THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

OUR LENTEN PRAYER
God of our Lenten journey, help us lay down the burdens that keep us turned from you. Let us give in to light so we can act with hope. Let us live in courage so we can do what is right. Let us be a people of love opening your arms to the world.
Amen

TODAY IN FAMILY MASS
On the second Sunday of Lent, a shepherdess who witnessed the Transfiguration tells us what she saw in Jesus’ light. Thanks to actor, Emma Campbell, for bringing us this story of enlightenment!

PROJECT TOGO
ARM IN ARM IN AFRICA is launching a collection for Togo, West Africa. During Lent, we are asking for donations of new or gently used clothes and shoes suitable for a warm climate for youth from birth through high school. Please bring items to the vestibule or Welcome Center each Sunday until March 29th. Merci!

HEARTS AND HANDS FOR SERVICE
On Wednesday, April 1st, bring family and friends to the Gym any time between 6:30 and 8pm for an evening of service projects benefitting local nonprofits. Come when you can and leave when you like. There will be fun and meaningful service opportunities for all ages. (We’ll have dogs there!) All are welcome.

THANK YOU FOR ACTING!
ISIAAH signed up 300 people to caucus, and sent hundreds of postcards to legislators on behalf of affordable housing. Great work, SJA!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!
All kids in grades 3-7, WE WANT YOU to join our Children’s Choir, directed by youth choir director, Seth Boyd. The Choir has five spring performances:
- April 25th: 1st Communion Mass
- April 26th: Earth Sunday celebration in the Gym
- May 3rd: final Family Masses of the year
- May 9th: 5:00 Saturday Eve Mass
- May 10th: Children & Youth Sunday in the Gym
Rehearsals begin with a Choir Camp on Mar 14th. Sign up today!

CAKE FOR KIDS!
For our Service Evening on April 1st, we’ll be making birthday bags for the Sabathani food shelf. For these bags, we are collecting cake mix, cake frosting, and candles. If you can help, please bring these items to Family Mass by Mar 29th.

FORGIVENESS GARDEN
As part of your Lenten journey, we invite you to leave a stone in the sand of our communal Forgiveness Garden as you let go of anything keeping you from God’s light.

LOOKING AHEAD

JOIN US FOR OUR LENT AND EASTERN FAMILY LITURGIES!

- March 15th: On the third Sunday of Lent, the Woman at the Well tells her story of salvation. Actor/Singer: Barbara Meyer.
- March 22nd: On the fourth Sunday of Lent, the Man Born Blind tells his story of healing. Actor: Tom Sonnek.
- March 29th: On the fifth Sunday of Lent, Martha tells her story of rebirth as she and her brother Lazarus are given new life. Actor: Chris Sonnek.
- April 5th: On Palm Sunday, we have a play with music, dance, and In the Heart of the Beast puppets. Don’t miss this culmination of our annual family Lenten project as HOBT artists and SJA musicians, actors, and families bring the Passion to life in a most unique way! The Family Masses begin at 9 & 11am.
- April 12th: On Easter Sunday, Farmer Rick brings his baby animals to celebrate new life. Family Masses start at 9 & 11am.

HAVE A BLESSED LENT!

Want to add your voice to our liturgies? Join the Children’s Choir!
Questions? Ask Gabrielle (gdane@stjoan.com)

We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey
One day Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a high mountain.
While they were there,
his face changed and shone like the sun.
The disciples saw Moses and Elijah there.
And a voice came from the clouds saying,
“This is my Son, whom I love very much.
Listen to him.”
- Matthew 17: 1-5

**THE WORD**

In our first reading (Genesis 12: 1-4a), God asks Abraham to leave his home for a new land. Abraham steps into the unknown, without a plan or a map. He has faith that God will bless him and all the families of the earth because he put away his fear and trusted in God.

In our Gospel of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17: 1-9), Jesus takes the disciples up to the mountaintop, where before their eyes he changes into light. As they watch, amazed and afraid, Moses and Elijah appear to talk with Jesus. Then God speaks from a cloud, saying that Jesus “is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

Imagine the disciples that day. They walked up a mountain with their friend, Jesus, who became a vision of God right in front of them. They were terrified by seeing dead prophets, hearing the voice of God, and watching their friend transform before them. But Jesus tells them, “Don’t be afraid.” The future kingdom is bright. Like Abraham, they need to trust, listen to the voice of God, and follow.

**PUZZLER**

Can you find the way to Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the mountain?

**WHAT CAN WE SEE IN GOD’S LIGHT?**

Today in Family Mass, we hear the story of the Transfiguration through the eyes of an imaginary shepherdess. When Jesus bursts into light, she sees an amazing vision: “I saw a giant circle. Jesus, the man of light, was at the center. On that circle was every living thing in the world. And all things seemed mixed together. Water was touching fire. My sheep lay among the jackals. I sat among those strange men. And I wasn’t afraid. The circle held us all together. In peace. Nothing was outside the circle. We were all just… part of it.” In the light of Jesus, the shepherdess sees the promise of God’s kingdom, where all creatures live together in love.