



## Transfigurations in a Mutilated World

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

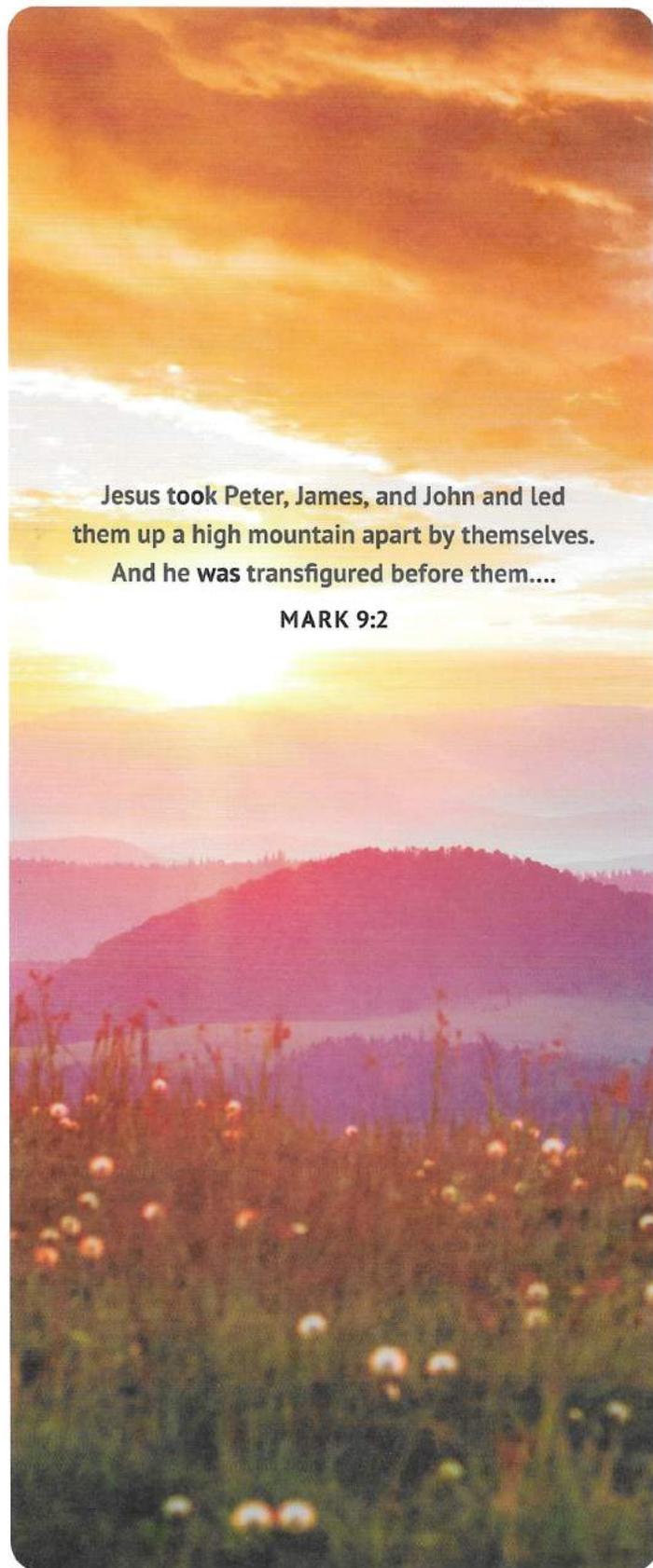
I've never met anyone who thought today's story in Genesis of Abraham and Isaac to be a good story. Abhorred, they ask, "Why would God test someone by asking him to sacrifice his son?" But what if we change the question and ask, "Why would the Hebrew people include that story in their most holy writings? Why would they tell it over and over?" Because of the ending—that's why. Like a movie we watch over and over even though we know how it ends, we watch it, in part, because the ending is satisfying.

The ending of the Abraham/Isaac story shows God is not interested in death and human sacrifice, contrary to the gods of that time. The God of the Hebrews is a God of Life—that's the surprise ending they love, and they keep telling it over and over lest they forget. For them, the part about the testing is simply a means to that unbelievable ending when God insists upon life, contrary to false gods.

In his poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," Adam Zagajewski writes of life's Godly moments in a world we have mutilated by violence, greed, division, and more. He muses on tender moments when we fall in love, on laughter until our sides hurt, on nature's dazzle, on the sweet taste of wine—all simple moments of a life-giving God transfigured in a mutilated world, for our God insists upon life. ●

### Reflect

*Remember and give thanks for the moments  
of this past week that made you smile.*



Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them....

MARK 9:2

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

FEBRUARY 24 & 25, 2024

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

**Saturday, February 24- 6:00 PM**

✠ Fr. James Murphy by Fred Butler & Deborah Garton

**Sunday, February 25- 9:00 AM**

✠ Rina Grandinetti by Vittoria Lijoi

**Tuesday, February 27- Noon**

✠ Charles & Opal Garton by Fred Butler and Deborah Garton

**Wednesday, February 28- 9:00 AM**

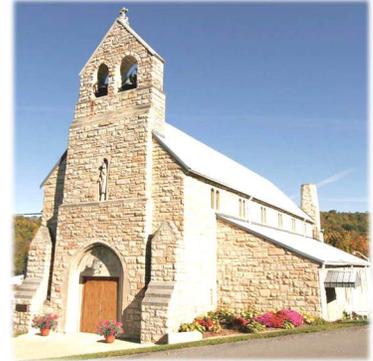
✠ NO MASS ~Fr. Out Of Town

**Saturday, March 2- 6:00 PM**

✠ Fr. Donal O'Donovan by Fred Butler & Deborah Garton

**Sunday, March 3- 9:00 AM**

✠ Deceased Members of Sacred Heart



**Office Hours:** 304-327-5623

Monday- Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

**Food Pantry Hours:**

Wednesday 10:00am -2:00 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 26:** Knights of Columbus Meeting 7 pm

**March 1:** First Friday Mass 6 pm, followed by Stations

**March 2-3:** 2nd Collection Diocesan Priest Retirement

**March 5:** Communal Reconciliation in Princeton at 6pm

**March 6:** Communal Reconciliation in Bluefield at 6pm

**March 10:** Daylight Savings Time begins

**March 11:** 6-7pm Lenten Reflection in the Church

**March 21:** PPC Meeting 6pm

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE

**Fridays at 6:00 pm**

**March 1** ~ Centering Prayer Group (After First Friday Mass)

**March 8** ~ Crusaders Youth

## CHURCH STAFF

**PASTOR:** Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, Assoc. V.E., V.F.  
sdevasya@dwc.org

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:** Julia Harrison, M.A.A.T.  
julia@sacredheartblfd.org

**YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** Wendi Aiello  
w.aiello@yahoo.com 304-320-2150

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Lucy Brinegar  
lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org

**PARISH BOOKKEEPER:** Kim Hickman  
Khickman@sacredheartblfd.org

**NEWMAN CENTER:** Paul Krause  
pkrause@dwc.org 216-402-1450

*To our non-Catholic friends, we extend a warm invitation to for you to come forward and receive a Blessing when our Catholic brothers and sisters come forward to receive Holy Communion.*

*Please come up to the Priest or Eucharistic Minister with your hands folded across your chest, so we will know that you wish to receive a Blessing. We are grateful for your presence.*

# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear beloved Sacred Heart family,

This week, we celebrate the second Sunday of Lent. I encourage you to stay strong in your Lenten observances! Last week, we focused on the spiritual practice of prayer. This week, we will add the spiritual practice of fasting, which is a powerful way to deepen our spiritual connection with God.

First, what is God saying to us in this week's readings? We hear Abraham's faith is tested by his willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac. This reading invites us to reflect on our faith and willingness to trust God's plan for our lives. The second reading is a reminder that God's love for us is so great that He did not spare His own Son. I invite you to spend time contemplating God's love for you and offer Him an expression of your gratitude for this immeasurable gift. In the Gospel, we hear the story of the Transfiguration, where Jesus reveals His divine nature to His apostles. This reading summons us to meditate on the glory of God. It also challenges us to listen to Jesus' words and follow His example daily. If we ponder these readings, we understand how the longing for trust, faith, and love strikes a chord deep within us. Our hearts do not rest until they rest in God.

Secondly, let us examine the spiritual practice of fasting. It reminds us of our dependence on God for sustenance and we are better able to focus on our spiritual needs. Fasting can also help us to detach from our material desires and to focus on our spiritual well-being. In addition to deepening our spiritual connection, fasting can help us to practice self-discipline and self-control. **Spiritually**, we can fast from negative thoughts or emotions, such as anger or jealousy, and instead focus on positive virtues like love and compassion. We can also fast from distractions, such as social media or entertainment, and instead spend more time praying and reflecting. When we fast, we learn to resist temptation and overcome our physical desires. **Physically**, we can fast food to discipline our bodies and focus our minds on God. This can take different forms, from abstaining from meat on Fridays to longer fasts on certain days or during certain seasons. However, it is essential to remember that fasting should never harm our health or well-being. Fasting can also be a way to show solidarity with those who experience hunger and poverty. By experiencing hunger ourselves, we can gain a greater empathy and understanding for those who suffer from food insecurity. Fasting can also inspire us to take action to help those in need.

Lastly, I assure you of my humble prayers and hope we all draw closer to God through prayer and fasting this Lenten season. May we consider the spiritual beauty of fasting lies in its ability to help us deepen our connection with God, practice self-discipline and self-control, and empathize with those who suffer from hunger and poverty. As we observe Lent, we incorporate fasting into our spiritual practice and experience its benefits. It helps us to cultivate a temperament of humility and gratitude.

## Let us pray:

Dear loving Father,

As we fast from food and distractions, may we be filled with your love and grace.

May your Spirit transform our hearts and draw closer to you each day.

Please help us cultivate a spirit of humility and gratitude,  
and may our fasting be a source of spiritual growth and transformation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayerfully,

*Father Sebastian*

## Faith Formation Spring of 2024

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will refresh you.” Matthew 11:28*



**The schedule through March 2024:**

- February 25 ~Regular Sessions
- March 3, 10, 17 ~ Regular Sessions
- March 24, 31 ~ No Faith Formation in Observation of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday
- April 7, 14, 21, 28 ~ Regular Sessions
- May 5 ~ Last Sunday of Faith Formation
- May 19 ~ First Communion Sunday

### RCIA



*The next RCIA meeting will be Wednesday, February 28th at 5:00 pm in the school. To learn more, please contact Barbara Musolin at 304-922-1934 or Julia at the parish office.*

### EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

#### Eucharistic Revival Reflection

Topic This Weekend is...

#### COMMUNION



### CRUSADERS YOUTH MINISTRY



**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

- March 8** - Leading Stations of the Cross
- March 17** ~ Youth Sunday

### HANDBELL CHOIR

**PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

Sunday, Feb. 25 at 4:00 pm



### March BIRTHDAYS

Sawyer	Black	1
Gail	Buzzo	1
Eugene	Fanning	1
James	Owrey	2
Brian	Sluss	2
Lisa	Neal	4
David	Kelley	5
Joshua	Conner	8
John	Coppola	8
Emilee	Husband	8
Sandy	Romeo	9
Margaret	Harless	12
Sandra Gail	Bays	13
Parker	Black	13
Thomas	Keim	13
George	Bowling	14
Mary	Clark	14
D.J.	Javier	16
Adam	Umberger	18
Josephine	Bowman	21
Frank	Sluss	21
Toni	Albert	22
Alexander	Rose	23
Deborah	Shumate	23
Charles	Steckline	23
Larry	Wood	25
Kylie	Oakes	26
Darla	Olson	26
Jessica	Havens	28
Laura	Zande -Taylor	28
Lilian	Brady	29
Bob	Buzzo	30
Joshua	Long	30

**Anniversaries** Jeep & Wilma East  
March 26

*Lenten Reflection*  
*Facilitated by Daniel Maul*  
*Director of Evangelization & Catechesis*  
*For the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*  
*Monday, March 11*  
*6:00pm – 7:00pm*



*Join us to deepen our spiritual lives with the topic:*  
*Fighting Sin and Trusting the Lord:*  
*Our Path to Holiness*  
*Everyone welcome!*





## The Diocese requests the honor of your presence!

### The Synod on Synodality Continues

Towards October 2024

The Interim Stage

For a Synodal Church: Community, Participation, Mission

After three years of the Universal Church's journey of Synodality, we *still* must ask ourselves...

**Do we yet know how to be a synodal Church in mission?**

We must identify the paths to follow and the tools to adopt  
to empower all of **the baptized** to contribute to the Church's one...

### **MISSION: To Proclaim the Risen Lord and His Gospel to the World Today**

Let us remember what Pope Francis has taught, regarding this Synod:

**“The important thing is *how* the reflection is done, that is, in a synodal way.”**

### **Diocesan-Wide Listening Sessions**

The Bishops are asking us to hold more listening sessions – at the Diocesan level – to deepen our reflection. Therefore, we will be conducting six (6) listening sessions, one in each vicariate, starting at 6:30 PM. They are:

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: St. John XXIII P.C., Charleston

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>: St. Leo, Inwood

Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg

Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>: St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg

Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: St. Michael, Wheeling

### **The Nature of This Year's Sessions**

More than just *listening* sessions, these gatherings are to be **“Conversations in the Spirit”** to **discern** the Will of God for our Church, by listening both to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit, within, and the contributions of one another.

### **Two Guiding Questions**

The Bishops have provided us with two (2) guiding questions that we are going to discern responses to, together.

1. Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s)/ organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?
2. How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

### **Preparing Yourself for These Sessions**

We need to prayerfully and spiritually prepare for these sessions, by personally reflecting upon synodality.

We ask that you read and reflect upon some Scripture, in preparation for the listening session:

**John 14, Romans 12, and Isaiah 61.**

Entrust yourself to the Father, converse with the Lord Jesus, & listen to the Holy Spirit, about these questions.

# CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL



## YOU ARE INVITED!

To all those who donated to CSA this past year you are invited to celebrate with Bishop Mark Brennan for reaching our goal and he would like share the impact your gift has made on the shared ministries and outreach efforts of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The DWC's next location to celebrate is:



March 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm  
 St. Michael Angelus Center  
 Wheeling, WV



## COMMITMENT WEEKEND!

### MARCH 2-3

Since 2007, the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) has helped deliver essential shared ministries throughout West Virginia. Thanks to the generosity of those who have supported the CSA over the years, we've been able to ensure the support needed to enliven our parishes, support our Catholic schools, and expand outreach efforts is there when we need it most.

March 2-3 is Commitment Weekend – a time where we, as a Catholic community, can come together and support our shared ministries through the CSA. I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us this year with a sacrificial gift. You can do so securely online, by mailing in the pledge card you will receive from Bishop Brennan this coming weekend, or by dropping the same pledge card in the collection basket on March 2-3.

Together, we will provide neighbors in need the light and love of Christ each and every day through our shared ministries.

## COLLECTION



	weekend Feb 16-17	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	4,235.00	37,219.00	34,250.00
Maintenance	410.00	745.00	800.00
Loose Offertory	635.00	3,750.00	3,125.00
Easter Flowers	85.00	285.00	0.00
Holy Day Collections, Ash Wed	1,415.00	1,650.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 6,780.00</b>	<b>\$43,649.00</b>	<b>\$39,175.00</b>
Votive Candles	50.00	134.00	0.00
Food Pantry	1,005.00	5,538.00	0.00
Attendance:	6pm: 56	9am: 92	

**February Ministry Schedule**

Mass Date & Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
2/24 Sat. 6 pm	T. Lowery	M. Zalduondo	David Kelley	V. Hager	1.T. Hager 2.T. Behrmann 3.L. Mariotti	The Pascasio's	The Aiello's
2/25 Sun 9 am	Mary Malamisura	T. Lampert	R. Aiello A. Zinsmeister	A. Torrez TBA	1.W. Aiello 2.G. Aiello 3.T. Lampert	R. Albert	

**March Ministry Schedule**

Mass Date Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
3/2 Sat. 6 pm	J. McCloud	D. Garton	A. Peretti	T. Berhmann	1.J. McCloud 2.D. Garton 3.F. Moran	J. Monaco	The Albert's
			E. Peretti				
3/3 Sun. 9am	M. Malamisura	L. Ajulo	C. Tran	T. Bales	1.C. Havens 2.K.Kirk 3.S. Copolo	B. Buzzo	
			A. Froy	A. Rebuck			
3/9 Sat. 6 pm	P. Peretti	V. Hager	D. Kelley	M. Zalduondo	1.P. Peretti 2.L. Mariotti 3.. T. Hager	The Pascasio's	D. Duritza R. Malamisura
3/10 Sun 9am	The Winfree's	B. Musolin	H. Wills	R. Albert	1.K. Kidd 2.T. Lampert 3.A. Robinson	R. Malamisura	
			K. Wills	A. Torrez			
3/16 Sat. 6pm	Theresa Lowery	T. Lowery	A. Peretti	D. Garton	1.T. Behrmann 2.F. Moran 3.J. McCloud	J. Monaco	D. Shumate M. McCoy
			E. Peretti				
3/17 Sun. 9am Youth Sunday	T. Lampert	Youth TBA	Youth TBA	Youth TBA	1.M. Romeo 2.S. Romeo 3.C. Havens	S. Copolo	
3/23 Sat. 6pm	Purita Buenafe	M. Zalduondo	D. Kelley	M. Zalduondo	1.L. Mariotti 2.T. Hager 3.V. Hager	The Pascasio's	W. Aiello G. Aiello
3/24 Sun. 9am Palm Sunday	The Winfree's	A. Torrez	R. Aiello	T. Lampert	1.W. Aiello 2.G. Aiello 3.C. Stacy	R. Albert	
			A. Zinsmeister	R. Ciccolini			

**Attention Parishioners**

We are updating our **prayer list**, and if there are any names that you would like to **KEEP** on the prayer list, please call the parish office at 304-327-5623 or you may email Lucy at [lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org](mailto:lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org)  
**We will refresh the prayer list starting on March 3, 2024.**

*Sacred Heart Bluefield Prayer List*

**Parishioners:** George Aiello Sr, Peggy Austin, John Babbitt, Mary Jo Babbitt, Stephanie Blevins, George Bowling, Richard Canterbury, Loretta Carrigan, Ron Ciccolini, Tony Colobro, Donella Crigger, Victoria Crofcheck, Teresa Derenge, Benny Disibbio, Alex and Joanne Ercoline, Bryson Fanning, Angie Genovesi, Katie & Ron Goodwin, James (Tom) Hager, Susan Kerr, Daniel Kirk, Claire Lampert, Tracy Lyon, Harold Mabardy, Sue Mazol, Mary McGonagle, Aalannah McPeak, Feleesha Moran, Shane Neal, Jacob Nester, Patricia Nester, Ernesto Pascasio, Barbara Pickett, Nancy Pochick, Nancy & Dr. Anthony Rasi, Jerry Rasi, Rosalie Rocchetti, Rodney & Jami Rust, Mariam Salaita, Virginia Shumate, Wayne Shumate, Ann Switch, Laura Zande Taylor, Stella Mae Taylor, Joe Thomas, Jason and Clay Thomason, Theresa Thomason, Larry Zande Jr., Patricia & Larry Zande Sr., Kara Zande and Analeigh Dawn, Joan Zingale

**Homebound Parishioners:** Linda Angelelli, Mary Claire Keenan, Dolores Pritchett, Mitzi Romeo, Kathy Richards, Sharon Rothausen,

**Friends & Family:** Betty Akers, Andrew Arczynski, Sandy Arczynski, Jim Archer, Jeffery Arkland, Tim Arnold, Jack Asbury, Jonathon Bays, Ann Beck, Robert Below, Maggie Blankenship, Cara Blankenship, Amanda Bolton, Vanessa Boyer, Teddy Bradshaw, Melissa Carnett, Sandy Cassidy, Michelle Coker, Chuck Comer, Harold Cutlip, Lisa Dalton, Barry Dinger, Kim Duesing, Christina Easton, Mike Farmer, Cathy Feather, Tina Fitzgerald, Phil Gesotti, Larry Gilliam, Mary and Colin Gillespie, Vincent Godfrey, Dr. James Godwin, DDS, Skip Harless, Becky Harris, Owen Hime, Claire Holt, Alpha Jean Holly, Shannon Honaker, Madilyn Humphreys, Josh Husband, Trish Johnson, Cyndi Jones, Joseph Justin, Sherry Khatib, Sandy Kegley, Melonie Koch, Charlotte Kohlmeier, Zoe Kotsko, Eddie Lanter, Dawn Lawless, Stan Lawson, Elaine Lilly, James & Pam Linkous, Susan Lively, John Paul Lovell, Jaysen Marshall, Jacob and Tara Matney, Andy McKoy, Brandon McKoy, Linda Meadows, Chase Miller, Kim & Doug Miller, Scott Morris, Jacob Morton, Helen Mullins, Jane Murphy, Ane Montarroyos, Bobby Neal, Shane Neal, Steven Nelcher, Jonny Phillips, Annette Pike, Barbara Polatz, Thomas Presley Sr., William Ray, Brian Richard, Roy Rogers, Keving Roland, Mayra Rolon, Charles Rose, Barbara Sadler, Rick Saunders, Brittany Scott, Courtney Shade, Devin Shamro, Raymond Shumate, Leanna Smith, Bryan Staten, Adam Stuart, Laurie Stuart, Robert Shade, Ellie Spencer, Teresa Taylor, Jim Thompson, Evelyn Turnbough, Sarah Turner, Cathleen Underwood, Debby VanBlaricom, Jane Walthall, Charlotte Woolwine

**Please pray for those traveling overseas on missions:** Mary Kelly



**Knights of Columbus  
 Annual Seminarian  
 Support Raffle**

Tickets available from any  
 Knights of Columbus member  
**Donation \$5.00**

1st Place - \$1,000  
 2nd Place - \$500  
 3rd Place - 3 \$100 Winners

# Dear Padre,

**What are the guidelines for producing a passion play? My pastor said there are special guidelines to follow. What are they?**

Please read “Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion,” issued in 1988 by the Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of what was then called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (The document is located at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).)

Passion plays should emphasize the saving action of Christ’s death and resurrection without becoming stumbling blocks to understanding the role of the Jewish people in salvation history. The document warns that “‘stock ideas,’ unfortunately, can become vividly alive in passion dramatizations. It is all too easy...to resort to artificial oppositions...to heighten interest or provide sharp contrasts between the characters.” We must avoid portraying the Jewish tradition as “a religion of only justice, fear, and legalism with no appeal to the love of God and neighbor.”

It is simplistic and incorrect to blame Christ’s death on certain historical groups and neglect the complexities of the Gospel portrait and of Christ’s life. Christ freely undertook his passion and death because of the sins of all, so that all might attain salvation. This is the truth that passion plays should strive to communicate most clearly. ●

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org**



## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 26	February 27	February 28	February 29	March 1	March 2	March 3
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent				
Dn 9:4b–10	Is 1:10, 16–20	Jer 18:18–20	Jer 17:5–10	Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a	Mi 7:14–15, 18–20	Ex 20:1–17 or 20:1–3, 7–8, 12–17
Lk 6:36–38	Mt 23:1–12	Mt 20:17–28	Lk 16:19–31	Mt 21:33–43, 45–46	Lk 15:1–3, 11–32	1 Cor 1:22–25 Jn 2:13–25



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: “Listen to Jesus!” The Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. “Listen to Jesus!” Don’t forget.*

ANGELUS, MARCH 16, 2014