

From the Pastor's Desk

The Second Sunday of Lent

Lenten Journey, 2018

Lenten Regulations: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. That means anyone from their 14th birthday until age 59, in good health can have one full meal and two lighter meals, and nothing in between meals, and must also abstain from eating meat. Lenten Fridays are days of abstinence, when we do not eat meat.



In today's Gospel on this Second Sunday of lent we hear: Gospel

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,

"Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents:

one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. "He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice,

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him. "Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone

but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain,

he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant. MARK 9:2-10

We hear Peter, who is so excited about this experience or encounter that he, John and James are having, exclaim that he wanted to stay at that moment. But Peter is looking at the experience itself and it is fantastic, it is beyond words. Naturally he does not want it to end. The point is, however, that Jesus had to suffer and die – his mission had to be completed. The disciples did not want to hear that. Then we hear the words of God the Father at the end of this Gospel:

"This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Sometimes like the apostles, we might have some difficulty in understanding what God may be asking us to do. There is always pain in any gain. In my own life let me give one example: To become a priest, one has to dedicate oneself to years of study and prayer. Choices have to be made. I think in our contemporary society often it is difficult as we have many options. Sometimes we get overwhelmed in those wonderful experiences of the gift of our life, but yet we know that God is leading us through these experiences to something good...something worthwhile, In a very real way he is inviting us. As I have been preaching about lately based on the Holy Scriptures...our God is a God of invitation, not expectation. So, back to my story: I had thought about the priesthood as a boy, but life took its course... having studied in the seminary at a young age, then family responsibilities and other opportunities- choices are made, and lived. We are each responsible for the lives we choose. But I do believe there are moments of grace in each of our lives when God reminds us that we are invited to cooperate with the invitation (we could also talk about ourselves co-operating with the grace that He offers us.) Isn't this what Lent is about? - Helping us to focus on responding to the invitation that Jesus offers us- Lent allows us to respond to Christ's invitation - the means are our Lenten tasks and the end becomes our Easter goal! Take heart! God invites You and You can Respond!

Around the parish:

- Stations of the Cross Friday's in Lent -March 23
- Pre-Cana at St. Rosalie's March
- Special Needs Mass March 17—3 p.m.

Faith Food and Fun- Dinner Discussion Series, Winter 2018

Our next evening in this series will be Wednesday, February 28. Father Maddaloni will be leading us in our Discussion Series that evening. It will take place at **La Cucina Family Style Ristorante and Pizzeria**, 674 Montauk Highway, East Quogue, NY at 5:30 p.m. To reserve a place, please call Linda at 631-728-9461.

*A Blessed Lent as we journey together!
Father Ed*