

**February 21, 2021**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

*Genesis 9: 8-15*

*Psalm 25*

*1 Peter 3: 18-22*

*Mark 1:12-15*

Compassion is the Model for Human Relationship.

A bow in the sky. That is the great sign presented in the Old Testament reading. Presumably, most people have seen a rainbow. If one appears it causes one to pause a moment and look at it. It is pleasant. It is silent. It is calming. The bow is the calm after the storm.

God is compassionate. And as it says in Genesis, he selects the "bow" as a sign of his compassion. After the great storm and flood forever more it will be a sign of God's compassion. It will be a reminder of how God cleansed the Earth of disorder and renewed it with people and other creatures that will populate it and be faithful to him.

Patience is another attribute of God. Saint Peter points this out in his first letter. Peter mentions, "God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark...." God did not start his purging until the instrument of salvation was ready. In this case the instrument of salvation is the ark.

The ark led the people through the cleansing water just as baptism does today. God the Father shows compassion to his son Jesus as Jesus fasted in the desert. The wild beasts and angels ministered to him.

This Lent let us humbly ask God to guide us. God has always shown a pattern of mercy. And, if we remain humble it is possible for us to be taught and led to redemption.

God's compassion is the source of redemption. His compassion is the model for us regarding human relationship. As we are made in God's image it is possible for us to also show compassion to others. This is important for today.

Much healing is needed in the world. Compassion allows for reconciliation. Out of compassion people listen to each other. Responsibility for one's behaviors is shown, and forgiveness heals keeping doors open to each other permitting people to enter into a space and place that agreement may be reached. Even if the agreement is merely to keep dialogue going.

Yes, cleansing may be needed in our time. But recognize it will never again be as it was in the great flood. God himself will not again wipe out humankind. God is going to lead us now to the reconciliation that

is needed. God will achieve this by working his compassion through us. God is our model.

Stewardship

Attendance last week:	229
Tithes Collected:	\$3,187.00
Online Giving:	\$539.00
Total:	\$3,726.00
Thank you!	

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**Gen22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Rom8:31b-34; Mk9:2-10**

**Lenten Discipline**

During this time of holy discipline we refrain from eating meat other than fish on Friday (unless you are sickly). This is known as abstinence. On Good Friday we abstain and fast. As a fast we eat only enough food for the day that amounts to one full meal.

Also, each person selects a personal discipline. Often one thinks of "giving up" something. That is OK. However, it is perhaps more fruitful to DO something constructive that may even be continued after Lent.

May I suggest you select a specific time each day to pray for men and women to respond to God's call. That is, pray people will answer the call to become priests, deacons and religious sisters or brothers.

These simple disciplines help us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. We join him in this way to care for all the rest of creation.

**LITURGY FOR FEBRUARY 21 , 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT-B**

- **SONG # 1: IN THESE DAYS OF LENTEN JOURNEY (R. Manalo)**

**IN THESE DAYS OF LENTEN JOURNEY WE HAVE SEEN AND WE HAVE HEARD THE CALL TO SOW JUSTICE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WE SERVE**

1. We reach out to those who are homeless, to those who live without warmth. In the coolness of evening we'll shelter their dreams; we will clothe them in mercy and peace.
2. We open our eyes to the hungry and see the faces of Christ. As we nourish all people who hunger for food, may their faith in our God be renewed.
3. We open our ears to the weary and hear the cry of the poor. To the voices that echo the song of despair, we will show our compassion and care.

4. We call on the Spirit of Justice and pray for righteousness' sakes. We will sing for the freedom of all the oppressed; we will loosen the bonds of distress.

- **PSALM 147: YOUR WAYS, O LORD, ARE LOVE AND TRUTH TO THOSE THAT KEEP YOUR COVENANT (Pérez-Cuan)**

**SONG # 2: GOD OF MERCY (Manalo/Hurd)**

**GOD OF MERCY, HOLY MYSTERY, EVER FAITHFUL ONE, YOU HAVE PITCHED YOUR TENT AMONG US, RECONCILING LOVE. HEART AND MIND OF CHRIST, LIVE WITHIN OUR LIVES, FORM US INTO PEOPLE OF MERCY AND GRACE.**

1. You have called us each by name in your great compassion, encompassing our failings with mercy. God of mercy, lead us.
2. Slow to anger, rich in love, you bestow forgiveness. May we, in turn, forgive those who harm us.
3. In our midst as one who serves, breaking down divisions, to all in need you send us as neighbor.

- **SONG # 3: CHANGE OUR HEARTS (R. Cooney)**

**CHANGE OUR HEARTS THIS TIME, YOUR WORD SAYS IT CAN BE. CHANGE OUR MINDS THIS TIME, YOUR LIFE COULD MAKE US FREE. WE ARE THE PEOPLE YOUR CALL SET APART, LORD, THIS TIME CHANGE OUR HEARTS.**

1. Brought by your hand to the edge of our dreams, one foot in paradise, one in the waste; drawn by your promises, still we are lured by the shadows and the chains we leave behind, but...
2. Now as we watch you stretch out your hands, offering abundances, fullness of joy. Your milk and honey seem distant, unreal, when we have bread and water in our hands, but...
3. Show us the way that leads to your side, over the mountains and sands of the soul. Be for us manna, water from stone, light which says we never walk alone, And...

- **SONG # 4: BEYOND THE DAYS (R. Manalo)**

**BEYOND THE DAYS OF HOPE AND MYSTERY WE SEE A LIGHT OF FAITH RENEWED, AND IN OUR LONGING WE THRIST FOR GUIDANCE TO WALK WITH YOU DAY BY DAY, TO WALK WITH YOU DAY BY DAY.**

1. Forty days and nights, you guide the steps of our journey. May your presence be felt in the whisper of your voice.
2. Not on bread alone we are to walk on this journey. Speak the words that give life to the yearning of our hearts.
3. In your hands, O God, we feel the touch of your guidance. Keep us safe in your care: may your gentleness be there.
4. On your Lenten path we see the dawn of a new day. Be our vision of hope; be the promise of our lives.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Kyle Brincat, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Cindy Hogman, Kara, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, John LaNeve, Rey Lizcano, Judith Kolo, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Betsy McMahan, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 20

- 4:00 p.m. Edward & Mary Ellen Batcho by Batcho Family  
† Jean Ingraham by Marsha Marino

Sunday, February 21

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish  
10:45 a.m. † Leonard Conforti by Linda Signorilli  
† Candida Martin by Rosalie Ponte

Monday, February 22

- 8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, February 23

- 8:00 a.m. † Tina Bishara by Family

Wednesday, February 24

- 8:00 a.m. † Bernard & Eileen Flood by Flood Family

Thursday, February 25

- 8:00 a.m. Barb Clowe by Parish

Friday, February 26

- 8:00 a.m. † Andrew Murphy by Doris Emmett

Saturday, February 27

- 4:00 p.m. † Morris Wiener by wife Maria  
† Jean Ingraham by Linda & Peggy

Sunday, February 28

- 9:00 a.m. † Lenny Conforti by Frank Malatasta  
10:45 a.m. For Vocations by Parish