

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE!
2nd Sunday of Lent

[Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18](#)

[Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-19](#)

[Romans 8:31-34](#)

[Mark 9:2-10](#)

The gospel this week recounts the Transfiguration, a manifestation of God's glory through and to Jesus. This dramatic revelation serves in Mark's gospel as confirmation that the Father is with Jesus as he begins his journey to Jerusalem.

Like Isaac before him, Jesus is grappling with his impending demise, and he must reconcile the hostility that threatens him with the Father's assurance that he is God's beloved. This timely revelation will serve to buoy him as the distress of the Passion mounts.

The ordeal confronting both Isaac and Jesus is not one that has been engineered by God as a twisted test of fidelity. Nevertheless, it *is* a test, a test that emerges whenever a good and faithful person confronts evil.

We know how the Jesus story ends. We know that God does not allow sin to destroy him. We know that God raises his mortal body to everlasting glory. This knowledge should give us confidence, even in difficult circumstances, of our own ultimate vindication.

Jesus, however, does not have this advantage. He has no option but to trust the Father. He has to believe. For Mark, it is precisely Jesus' trust and fidelity which prove him to be the Christ. As we struggle to be faithful, especially in the face of hardship, Jesus' fidelity and trust are our example.

When this trust is lacking, we need only recall the Resurrection and its precursor, the Transfiguration. They are proof that God does not abandon those whom he loves. They are proof that nothing can separate us from the fullness of life that God has prepared for us.

Stephen J. Sauer, S.J.

Pastor

St. Joseph's Altar & Mass

The parish St. Joseph altar will be erected on **March 12** at the side altar of St. Joseph and St. Ann and will remain in place until the feast of St. Joseph on **March 19**. Parishioners are invited to place petitions and special tokens of remembrance (pictures, letters, mementos, etc.) at the altar throughout the week. The Church will be open weekdays and Saturday 6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 6:30 a.m. - Noon. On **March 19, following the Noon Mass**, the altar will be blessed and lunch will be served in Lenex Hall.

Marriage Encounter Retreat

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic experience and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle. The next weekend retreat, to be held **March 13-15**, will take place at the Slidell Holiday Inn. For further information, please call 1-888-469-3735 or visit www.wvme-nogl.com.

7th Annual Good Shepherd School Golf Tournament

Monday, March 16, Stonebridge Golf Club of New Orleans in Gretna will host this annual tournament. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a tee time of 10:00 a.m. Please plan to attend a great day of golf with food from New Orleans' finest restaurants, a fabulous auction and a post-tournament cocktail party. For more information or to register, please call David Nusloch at (504) 598-9399. The Good Shepherd School provides an excellent, tuition-free education in a safe and loving environment to at-risk children in grades K-7th who come from families living in poverty.

Married Couples Retreat

Spend quality time enriching your marriage at the Willwoods Married Couples Retreat at St. Joseph Abbey Christian Life Center **March 21 - 22**. Suggested donation is \$185. For more information, please contact Jason Angelette (504) 830-3716 or visit www.willwoods.org.

MASS FOR THE SICK

Archbishop Hughes will be celebrating a special liturgy for the sick at 11a.m. on Sunday, **March 15** at St. Louis Cathedral. As usual, parking is available in the school yard at 820 Dauphine Street.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration

March 27 is the deadline for registering to participate in the Archdiocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration, which will take place at St. Philip Neri Church on Sunday, **June 28, 2009**. To register, please contact the parish office.

Experience Scripture

The Archdiocesan Spirituality Center is offering a week of directed prayer from Sunday, March 22 to Saturday, March 28. The experience involves 30 minutes of daily personal prayer and a daily 45 minute spiritual direction session. Flyers are available at the back of the church.

Sunday, March 8 Second Collection

The Second Collection this week will be for efforts to revitalize the Church in the former Soviet bloc nations of Central and Eastern Europe. *Please be generous.*

PRESIDER SCHEDULE**Saturday, March 7**

4:00 p.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.

Sunday, March 8

8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.

9:30 a.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.

11:00 a.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

7:30 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J.

Saturday, March 14

4:00 p.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.

Sunday, March 15

8:00 a.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

9:30 a.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.

11:00 a.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.

7:30 p.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

WEDDING BANNs**March 7, 2009**Melissa Montz & Daniel Donahoe
Nina Singh & Kristen Radcliff**March 14, 2009**Hilary Martin & Chadwick Walters
Johanna Piper & Joshua Black**March 20, 2009**

Karina Loya & Adam McCrossen

March 21, 2009

Catherine Porteus & Ryan Martiny

March 28, 2009

Michelle Lynch & Daniel Wedge, III

PRAYER LIST

Anne Accardo
 Lourdes Armbruster
 Sea Barry
 Musette Mary Buckley
 Ed Burks
 Kelsey Favrot
 Rosealie Foster
 Gina Gauthreaux
 Maggie Hebert
 Juliann Kiefer
 Tara Stoulig Monistere
 Beverly Morris
 Karen Oxmann
 Darlene Peters
 Desmond Peters
 Marie Pizzuto
 Lauren Read
 Wescoat Sandlin
 Steve Schmedtje
 Betty Smith
 Jim Taylor
 Allison Webb
 Justin Webb
 Whitney Welsh
 Keri White
 Gerald A. Wilson

Weekly Collections

February 22, 2009:

\$4,305.00

March 1, 2009:

\$9,429.00

MASS INTENTIONS**Saturday, March 7**4:00 p.m. Sandra Bourg, Kirk Paul Melancon,
Gwen Cooney Melancon, Mehmet
and Nedime Rende & Family,
Recuperation of Thomas Schafer**Sunday, March 8**8:00 a.m. Tommy Leroy Dickerson
7:30 p.m. Deceased members of Sigma Alpha
Kappa Fraternity, Charles Wall,
Lucille Yenni**Tuesday, March 10**7:30 a.m. Fernando M. Davila, Jr.
Noon Frederick Burkart, E.J. Caruso**Wednesday, March 11**7:30 a.m. Cyril Geary
Noon Frederick Burkart, Mehmet and Nedime
Rende & Family**Thursday, March 12**7:30 a.m. Edward DeVerges
Noon Frederick Burkart, Jane Drennan**Friday, March 13**7:30 a.m. Gwendolyn Jones
Noon Sandra Bourg**Saturday, March 14**4:00 p.m. Madeline DiGerolamo, Ruth Fuller,
Robert Salvador Gilbert, Robert
Jennings, Calvin Vonderhaar**Sunday, March 15**8:00 a.m. Morel Miller Elmer, Jr.
7:30 p.m. Sandra Bourg, Deceased members of
Sigma Alpha Kappa Fraternity,
Georgianna Stockel, Rende Family,
Lucille Yenni