Haas, Lisa Lombardo, Jean Rogers, Carolyn Van Gilder, Haley Garrett, Dezire Jackson, Jose Moreno, Jesus Moreno, James White and Dominic Anea.**



The Bishop's Appeal

I would like to thank all those who participated in last weekend's Bishop's Appeal Commitment Weekend. We have reached 49% of our goal with \$17,041.00 in gifts and pledges from 206 families. Our hope and goal is to have every family in our parish participate as that is what will make us successful in reaching our goal.

If you have not made a gift to this year's appeal, I encourage you to do so today or as soon as possible. Pledge/Gift envelopes continue to be available in the pews and on the credenza at the back of the church. Please fill out your commitment and place it either in the collection basket, dropping it by the parish office, or mailing it into the parish office. Thank you for all you are doing to help make this Appeal a success.



Our Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring their signature Lenten Friday Fish Fry. Both dining in as well as "drive through" are available. If you dine in, there is Bingo as well as beer and wine offered along with dessert. This is one of the great events of our parish and I hope you will support our

Knights. The menu consists of the most delicious deep fried battered Cod, crispy French fries, and tangy Cole Slaw. You can't beat the price! And the fellowship is priceless! Bring your family and friends and enjoy a wonderful Lenten Friday evening. The time is 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent, except for Good Friday.



Our Lenten Communal Penance Service will be celebrated on Thursday, March 22nd, at 7:30 p.m. Fr. Vincent Scott, Retired Pastor Emeritus of Church of the Assumption, San Leandro, will be with me to share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which will be celebrated in the context of Sung Evening Prayer. Individual celebration of the sacrament takes place each Saturday from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Reconciliation.

Building Project Update

As you know, last Spring I wrote to the Diocese seeking approval to expand our parish hall and upgrade the kitchen using the Building Fund. The Diocese identified two tasks to be completed before proceeding: (1) demonstrate that the project could be completed for the approximately \$1 million on hand and (2) obtain written consent from the donors to the original capital campaign for this project. Once these tasks are completed, our plans would then be referred to the Bishop and his Consulters for final approval. Since conducting a

feasibility study would incur significant costs, first priority was given to the Donor Approval Process. Without donor approval, there's no need to continue with this project.

On February 13, I sent a status report to Mr. Paul Bongiovanni, Chief Financial Officer of the Oakland Diocese, informing him that sufficient families have given their approval which now allows us to move forward with the Project. Of the 394 families who made contributions to the Building Fund, 307 families have given their consent for the expansion, 86 families have not yet responded (efforts will continue to reach out to these families), and one family requested that their donation be applied to the parking lot debt.

At this time, I'm also pleased to report that the parish will be contacting the architectural firm of Loving and Campos in Walnut Creek to contract for a formal feasibility study for eventual presentation to the Bishop. I will continue to provide updates as we move closer to achieving our long sought goal: more space for our programs and ministries. I'm truly grateful for your continued support and patience. I also want to express my thanks to the volunteers and pastoral staff members who are working hard to bring this project from a dream to a reality.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, March 24: Vigil Liturgy,
4:00 p.m. - *Blessing of Palms,
Procession, Proclamation of the
Passion, Holy Eucharist*

Sunday, March 25: 8:00 a.m. and
10:30 a.m. - *Blessing of Palms,
Procession, Proclamation of the
Passion, Holy Eucharist*

Monday of Holy Week

March 26
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday of Holy Week

March 27
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word and Holy
Communion

Wednesday of Holy Week

March 28
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Holy Thursday

March 29
8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's
Supper - *Presentation of the Holy Oils,
Liturgy of the Word, Washing of Feet,
Holy Eucharist, Procession to the Altar
of Repose, Adoration until 10:00 p.m.*

Good Friday

March 30
8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer
3:00 p.m. Solemn Commemoration of
the Lord's Passion and Death - *Liturgy
of the Word, Veneration of the Cross,
Holy Communion*

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae - *Scriptures of the Passion and Veneration of the Cross*

Holy Saturday

March 31

8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer

7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter - *Lighting of the New Fire, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Initiation, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Liturgy of the Eucharist, followed by a welcome reception in the parish hall for those initiated.*

Easter Day

April 1

8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m.**

Festive Celebrations of Holy Eucharist - *Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Holy Eucharist*



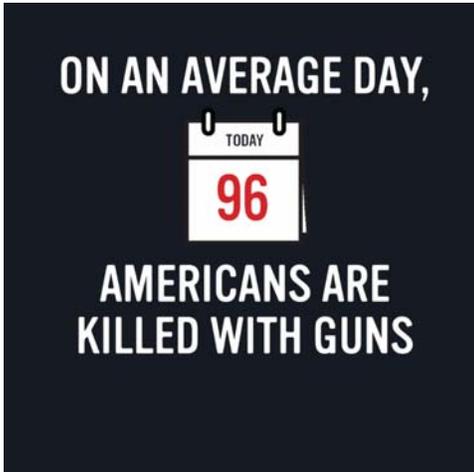
Easter Environment

You are invited to become a part of helping to create our Easter Environment! Each year, the environment is created by the members of our Art & Environment Committee to say “Easter!” for the entire seven weeks of the Easter Season. The panels of cloth, candles, Easter Lilies and blooming plants, and trees all contribute to creating and sustaining the joy and beauty of Easter. Contributions to the Easter Environment may be made either In Honor of someone or In Loving Memory of a family member or friend. Simply use the Easter Flower Envelope

found on the credenza or in your next envelope packet and mark it accordingly with you name, envelope number, and that your contribution is either In Honor of/In Memory of, and the name of the person being remembered. All contributions will be listed in the bulletins of the Easter Season. Thank you for your support and helping create the Easter Garden.



PLEASE DO SOMETHING!



everytownresearch.org

Once more our Nation and the World stands stunned at the tragic and needless loss of life. The latest school killings in Parkland, Florida underscore the lack of political will and the low moral caliber of many

charged with political, civic and governmental leadership. It continues to confound reasonable people that a gun lobby dedicated to nurturing a culture of death and profit can cause otherwise reasonable people to continuously turn their backs on the safety, welfare and lives of our children.

Even if the American Constitution guarantees the right of every responsible citizen to bear arms (which we do not believe), reason and moral decency would hold that the right to live trumps the right to bear arms. The issue of gun violence in the United States is not merely a political issue but a moral and ethical issue requiring that faith leaders speak out clearly and decisively.

The Interfaith Peace Project stands with the parents, students and community of Parkland, Florida as they suffer what no child should endure. Our hearts are broken as our grief cries out for justice.

Lori Alhadeff, mother of slain 14 year old Alyssa, cried out, "Please do something!" Her voice must not go unheard. Her grief must not be dismissed. Her child and all the slain children who have died from governmental inaction and the excessive protection of gun rights must not be forgotten. The Interfaith Peace Project hears Lori's plea and pledges to be a voice for those who have lost their voice.

We demand that politicians, legislatures, civil and governmental leaders take immediate action to restrict military style arms from

entering into the general population. There is no reason why teenagers or anyone for that matter needs to obtain or use an assault weapon.

We call for the passage of gun safety laws so that those who do possess arms may do so responsibly. We challenge the idea that guns need to be part of our culture.

We challenge the idea that times of tragedy ought not to be occasions for making public policy. The continued practice of being patient in times of violence is nothing less than the ploy of the irresponsible gun lobby to hope the shock, outrage, and hurt will dissipate.

We affirm that the right of our children and people to live is more important than the privilege to bear arms. The time has come for a responsible and intelligent reconsideration of exactly what the Second Amendment guarantees.

The time has come to hear the cries and wisdom of the children. Consider the bold words of David Hogg, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. As the shootings and killings continued, David interviewed fellow students seeking their reactions to the horrific events unfolding in their school. When he himself was interviewed by several News outlets, David said what we must hear:

"We're children. You guys are the adults. You need to take some action and play a role. Work together. Come over your politics and get something done. ... We don't need

ideas, we need action. We need action from our elected officials and we need action from the civic public, because without that, this is going to happen again. ... Any action at this point, instead of complete stagnancy and blaming the other side of the political aisle, would be a step in the right direction. And working together to save these children's lives is what this country needs. ... People get used to what's going on and that's not OK. We're habituating to this and what happens when we do that is children are dying and they will continue to die unless we stop it. Stand up and take action."

The Interfaith Peace Project stands with David and looks forward to the leadership he and his generation will bring to the future of the United States and the World.

We only hope that in some way our concern, our brokenness, our hurt, our concern, might bring some consolation to those who lost their children.

Peacefully,

Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.



...to our faithful volunteers who do so much to care for our parish and its needs: to those who come early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Carole Miller, Rose Salamanca, Emilia Freking, Mency Osborne, Kathy Romeo, Jack Goncalves, Jun Bajet, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Sofie Zimmerman, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Mary Anne Douville** and **Faultless Cleaners** for all the dry cleaning, sewing and miscellaneous other tasks that are completed by her for the parish.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

**Jeannine Ford, Melodye Costanza,
Harlan Young, Yvette Young, 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
assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave
Costanza, Beth Enea, Richard Enea,
Kathy Augusta and Vince Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot
Security who keep watch over our
vehicles during the weekend liturgies:
**Steve Rojek, Don Benson and Bob
Goncalves.**

***From The Campaign for Human
Development***

On behalf of the Oakland Diocesan
Catholic Campaign for Human
Development Local Committee, I would
like to express our gratitude to you for
contributing \$2,136.00. Last year, the
Campaign distributed the contributions
from throughout the Diocese in the form
of 14 grants to organizations in Alameda
and Contra Costa Counties working to
eliminate unjust social structures and
economic barriers. Those 14 grants
totaled \$165,000. From the entire
CCHD Local Committee, we wish you a
truly transformative Lent.

