

**MARCH 5, 2023**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Genesis 12: 1-4a*

*Psalm 33*

*2 Timothy 1: 8b-10*

*Matthew 17: 1-9*

"Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you."

We continue our Lenten journey. We let the psalm be our guide. This week the refrain of psalm 33 (seen above) forms another plea to God, as it did last week, but it advances us to action we must take in the spiritual and moral journey to salvation. We, even if timidly, place our trust in Him.

We stand with Abraham (first reading) who is called forth by God in our own surrender to God. That is the meaning of placing trust in Him, surrendering to God. We believe in the trustworthiness of the Lord. The kindness of God fills all of creation. The Lord who is our help and shield is our only source of hope. The best thing we can do in faith is wait for the Lord with a listening heart.

Often, in my forty years of priesthood and the years of formation before ordination, I have had to put my trust in God. Time and again preaching the Word of God, in word and deed, I have met adversity. In the times that I have been challenged I have been wise enough to spend time in prayer. In prayer I have simply surrendered myself to God. I have often repeated the *Jesus Prayer*, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner."

This centering prayer permits me to focus my thoughts. It permits me to make God the center of whatever is challenging me at the moment. It settles me. I begin to relax and recall teachings of God that come to us through Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium. Tranquility usually follows and the challenge is no longer overwhelming. The challenge can be something that comes from forces outside of me. Or, the challenge may come from within me from temptations that my own desires raise. Yet, putting my trust in God by the simple act of centering prayer on the Lord permits me to advance through the challenging episode. It is a mercy filled moment.

It will take some courage on our part to put trust in God at challenging moments. Doing so is somewhat like entering the unknown. Seek wise counsel from Catholic Christians who are experienced in prayer and practice of the faith. Read the scriptures and consult Church teaching. All this will help you discern God's direction for you. Then follow that direction. With that you will experience the Lord's mercy. When the next challenge comes you will find it easier to put your trust in God.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

*Ex17:3-7;Rom5:1-2,5-8;Jn4:5-42*

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Time, Talent, Tithing**

**It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.**

**Attendance last week:**

**Tithes Collected:** \$

**Online Giving:** \$

**Total:** \$

**Per Capita:** \$

**Thank You!**

**This week's second collection is for the Church in Latin America.**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Begins Next Saturday Night!!!**

**Turn your clock AHEAD by one hour.**

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Operation Utility Bag**

You folks are so good! Many of you have taken home a "Utility Bag" to save up change for the St. Vincent de Paul Society work. Thanks. Keep up the good work. Visitors, you may leave a donation in the S.V.D.P. Box.

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Sacraments and the Eucharist**

**Part Two**

**Next Saturday**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM**

**SPIRITUALITY**

**Stations of the Cross**

Every Thursday Evening During Lent

7:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

6:30 to 6:55pm

This is a unique Scriptural Way of the Cross. Children like it because they are able to follow around the church with Father or the Deacon.

**Marriage Preparation**

The Church, in great love for its people, takes great steps to prepare couples for marriage.

Matrimony is one of the seven sacraments. It is a relationship that places the Lord God in the center of the relationship. Matrimony is two people helping one another through life to God. Also and equally, it is the

relationship in which Christians bring children into the world for the glory of God.

Wanting to protect people from harm but more so to help all to have a meaningful fulfilling life together, we the Church help couples prepare for this awesome vocation.

This formation process needs at least six to nine months to come to fulfillment. If there were previous marriages involved the process will take longer.

The formation involves establishing the freedom for a sacramental marriage. Also, it involves assessment and guidance in preparing for living the marital relationship takes place. Instruction in the faith as adults with regard to Matrimony occurs. And a weekend retreat with other couples preparing for marriage also takes place.

Formation for Matrimony is an involved matter. It is what people do in the months prior to making their vows before God and His Church. It is an exciting time of discovery that leads to a deep and wholesome lifelong union.

When you are ready to begin the process contact the rectory office to make an initial appointment with the pastor. DO NOT enter any contracts for a wedding reception, dresses, etc. A date that you want will not be guaranteed at the point of initial contact. That comes after several preliminary steps into the formation process.

This parish looks forward to walking the path to Matrimony with any of its members who believe they are called to this vocation. (If you know of friends or family members who are thinking of Matrimony you may apprise them of this information.)

The Sacraments and the Eucharist  
Session #2  
Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**Entering Canaan**  
Day of Prayer and Healing for Men  
Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Do you or someone you know suffer from an abortion experience?  
Come back to God who is Love & Mercy  
Contact:  
Archdiocese of Miami/Respect Life Ministry  
Project Rachel phone: 954-981-2984  
ProjectRachel@theadom.org

Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, 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, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Jackson 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, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 4

4:00 p.m. † De Wagne Jack Meloy & Rachel Rosier by Barbara Clowe  
† Mary & Louis Michel by Anthony & Rose Michel

Sunday, March 5

9:00 a.m. † Marie Louise Gohory by Catherine & Donald Dunn  
10:45 a.m. † Fernando Armenti by Angiolia Armenti  
† Victims of the Turkey & Syrian Earthquakes by Blessed Sacrament Parish

Monday, March 6

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, March 7

8:00 a.m. † Alice Hill by Gary & Peggy Schronen

Wednesday, March 8

8:00 a.m. Past & Present Members & Benefactors of St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thursday, March 9

8:00 a.m. †

Friday, March 10

8:00 a.m. † Helman Duque by Selma Cardona

Saturday, March 11

4:00 p.m. † Julius Delisio by Friends  
† Gerald Meara & Regina Barone by Rose & Anthony

Sunday, March 12

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish  
10:45 a.m. † Azucena Mosquera by Alprecht Family

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker,