

# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

—Romans 8:31b

MARCH 8, 2009

## THE OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM AND JESUS

God tested Abraham by asking not for an ordinary sacrifice, which would have been a partial burning with the meat divided between God and the people and eaten by those who sacrificed, but for a holocaust, a total burning of the sacrificial animal. This type of sacrifice consecrated the entire offering to God alone. This is what God was asking of Abraham in offering his only son, Isaac. When Abraham demonstrated his obedience, that was enough. This story from today's scriptures foretells the completion of the blood sacrifices of the old covenant in the new covenant: the blood of God's own Son, offered to us on the cross and in the Eucharist. Abraham's obedience foreshadows the obedience of Jesus to God's promise of salvation. The obedience of Abraham is rewarded in the birth to him, through Isaac, of many nations. The obedience of Jesus is rewarded in the salvation of all people for all time. Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.

## CRS COLLECTION TODAY

*Caring for Those in Need*

Did you know that **Catholic Relief Services** is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community? They alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

**An example of their help:** In Oromia, Ethiopia, drought has destroyed entire regions of crops, devastating the local agriculture industry and economy. In places like Oromia, where sustainability is based on agriculture, food security is alarmingly low. At a local Catholic church in the Oromia region, hundreds of children are receiving therapeutic milk and medical treatment from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). In addition to funding the important international relief work of CRS, this collection supports legal and resettlement services for refugees, advocacy, and disaster/emergency relief. When you donate to the Catholic Relief Services Collection, you give hope. **Please be generous in today's collection.**

## REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD DURING LENT

The readings for next Sunday, the *Third Sunday of Lent* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout this week.

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 20:1-17 or Exodus 17:3-7

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

**GOSPEL:** John 2:13-25 or John 4:5-42

*What can we do to awaken ourselves from "business as usual" to a more lively faith this Lent?*

*As I move through daily life, am I attentive to the many ways through which God is gifting me with "living water?"*



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On all Monday evenings during Lent we will have the Stations of the Cross in Church at 5:30p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in order to reflect on the meaning of Christ's passion, death and resurrection in our lives.

## SOUP SUPPERS

After the Stations (approximately 6:00p.m.) we will gather in the parish hall for a Soup Supper which will be sponsored by a different ministry group each week. We ask that you bring your own bowl, cup and flatware in order to help keep our environment healthy. **A free will offering will be taken each week.**

## HELP SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In these difficult economic times, the needs of the poor can be overwhelming, even to the Vincentians who serve—knowing that God is with them every step of the way. **Our parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry is in great need of new people who can take part in this ministry** which reaches out to many poor families in our community.

Meetings are easy to attend; taking place on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. You will find out how **you** can help make difficult times turn into manageable times for families in need. Hope to see you next Sunday, March 15 in classroom 2!

## PRAYING THE ROSARY

Join other parishioners in the church on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to pray the Rosary.

## INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

We offer year-round sessions to explore the Catholic faith. For more information, call Sr. Sharon at 439.0931 x 5.

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY

On the second Sunday of each month our parish nursing ministry is available in classroom #2 after the 10:30a.m. Mass and the 12:30p.m. Mass to check your blood pressure. What a convenient and positive way to maintain good health. Take advantage!