

## Sunday, Mar 08, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### Cherish the vision

Dreams are fragile things. They arrive in the darkness and are dispersed with the dawn unless we commit them to memory. As Jesus is transfigured, his disciples catch a glimpse of God's dream for us: Where Love is honored and glorified. Consider the theme of today's International Women's Day, "An equal world is an enabled world." That is a dream come true.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9 (25). *"His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."*

## Monday, Mar 09, 2020

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS

### How to get what you need

As the classic Rolling Stones' song goes, "You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you just might find you get what you need." Is that ever true—especially when it comes to the way God takes care of us. In the case of Frances of Rome, she wanted to be a nun, but she ended up married for 40 years. It wasn't until she was widowed that she finally was able to join an order. But in the long meantime, she is reported to have said, "I am ready to do what the Lord wants," and she did, by finding ways to serve the sick while also taking care of her family. By doing God's bidding instead of her own, she ended up with everything she needed and more. So could you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). *"Good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."*

## Tuesday, Mar 10, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Godsent

Harriet Tubman, slave-turned-abolitionist, died on this day in 1913 in a home she founded for the elderly poor. Nicknamed "Moses" for leading slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad just like the Israelites were led out of captivity, she let faith be her guide. "She talked with God, and he talked with her every day of her life," wrote fellow abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison about Tubman. "She felt no more fear of being arrested by her former master" for she "ventured only where God sent her." Where is God sending you? Stay true to that course.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231). *"You have but one master, the Christ."*

## Wednesday, Mar 11, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Count yourself in

While numerology is largely dismissed as pseudoscience, there is no denying that certain numbers had special significance in biblical literature. The number 12 figures prominently. The 12 tribes of Israel descended from the 12 sons of the patriarch Jacob (later named Israel). New Jerusalem is imagined with 12 gates guarded by 12 angels. Jesus first spoke in the gospels at age 12. Is it coincidence that he selected 12 disciples at the outset of his ministry? The number 12 represented inclusion and

completeness. So, when you read a gospel account of "the Twelve," remember that you are included in God's story and play a role in completing it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232). *"As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the Twelve disciples aside."*

## Thursday, Mar 12, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### In spite of everything

After hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic for two years, Anne Frank's family was discovered and sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where she and her sister died in 1945. Anne was just 15. Yet, the clear, insightful voice of a young Jewish girl has outlasted all the bombast of Hitler's empire. In the film *Jojo Rabbit*, a mother and child see bodies hanging in the square of their village, which has been overtaken by Nazis. When the little boy asks, "What did they do?" the mother replies, "They did what they could." Anne Frank also did what she could by writing in her diary while in captivity. What can you do to stem the tide of evil and anti-Semitism?

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233). *"If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead."*

## Friday, Mar 13, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### Look who is walking beside you

The Way of the Cross reminds us that we share this walk with many others who suffer and need solace. Consider these words by Pope Francis in reference to human trafficking: "Help us to share the sufferings of all those treated as refuse. It is all too easy to condemn people and difficult situations that offend our false sense of decency. It is less easy to accept our responsibilities as individuals, as governments, and as Christian communities." Allow your Lenten practice to open your eyes to your complicity in sin and your capacity for compassion if you continue to follow the way of Jesus.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*

## Saturday, Mar 14, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### No strings attached

Most of us are not quite as generous as we might think we are. How often do you give to those who do not so much as offer a thank-you or a smile in return? If you do it once, would you do it again? Are you generous with neighbors or relations who consistently ignore your wishes and feelings? Truth be told, most of us are good to those who are good to us. But Jesus welcomed everyone to join him at the table and freely offered them healing, forgiveness, even friendship—no strings attached. Jesus encourages us to stretch in that direction.

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). *"Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain."*

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



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