

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

*Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.*

*Mark 9:2-3*

## St. John the Evangelist Church 309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503 [www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)



SECOND  
SUNDAY OF

*Year of*  
**ST. JOSEPH**



### PASTORAL STAFF

**Monsignor Michael Becker** - *mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com*

**Deacon Gene Neral** - *gene@lifeinfocus.net*

**Kristina Hoyne** - Parish Council President - *inaugh@aol.com*

**Jena Bowman** - Business Manager - *stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net*

**Deborah Johnson** - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - *dj219@msn.com*

**Diane Ryan** - Administrative Assistant - *stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net*

**Mark Krepich** - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - *mark.krepich@gmail.com*

**Ken Dunmire** - Maintenance

### NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

#### LECTORS

Sat. Mar. 6 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, NOT FILLED

Sun. Mar. 7 - 8:00 AM - Russell O'Reilly, NOT FILLED

Sun. Mar. 7 - 11:00 AM - James Krug, Jim Campbell

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Mar. 6 - 4:00 PM - Keaton Swope, NOT FILLED

Sun. Mar. 7 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley,  
Amber Yasolsky

Sun. Mar. 7 - 11:00 AM - Evie & Estella Koch

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Mar. 6 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker

Sun. Mar. 7 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Mar. 7 - 11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson,  
Bob Olson, Donna Moyer

#### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Mar. 6 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Judy Sneath,  
Billy Sweet, NOT FILLED

Sun. Mar. 7 - 8:00 AM - John Becker, Jane Becker,  
Jane Strasser, Ray Kennedy

Sun. Mar. 7-11:00 AM- Walter Bloom, Lou Ann Clark,  
Dolores Capriotti, Wendy Campbell

#### SACRISTAN

Sat. Mar. 6 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne

Sun. Mar. 7 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Mar. 7 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

#### SCRIP

Sat. Mar. 6 - 4:00 PM- Marge Rudolph, Becky Merilli

Sun. Mar. 7 - 8:00 AM- Amber & Heather Yasolsky

Sun. Mar. 7 - 11:00 AM - Christopher Palazzi

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**FRIDAY EVENING STATIONS** – The Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross, is also known as the Way of Sorrows or the *Via Crucis*. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. We pray the stations to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. Stations are scheduled weekly at 7:00 PM on the Fridays of Lent. Please join us.

**WAY OF THE CROSS FOR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE LEFT THE FAITH** – When a loved one leaves the Catholic Faith, it can be devastating. Often, we feel helpless, unable to do anything to bring them back. Yet there is something we can do. The best way to bring our loved ones back to the Faith is through prayer. In addition to invitations and conversations, we can't forget the power we have to pray for them. What better way to do that than by joining our fears and sufferings with those of Jesus in the Stations of the Cross? In this *Way of the Cross for Loved Ones Who Have Left the Faith*, the fourteen Stations have two emphases: intercession for loved ones and guidance for those still practicing the Faith. We will have copies of this book available in the Gathering Space for only \$10.00. This will be a most fruitful practice for the Lenten Season.

**MAKING THE MOST OF LENT** – Consider now how you might make the most of this important liturgical season. Stations of the Cross, Daily Mass, use of the Rice Bowls, contribution to our monthly food collection, donating to the Lenten Collection for our sister parish in Haiti – all these are valuable ways to celebrate the season of Lent!

**THE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS!** – Throughout the season of Lent, my daily online reflection will consider the dozens of questions which Jesus asks his followers! In the gospels he addresses questions to individuals, to his apostles, and to the crowds. We read the gospels and consider that Jesus is asking each of those questions to you and to me, as individuals!

**BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENING** – All are most welcome to join our evening zoom Bible study. Because of my teaching schedule at St. Vincent's, I have had to move this study to Wednesday evening. We will return to Tuesday in early May. Each week we take a careful look at the reading for the coming Sunday! If you would like to participate, please send us a copy of your email so that you will get the link for the meeting! We would love to have you!

**LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION** – Our parish has been exceptionally generous with our Second Sunday food collection. For the Lenten season, let's make every Sunday a food collection Sunday, given the struggles which many families are facing in light of the pandemic and the economic downturn. Given the upcoming closing of the paper mill in Roaring Spring, we will explore ways that we might expand our reach to the 300 families affected by the expected layoffs.

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD** – We had a very positive response regarding our plans to move ahead with this program of catechesis for our children. We will begin with a focus on children ages 3 to 6. Consulting with us in this endeavor is Gaye Boyer, who for many years has been directing this program at St. Aloysius in Cresson. Gaye will be coming to our Parish Council meeting in March. If you have an interest in learning more as a parent or perhaps a teacher, please contact the parish office. There will be training for the Catechists this summer at St. Thomas More parish in Indiana!

**CONFIRMATION THIS SPRING** – Because of concerns regarding Covid-19, the bishop has instructed pastors to again schedule Confirmation in their own parish. We have set the date for Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. While we might miss the solemnity of having Confirmation in the Cathedral, there is a beautiful simplicity in celebrating in our home parish.

**A VERY GENEROUS BEQUEST!** – The Lord has blessed St. John's recently with a very generous bequest from an anonymous donor. This amazing gift of \$100,000 has been put to very good use, enabling us to pay down some debts and put our parish on a stable footing. Here's a thought! Have you considered remembering your parish in your will? It allows for the continued strength of our parish, and comes with it the assurance of our prayers for you and your loved ones!

**YET ANOTHER "THANK YOU!"** – We are most grateful to the Allegheny Club in Hollidaysburg for their generous contribution to our parish. This organization's generosity is felt not only by our parish, but by a number of Catholic parishes around the area. We pray for their members and for the good work that they do!

## **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

### **Sunday, February 28: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Session:**

Morality 9:15 - 10:45 AM in the Parish Center

### **Sunday, March 7: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Session:**

Witness 9:15-10:45 AM in Parish Center

### **Sunday, March 21: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Rite of Sending and Discipleship Retreat**

**Confirmation Mass- Wednesday, April 14 @ 7:00 PM**

**First Communion Mass - Sunday, April 25 @ 11:00 AM**

If you have any questions about Faith Formation, please contact Diane Ryan in the parish office at 942-5503 or by emailing [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).

### **OPERATION RICE BOWL: BETTER MEALS IN MADAGASCAR**

In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished.

That means 50% of kids won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. What role has food played in your life? How can you help those who lack access to enough nutritious food. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org).

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Abraham's trust in God earned him a reward that was beyond his expectations.

The transfigured Jesus is evidence to everyone who is fully obedient to God's will that all disciples will have everything to gain when they place their trust in God.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

God desires to have this intimate relationship with us too. As we entrust our lives to God, He will fully reveal Himself to us as He did to Saint Joseph, in his dreams. We will be able to see Christ in our lives more clearly as He truly is. Let us strive to journey up the mountain and bring others with us to share and reflect on His profound love. And let us pray for total surrender to His providence of all the gifts that we have been given and must share with others. (Stewardship Reflections, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, January 31, 2021)

### **February 14, 2021**

Envelopes	\$ 5,671.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 430.00
Children's Offering	\$ 3.00
Catholic Education	\$ 1.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 434.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 61.00
Food Bank Collection	\$ 245.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 6,845.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,675.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 8,520.00</b>

#### **Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice**

Payments/Donations \$170,405

Pledge Payment Committed \$14,389

Total Pledges/Donations \$184,794

**2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** are available upon request. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your giving statement.

### **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [gyny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:gyny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

Aiden • Cari Ann • Amy B. • Scott Brenneman  
Dan Burley • Robert Cole • Michelle Cooney  
Jim DeStefano • Michael DeStefano • Bernadine Farrell  
Kathy Felty • Mary Ann Flinn • Leann Frazier  
Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman • Randy Horton  
Alexandra Hudson • Mary Jo Ivory • Amy Langenbacher  
Lisa • Sherri Maffettone • Camden Michael  
Susie Miller • Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore  
Ailani Myers • Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko  
Linda Pletcher • Ron Peschock • Connie R.  
Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker • Vicki Riley  
Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph  
Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter • Tim Temofonte  
Bill Teufel • Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel • Len Whitten  
Milan & Family

### **HOME WITH THE LORD**

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

**Joseph Louis Saad, Sr.** - son of Bonnie Saad Stevens

*May he rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

**CARD MINISTRY:** Anyone is welcome to send a card to someone on our prayer list. Please call Ginny (695-7671) or the office (942-5503) to verify the address. Receiving a card in these winter months would certainly be nice.

**ADDITIONAL VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR LENT:** If you would like to find out where and how integral the Mass is to the Scriptures; Dr. Scott Hahn at the St Paul Center for Biblical Theology is offering a FREE course during Lent called: Parousia: The Bible and the Mass. Type this title into your browser, then click the link to St. Paul Center that comes up. From the Genesis to the Heavenly Liturgy in the Book of Revelation, this course will help you to see the connections and strengthen your faith in the New Covenant which is celebrated daily in the Mass.

Once you have logged on to the site, be sure to bookmark StPaulCenter.com/streaming for easy access to each subsequent lesson.

**RECONCILIATION:** Monsignor Becker will be available for confession each Wednesday at 5:30 PM before the 6:00 Mass and also Saturdays at 3:00 PM before the 4:00 Mass. Individual appointments at another time may also be scheduled by calling the office/rectory – 814-942-5503.

### **March Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

#### ***Sacrament of Reconciliation***

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



**SAMARITAN COMMITTEE REPORT:** St. John's Parish continues to address food disparity in our Community and to feed those in need. We are able to continue our generous contributions to 8 agencies with monetary donations of over \$4000 and weekly we distribute the food items that you bring to church. Thank you to all the volunteers that make that possible. You are true Angels and your generosity and prayers helped so many. This is a testament to our strong faith community within our parish. Looking forward to a blessed year as we continue to practice God's love in our community! *Susanna Tomlinson*

**FOOD DONATIONS:** In an effort to declutter our Gathering Space, we have placed bins for food donations under the coat rack in the hallway that leads to our restrooms. We will keep one bin in the Gathering Space for your convenience, but if it is full, please place your food items in the extra bins under the coat rack.

**FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL:** (Mark 9:2-10) The apostles thought they knew Jesus, but when he changed in front of them at the Transfiguration, they were "afraid." In families we cannot freeze relationships because change and growth are inevitable. Children grow up, parents grow old and spouses change. Transfigurations are all around us and within us. Relationships can only grow when we embrace the new and let go of the old. *Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.*

**TURKEY DINNER:** The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel Annual Men's Turkey Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> as a drive-thru dinner. Simply stay in your vehicle ~ multiple lines for faster service! 11AM-3PM or sold out. Turkey dinner with all of the trimmings- \$12.00

#### **TAKEOUT FISH LUNCH/DINNERS**

*Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament:* Drive-thru fish lunch every Friday, except Good Friday, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM  
Cost: \$9

*St. Therese of the Child Jesus:* Curbside takeout only, phone or curbside orders Fridays 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (or until sold out) – Cost: \$10

*St. Patrick:* Seafood: \*Drive Thru Only\* Meals will be available for purchase in the school parking lot every Friday in Lent, including Good Friday, from 4pm until meals are sold out. The school is located at 731 Patrick Lane, Newry, PA 16665

*Utter Uns Almrausch Schuhplatter's German Dance Group*  
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM or until sold out, February 19th until April 2nd, 2021 at the Utter Uns Club on Van Buren Avenue and 14th Street; You do not have to be a member of the Utter Uns to attend. Dinners will be available for take out; limited seating is available due to Covid-19 limitations. Cost: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10.



Second Sunday of Lent  
February 28, 2021

If God is for us, who can be against us?

— Romans 8:31b

## **Schedule for the Week**

### **Sunday, February 28 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00 AM - Mass for *Ilene & Gene O'Neill* requested by Mike O'Neill  
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

### **Monday, March 1 – Lenten Weekday**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Barbara Prostejovsky* requested by Judy & Jerry Pristas

### **Tuesday, March 2 – Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Grady Weyandt* requested by Linda Weyandt

### **Wednesday, March 3 – Lenten Weekday**

5:30 PM - Confessions  
6:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by Barbara McCormick

### **Thursday, March 4 – Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jude Wargo* requested by Jim & Mona Greco

### **Friday, March 5 – Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *David Petrak* requested by Tom & Nancy Gibney  
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

### **Saturday, March 6 - Vigil of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

3:00 PM - Confessions  
4:00 PM - Mass for *Henri Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi

### **Sunday, March 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi  
11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*  
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23;  
Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21;  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12;  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11;  
1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25



FEBRUARY 28, 2021

*Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.*

*Mark 9:2-3*

## THE BELOVED SON

Today's first reading, known as "the Binding of Isaac," refers to the way Isaac is bound and laid upon the wood of the altar of sacrifice. God directs Abraham to offer his son in sacrifice, killing the beloved son that had been a special gift to him and Sarah in their old age. How could God ask Abraham to do such a thing? Abraham offers no resistance, but in preparing for the sacrifice, Abraham may have agreed with the psalmist that he was "greatly afflicted." Saint Paul's letter to the Romans refers to Jesus as God's beloved Son, which is also how God identifies Jesus to Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration. Afterward, Jesus tells those disciples not to mention the event to anyone until after his resurrection from the dead. The event, together with Jesus' comments, leaves the disciples thoroughly confused.

### HOW COULD GOD ASK ABRAHAM TO DO THAT?

Through the centuries, Christians and Jews alike have found the Binding of Isaac one of the most difficult passages in the Bible. Even though God intervenes to save Isaac, the whole episode strikes some readers as cruel. However, Abraham, the ultimate man of faith, raises no objection, offers no resistance as he simply goes about preparing for the trip and the sacrifice.

Today's other readings might help us see that text differently. In Mark's description of the Transfiguration, Jesus' clothes become white and shining, and Moses and Elijah appear with him. Moses was the great liberator and lawgiver who led the Jews out of bondage in Egypt and into the wilderness, forming them into the people of Israel by giving them the Law he received from God. Elijah was among Israel's greatest prophets, so close to God that, at the end of his life, he was taken up into heaven by a fiery chariot. Together, Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the ultimate authority for the Jews in the conduct of their daily lives.

### LOVE AND GENEROSITY

The Law, the Prophets—and Jesus. For Paul, Jesus is someone quite different from the other two. The reading from his letter to the Romans is short, but rich in meaning. When Paul declares that God "did not spare his own Son," and when God praises Abraham "who did not withhold from me your own beloved son," it is the same Greek word for "spare" and "withhold." God's voice at the Transfiguration identifies Jesus as his "beloved Son"—the same way God refers to Isaac as Abraham's beloved son. Ultimately, God spares Isaac but not his own Son, whom he "handed over for us." Even if we are disturbed that God tested Abraham like this, Paul says we should be overwhelmingly grateful that God did for us what, in the end, he did not require of Abraham. Jesus, God's Son "handed over to us" in love and generosity, is already a sacrificial gift, signifying that God wants to give us "everything else along with him."

### TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18  
Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19  
Romans 8:31b–34  
Mark 9:2–10

SECOND SUNDAY OF

## Please read this letter from Haiti!

Dear Friends of Sts. Peter and Paul,

Hope you are well and it has been a great weekend for you and your loved ones. For my part, thank God I'm fine. My health is gradually improving. I went to see doctor Socrates 2 weeks ago. The majority of the test results turned out well. I really feel better. I am happy and give thanks to God. But I must also tell you that I feel very stressed because of the situation in my parish and my country. Although we are at peace in Marmont but the economic situation of the parish is zero. We have debts that we cannot pay. As you know, we cannot live without the support of our partners when since the beginning of this year we have not yet received any help from them. This is why our economic capacity to operate the pastoral activities of the parish is difficult right now.

As far as Haiti is concerned, this country is on the brink of abyss due to political unrest. Currently the country is on the verge of explosion, the daily life of the people is made up of deaths, murders, impunity, insecurity. In addition to the severe crisis affecting domestic politics, there are economic problems and a dramatically deteriorating security situation. This is the situation Haiti is currently in. Please pray for us.

Thank you for all the effort you make to help us. I ask you to greet Mgr. Michael and all the faithful of his parish. I thank them all for their solidarity and generosity. Also I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a good entry into the Lenten season.

May God bless you all.

Fr. Banive Péralte.



As you can see, things are very bad for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

*You can help by donating to the Lenten Collection for Sts. Peter & Paul in Haiti. Use the special envelope we've printed or drop your donation in the Common Cents jug in the Gathering Space.*



You can also make a donation to Haiti through Online Giving on our website:

[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)

# God's Word for Children

Think about how much God loves us.  
Even God's own Son was not spared for love of us.  
Have someone read this big banner to you.  
Then fold it as directed to make a small one.  
It will tell you something that you should always remember.

**God is  
always ready to  
listen to you!**

(Fold Up ↑)

God's word is full of  
true promises.

(Fold Down ↓)

**for us!**



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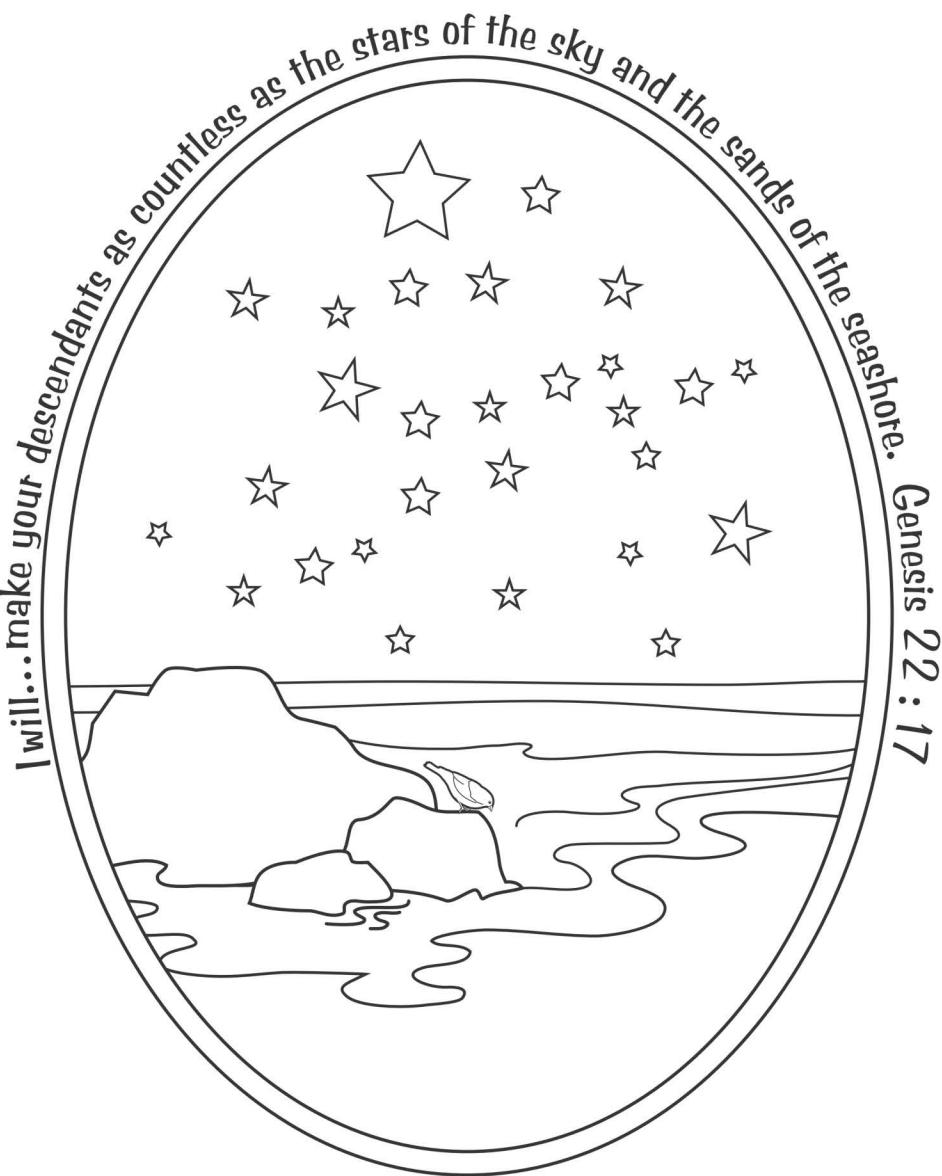
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## Second Sunday of Lent

Abraham obeyed God's commands.  
Because of this God promised to bless him.  
God also promised something to Abraham's family.  
Find out what they would become by underlining the words written  
above numbers between 500 and 1000.  
Then read the underlined words in order.  
If you need help, you can read Genesis 22:17 in your Bible.

as 792	farmers 324	rich 1002	countless 996	happy 476
as 583	the 618	very 441	because 212	stars 999
of 512	the 836	wealthy 138	sky 722	and 843
popular 1506	the 932	smart 300	clever 1052	sands 955
of 652	friendly 93	the 701	seashore 550	not 408



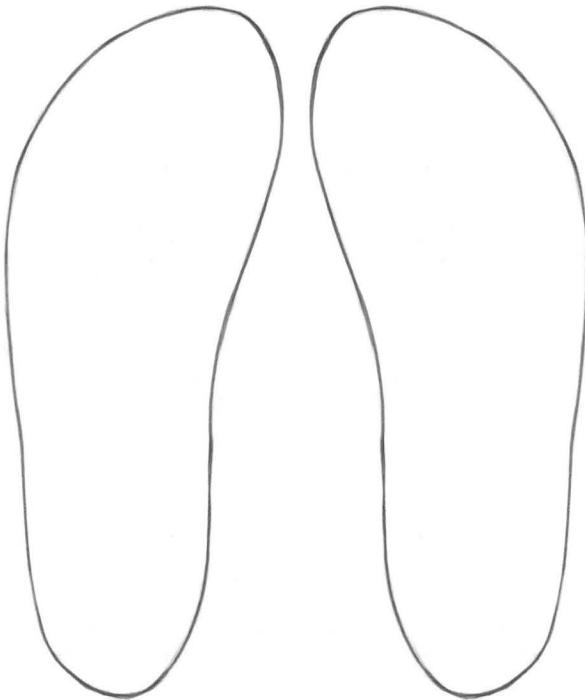
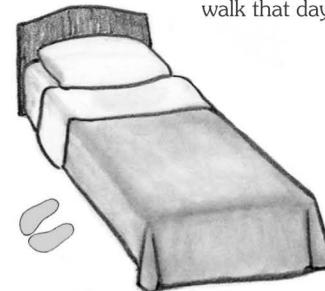
## WALK BEFORE THE LORD

The psalm response for today's Mass is from Psalm 116:9:

*I will walk before the Lord,  
in the land of the living.*

All people of God are filled with God's life. God's life in us never ends! Think of some of the ways that you "walk before the Lord." Imagine that you are walking in Jesus' footsteps, trying to do the things he once did.

In these footprints, write some examples of ways that you will follow Jesus as you try to "walk before the Lord" every day. Invite everyone in your family to trace their footprint on a piece of paper, cut it out, and write how they try to follow Jesus. You can trace your own footprint, too. Have each person place the footprint next to his or her bed. Then, when you get up in the morning you will be reminded of how God calls you to walk that day.



*If you sing the psalm at Mass today,  
listen carefully to the melody of the response.  
Try to remember it and sing it during the week.*

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