



*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**See beyond the surface**

Peter gets the Transfiguration wrong, as he does so many things at first. Upon seeing a glimpse of Jesus' glory, his impulse is to mark the spot, to memorialize it with a shrine. We can understand that, though today we take digital photos and videos, vainly trying to capture a place, a person, or a moment that can never be held—except in the heart. In Lent we remember that our faith is not only a matter of medals, holy cards, a rosary hung from the car's rearview mirror or worn as a necklace. These do not sum up our faith any more than children are their photographs. Tokens remind us of someone or something important; at their best, they move us to an act of love. Those in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process are not supported only by browsing through photos in our parish directory but by seeing faith in action: on the street, at work, in the homes of believers.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36*

*"Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us."*

**MONDAY, MARCH 1** LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Tell it like it is**

The biggest saints were often some of the biggest sinners. The difference between them and us may be that they sought liberation through confessing their wrongdoing. Holding onto sin means letting it hold onto us, or as Saint Alphonsus Liguori said, "After we have offended God, the devil labors to keep the mouth closed." The sixth-century monk John Climacus was even more picturesque about it: "Eggs warmed in dung hatch out. Unconfessed evil thoughts hatch evil actions." Don't let the spirit of jealousy, resentment, or dishonesty hatch out! Run, don't walk, to the sacrament that liberates!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38*

*"Ab, Lord, great and awesome God . . . we have sinned and done wrong."*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2** LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Understanding God**

Although the Pledge of Allegiance has been around since 1892, the words "under God" were not officially added by Congress until 1954. While some have criticized the move as breaching the church-state divide, the notion that we are all under a Supreme Being in fact encourages the egalitarian spirit the United States is known for. The idea that no one is above God reinforces the American belief that no one is above the law either. The sense that we are a people living under God can help us see each other as brothers and sisters and motivate us to work for greater equality and justice for all.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12*

*"You have one teacher, and you are all students."*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3** FEAST OF KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN

**The best of both worlds**

Katherine Drexel (1858-1955) went beyond herself in many ways. Beyond her economic class—she gave away millions of dollars of her inheritance to charities. Beyond her race—she founded a religious order of women to help African Americans and Native Americans. When she was 77, however, her life of

service changed to one of quiet and prayer after she suffered a heart attack. Katherine's story shows the importance of both prayer and service, contemplation and action. Find that balance in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28*

*"Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant."*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4** LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Be a good steward of yourself**

In the season of Lent, tradition calls on Christians to fast. Fasting has a long history, going all the way back to biblical times. Jesus fasted in the wilderness before embarking on his ministry. As a spiritual discipline fasting points to a period of preparation—in Lent, preparation to celebrate the Easter mysteries. It reminds you to clear away distractions and look more closely at yourself and where things come from and where they go. Think of all the "resources" in your life: time, money, food, possessions, even love. Are you using them well? Now's the time to find out.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31*

*"I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all . . . according to the fruit of their doings."*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5** LENTEN WEEKDAY

**No regrets?**

You may be tempted to believe you have "failed" Lent; you might have relaxed your resolutions or Lenten practices. But you should not think that your Lent is over the instant you stumble. The third- and fourth-century church father Saint John Chrysostom reminds us that our task is rather simple: "Have you sinned? Mourn and annul the sin. How toilsome is this? . . . I am not telling you to cleave the oceans, or to navigate slowly into port from the high seas, or to march, or to depart on an endless journey . . . Then what? Mourn the sin." Always be willing to reevaluate your goals for this Lent, keeping in mind that repentance is all that is asked of you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46*

*"Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?'"*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6** LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Restrain a prodigious appetite**

The gospel story of the "prodigal son" provides a vivid illustration of the limits of acquisitiveness and self-indulgence. The son first demands his inheritance from his father while his father is still alive (ouch!). If that weren't enough, he then quickly runs through it in the biblical equivalent of a Las Vegas weekend splurge. Only when he hungers to fill his empty stomach does he come to his senses. In a similar way, feeling a bit of hunger—the effect of the traditional Lenten discipline of fasting—might help us reflect on our own shortcomings and make adjustments and amends as necessary. Consider skipping a meal today for the sake of your spirit.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

*"He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating."*

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