

Lent

March 1, 2015 ♦ Second Sunday of Lent (B)

The apostle Paul was absolutely certain the love of God would find us no matter what happened and that if we had any role model and ancestor in faith, it was Abraham.

The stories are familiar. Abraham left his ancestral home to find a land promised him by a God who had only recently revealed himself. Abraham believed a child would come to him and Sarah, though both were old. Finally, he showed he would give everything in obedience to God when he was asked to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac.

This last story is troublesome to us. Would God require human sacrifice?

We can understand this as a story of faith in two ways. The traditional interpretation is that God requires everything from us and wants nothing to come between us and our love of God. God's "test" of Abraham is a test of obedience. Will we give our "all?"

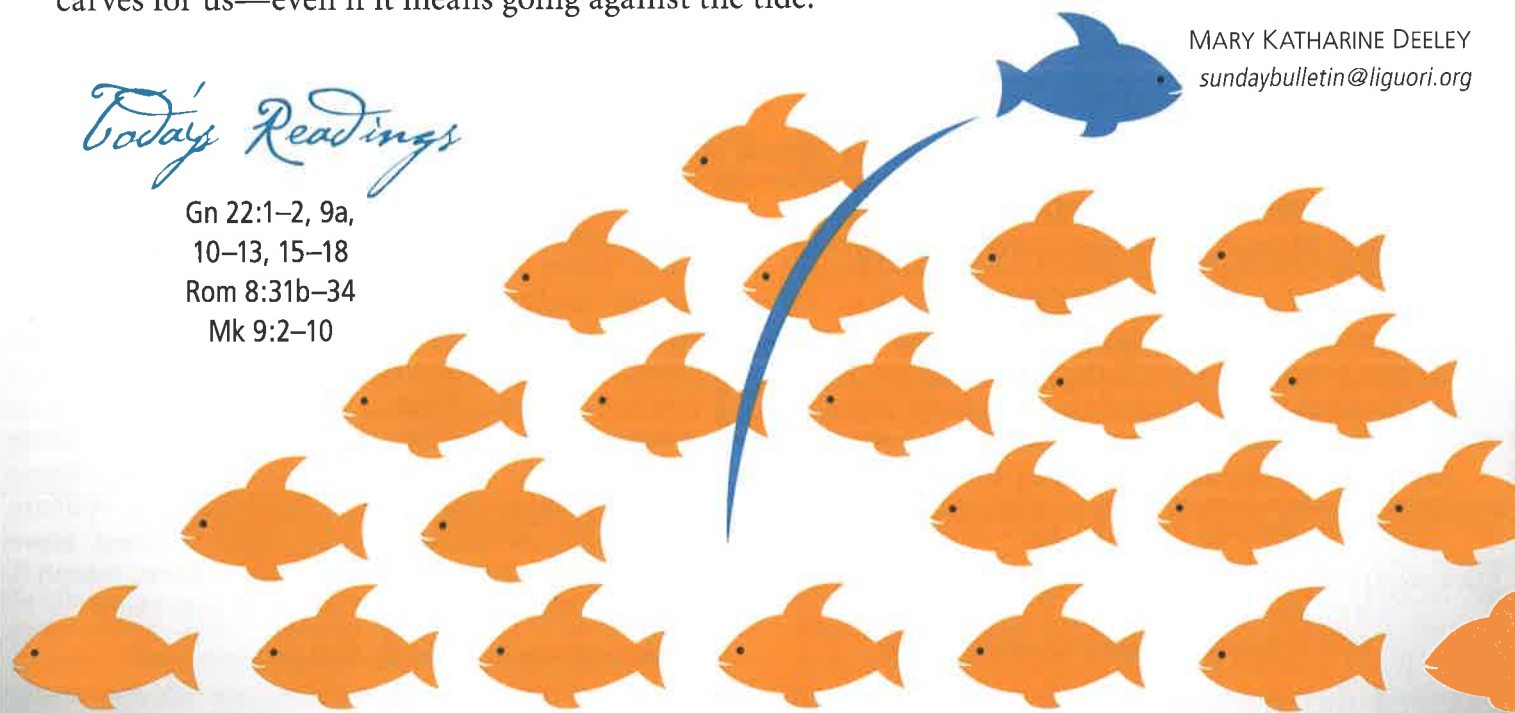
The second way of seeing the story begins with our understanding that many of the surrounding nations practiced child sacrifice. It may not have been a surprise when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, since his neighbors were doing it too. But at the critical moment, when the angel calls out to tell Abraham to stop, he does. The Lord wants a different relationship with his people.

Abraham's faith is shown as much in his obedience to the second order as to the first. God doesn't want us to be just like everyone else. Rather, God wants us as his own people, following the path he carves for us—even if it means going against the tide.

Today's Readings

Gn 22:1–2, 9a,
10–13, 15–18
Rom 8:31b–34
Mk 9:2–10

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 secretary@icbvm.org; ccd@icbvm.org; bulletin@icbvm.org; newsletter@icbvm.org

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann Pastor
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak
 Victim Assistance: Wendy S. Krisak, 1-800-791-9209
 Safe Environment: Sister Meg Cole, 610-332-0442, ext 19
 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndiocese.org

Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
 Parish Preschool610 404-8645
 Parish Fax.....610 404-2609
 Parish Website..... www.icbvm.org
 Immaculate Conception Academy..... 610 404-8645

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 1, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	GEORGE & GREG WHITE	THU	7:00 PM	BOB ELLISON
SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	FRI	7:30 AM	MICHAEL FASTI
	9:00 AM	JENNIE CROSBY		9:00 AM	ICA MASS – BLANCHE SARABOK
	11:00 AM	MARTHA CAPRON	SAT	5:15 PM	JOHN & ALICE HOFFMASTER
MON		No MASS	SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
TUE	7:00 PM	DERWOOD FIELD – 40 TH ANNIVERSARY		9:00 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF GEORGE L. SMITH FAMILY
WED	7:30 AM	ANTHONY VOLPICCINI		11:00 AM	MATTHEW MANEGOLD

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anthony Volpiccini

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Gulla 5:15pm McNamara 7:30am Schwendt 9:00am Grieco 11:00am DeFalco

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Jennifer Stuart	Mary Schwendt	Alex and Madilynn Hocker, Olivia Ruff
SUN	7:30am	Sean Werner	Dennis Piontek	Erin and Sean Hannon, Amy Carvalho
	9:00am	Josephine Hohl	Stephanie Myers	Steven and Marissa Tepper, Gina Galm
	11:00am	Mary Ann Cotter	Barbara Romig	Alyssa Boraten, Elly Smithson, Rachel Barnes

Second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education 2015-2016

Registrations

We welcome everyone to join us if you have a student entering preschool (age 3) through 8th grade. Open House and Academy Tours are available by contacting Shannon Villa at shannon.villa@icaknights.org or 610-404-8645. Please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, social security card and immunization record to registration.

Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/15 and 1st Grade students aged 6 by 10/15/15.

ICA offers a full day Kindergarten

TRANSFER GRANTS: Any public, private or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy, grades 1 through 7, will receive a Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant of \$1,500 over two school years (\$1,000 for the first year; \$500 for the second). Call Shannon at 610-404-8645.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe Cuccaro, Cecelia Potts, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Mary Pender, Jo Ann Hofer, Roger Villano, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Kathy Patrick, William Strock, Sr., Helen McDonald, Lana Wentzel, Steve Mammarella, Stella Powaski, Joann Gilbert, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, John Duffy and Tom Hafer

Please pray for the recently departed: Jean Gatz

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS: Monsignor McCann and Deacon Paul Hiryak visit our hospitalized parishioners regularly. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	03/01	Social Sunday
Mon	03/02	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	03/03	7pm Baptism Class
Fri	03/06	7pm Junior High Youth Group 7pm Stations of the Cross
Sat	03/07	4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, March 2, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Women's Society News...

Easter Candy – The Women's Society is currently taking orders for homemade Peanut Butter and Coconut Candies. Order sheets can be found in the narthex, the bulletin or the Newsletter. The candy is \$5 for ½ pound box and \$10 for a pound box. You may buy all Peanut Butter, all Coconut, or a mixed box. Please place your order with payment as soon as possible, but no later than March 8th. Drop your payment (Payable to The Women's Society) in the collection, at the Parish Office, or mail to ICC, 905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville. Thanks in advance for your orders. As always, 100% of the proceeds of our sale are given to the church.

Community Table Meal – The Women's Society will be sponsoring the meal for the Community Table at the Birdsboro Senior Center on March 10th. This is a wonderful opportunity for almsgiving and community outreach during the season of Lent. Please make sure your dish is in a foil (sterno) pan, already hot (if appropriate) and drop off at the Senior Center by 5pm. Make a meat, vegetable, casserole, dessert or perhaps donate drinks, paper products and utensils. We will serve approximately 150 grateful, hungry people. If you are able, plan on staying to help serve and clean up. Please call Tracey at 484-645-3714 to let her know you will donate a dish/paper products/drinks and for more information about how you can help.

Agape - The Women's Society will gather in the social hall of the church at 6:30pm on March 18th for our "Agape" service. All women of the parish are invited to join in this special evening as we share bread and wine together celebrating the limitless love of God, and our love for each other.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 27th 1pm and Palm Sunday, March 29th at 4pm
Children from Immaculate Conception Academy will present the Living Stations of the Cross. Everyone is cordially invited to participate in the beautiful reenactment of the events of Calvary. Please come pray with us, celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.

Operation Rice Bowl – Fast and pray with your family and make a sacrificial offering to Operation Rice Bowl so as to help those who live with hunger and poverty both at home and abroad. The Rice Bowl is located in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

Building a Culture of Vocations

Holiness is a challenge for all of us, whatever our specific vocations. We are called to be holy in all aspects of our lives. This is an ongoing process, often slowed by setbacks. When the saints were alive, they did not regard themselves as saints; rather, they knew they were sinners – and they strived to be saints. The process of becoming holy is, even for saints, filled with struggle. Know you are a sinner; strive to be a saint.

ICC CYO Spring Sports Registrations - Our CYO program will host several sport activities for grades 6 through 8 this spring. **Baseball** will be available for boys. **The following Sports will be available, based on interest as well as obtaining a Coach-** Please let us know if you have the passion for coaching these sports. **Softball-**(girls)...Need a Coach! **Track and Field**(boys and girls)...Need a Coach! In order to run a program of this magnitude, we need the help of many coaches and volunteers. Visit www.iccyo.com to register your child.

The Annual Lenten Food Drive for the benefit of the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House and Catholic Charities of Reading will begin Ash Wednesday. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. The food drive runs through Palm Sunday. Contact Jim at 610-385-3666.

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AS HE CARRIED THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION. STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK ON FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH AT 7:00PM THERE WILL BE **NO** STATIONS WITH THE CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY DUE TO EARLY DISMISSAL

Reading March for Life - April 26, 2015 - Rally 2pm - March 3pm - Berks Catholic High School - Donations of baby items needed for Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Collection boxes in Berks Catholic Auditorium.

A Recommendation to Enhance Your Lenten Journey of Conversion and Renewal

Pray the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary. Contemplate Jesus' Agony in the Garden, His Scourging at the Pillar, His Crowning with Thorns, His Carrying the Cross and His Death at Calvary.

The National 40 Days for Life Campaign and Prayer Vigil through March 29th. A daily prayer vigil will be held in front of Reading Planned Parenthood, 4th and Franklin Sts, Reading, 7am-4pm, Mondays through Saturdays. Be a 30 minute witness for life. In those 30 minutes, you'll be seen by the occupants of 600-900 cars. Pray to end abortion. For info call 610-375-3395.

Knights of Columbus Big Breakfast - March 1st, 8-11:30, 675 Constitution Ave, Stowe. Eggs to Order, Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Coffee, Toast, Juice. Public is cordially invited.



March 1, 2015

dear Padre

Monday
MARCH 2

Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b-10
Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday
MARCH 3

Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16-20
Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday
MARCH 4

Lenten Weekday
Jer 18:18-20
Mt 20:17-28

Thursday
MARCH 5

Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5-10
Lk 16:19-31

Friday
MARCH 6

Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3-4,
12-13a,
17b-28a
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday
MARCH 7

Lenten Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Lk 15:1-3,
11-32

Sunday
MARCH 8

*Third Sunday
of Lent*
Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3,
7-8, 12-17
1 Cor 1:22-25
Jn 2:13-25

Liguori.org



Why cover the crucifix during Lent?

Q Why do some parishes cover the crucifix during Lent? This seems like an odd time to do this. Shouldn't we be focusing on Christ's death?

Lent is a penitential season, and some parishes choose to have their liturgical environment reflect the austerity and simplicity that exemplify that penitential nature by removing flowers and floral arrangements, covering statues and, in some parishes, even covering the body on the crucifix.

Doing so can enhance our own forty-day experience of journeying in the desert, much as our Lord did at the outset of his ministry when he spent forty days and forty nights in the desert being tempted by Satan.

During the three-day celebration of the Triduum (from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday)—especially during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, when the lights come on as the Gloria is sung—the previously darkened church is revealed in its fully decorated splendor.

The difference is dramatic and striking when compared to the scarcely adorned church we've seen during Lent.

We can most definitely see and sense the change from a season of repentance to one of celebration as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection—and our own salvation and redemption from sin.



FR. SCOTT KATZENBERGER, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



Catholic Update helps you keep up with news and issues that are important to Catholics. To introduce you to this wonderful newsletter, we'd like to send you several free issues on topics such as sharing the faith with your family, forgiving yourself and others, and reasons to go to Mass. To claim your free, no-obligation package, visit Liguori.org/Catholic-Update and click on "Free Catholic Update Offer" before April 30, 2015. God bless you!