



Transfigurations in a Mutilated World

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

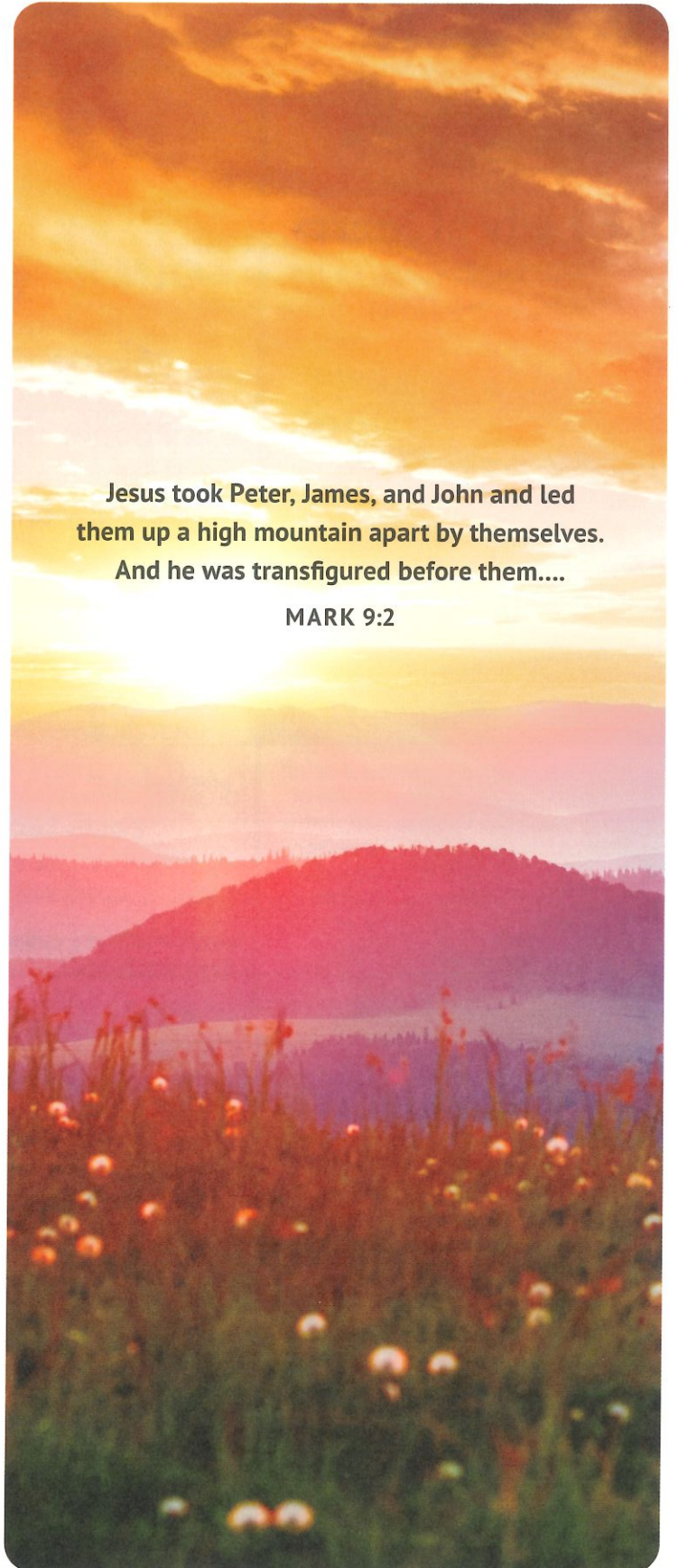
I've never met anyone who thought today's story in Genesis of Abraham and Isaac to be a good story. Abhorred, they ask, "Why would God test someone by asking him to sacrifice his son?" But what if we change the question and ask, "Why would the Hebrew people include that story in their most holy writings? Why would they tell it over and over?" Because of the ending—that's why. Like a movie we watch over and over even though we know how it ends, we watch it, in part, because the ending is satisfying.

The ending of the Abraham/Isaac story shows God is not interested in death and human sacrifice, contrary to the gods of that time. The God of the Hebrews is a God of Life—that's the surprise ending they love, and they keep telling it over and over lest they forget. For them, the part about the testing is simply a means to that unbelievable ending when God insists upon life, contrary to false gods.

In his poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," Adam Zagajewski writes of life's Godly moments in a world we have mutilated by violence, greed, division, and more. He muses on tender moments when we fall in love, on laughter until our sides hurt, on nature's dazzle, on the sweet taste of wine—all simple moments of a life-giving God transfigured in a mutilated world, for our God insists upon life. ●

Reflect

***Remember and give thanks for the moments
of this past week that made you smile.***



**Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led
them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them....**

MARK 9:2

Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

Rev. William Pifher

419-446-9288



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

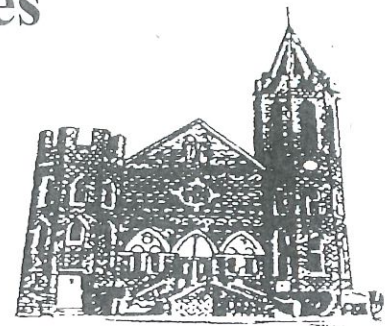
Youth Leader/CRE

Anita Van Zile

OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150
email-stpeter@rtceexpress.net

Religious Ed

Deb Herring

Parish Council President

Stephen Bernath

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions *starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.*
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA :** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon**. Please either call, email at OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

YOUTH BREAKFAST

Please join us today after Mass for the Youth Breakfast in the church basement. All donations will help the Youth going to Catholic Heart Workcamp in June.

ADULT LENTEN STUDY

The Adult Lenten Study on Bishop Robert Baron's program "The Mass" will begin next Sunday, March 3, 2024, after Mass in the basement.

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The Annual Catholic Appeal is underway. Please pick up your information/envelopes on the back table.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. it will be led by Deacon Larry Zachrich

PREVIOUS WEEKS BULLETINS

For your convenience, the previous weeks bulletin will be on the back table.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"You should be content to do as He wishes, for He is satisfied with far less than you owe Him."
Blessed Sebastian Valfré

Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska – Notebook 1

1929. The Trip to Calvary.

64 When I came to Vilnius for two months to replace a sister who had gone for her third probation [Sister Peter, who worked in the kitchen], I stayed a little longer than two months. One day, the Mother Superior [Irene], wanting to give me a bit of pleasure, gave me permission to go, together with another sister, to Calvary to "walk the paths," as they say. I was delighted. Although it was not very far, it was Mother Superior's wish that we should go by boat. That evening Jesus said to me, **I want you to stay home.** I answered, "Jesus, everything is ready for us to leave tomorrow morning; what am I to do now?" The Lord answered, **This trip will be harmful to your soul.** I replied to Jesus, "You can find a way out. Arrange things in such a way that Your will may be done." At that moment the bell announced the time for sleep. I gave Jesus a parting glance and went to my cell.

Next morning the weather was beautiful, and my companion was filled with joy at the prospect of the great pleasure we would have in getting to see everything. But as for me, I was sure we would not go, even though there were no obstacles so far.

We were to receive Holy Communion earlier and leave right after the thanksgiving. But during the time of Communion, all of a sudden, the weather changed. Clouds covered the sky, and the rain came down in torrents. Everyone was astounded at such a sudden change in the weather.

(26) Mother Superior said to me, "I am so sorry you cannot go, Sisters!" I answered, "Dear Mother, it doesn't really matter that we cannot go; it was God's will that we stay home." However, no one knew that it was Jesus' express desire that I stay home. I spent the whole day in recollection and meditation, thanking the Lord for having kept me home. That day, God granted me many heavenly consolations.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Tuesday during Lent at 6:30 p.m.

PENANCE SERVICE

Penance Service will be held on March 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY-DAYS

January 12, 2024 – March 29, 2024

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---March 5 - Night of Healing, Defiance – St. John Parish – 7 p.m.
---March 7 – Fayette Opera House 7 pm
Bean Creek Coffee House – Free
---March 10 – Fayette Opera House – 2pm Glasgow Reed Organ Series Concert
---March 20 – Community Dinner 5-6 pm Fayette Methodist Community Center
---March 23 – Fayette Opera House 7pm – BLISS 60's – 90's music
---April 16 – CPC Women's Health Spring Benefit - register at cpcnwo.org/events/benefit (more info on OLOM bulleting)

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at vanzilejn@hotmail.com or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163. **Privacy Issues for Parish Office: IMMEDIATE FAMILY** – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.



February 14 - March 24 40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

HELP SAVE LIVES IN TOLEDO!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **20,000** babies saved from abortion
- Over **200** abortion workers converted
- Over **100** abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Public right-of-way outside Toledo Women's Center:
1160 W Sylvania Ave, Toledo OH 43612
- **Vigil hours:** 7am to 7pm daily
- **Local contact:** Kevin Jorrey
Email: kjorrey@toledodiocese.org
Phone: 419-214-4933
- **Learn more** and sign up for prayer times by visiting our website below!

40DaysForLife.com/Toledo

Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of February 24– March 2

Sunday, Feb. 25– St. Walburga - St. Walburga (710-777 A.D.) was born near Devonshire, England, the daughter of St. Richard the Pilgrim (a Saxon king) and the sister of Sts. Willibald and Winebald. When she was eleven her father and brothers went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, while her father placed her in a convent famous for its holiness. She was well educated according to her rank, became a nun, and lived there for twenty-six years. Her uncle, St. Boniface, then brought her to what is now Germany to help him evangelize that country and establish the Church there. In this missionary activity she joined her brothers who were also laboring for the faith in that country, one as an abbot, the other as a bishop. Because of her education she was able to document the travels of her brother in the Holy Land, and for this work she became the first female author of England and Germany. She was known as a miracle worker and healer both in her life and after her death. St. Walburga's relics have the miraculous property of exuding oil to which many cures have been ascribed through the centuries. St. Walburga is the patron saint of sailors, mariners, and farmers, and against hydrophobia, famine, coughs, rabies, plague, and storms. St. Walburga's feast day is February 25th.

Monday, Feb. 26 –St. Porphyry of Gaza - St. Porphyry (Porphyrius) of Gaza (c. 347-420 A.D.) was born in Thessalonica in present-day Greece. Although a wealthy man, at the age of 25 he went to live in Egypt as a desert hermit. He later moved to Palestine near the Jordan River, then to Jerusalem itself. He did great penances and would often visit the holy places where Jesus lived and walked, despite his poor health. He then renounced all material goods and his inheritance and became a priest in Jerusalem at the age of 40. The relics of the True Cross in Jerusalem were entrusted to his care. Despite his protests he was ordained Bishop of Gaza, a pagan stronghold with an insignificant Christian community. Gaza's pagans were hostile, and St. Porphyry appealed to the emperor for protection and for the destruction of pagan temples, which he obtained. St. Porphyry built a Christian church on the site of the most important pagan temple dedicated to the chief god, so that he could say Mass in the place where the devil was previously most honored. St. Porphyry labored for his flock and won many converts through his miracles, though pagan opposition continued throughout his life. He was successful in spreading the Christian faith across his diocese. His feast day is February 26.

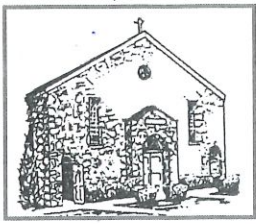
Tuesday, Feb. 27 – St. Gabriel Possenti - St. Gabriel Possenti (1838-1862), also known as St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, was one of thirteen children born to a well-to-do Italian family in Assisi. As a young man he enjoyed the society and the worldly life of a typical teenager. He was known as a fancy dresser and a good dancer, he possessed good horsemanship and marksmanship, he frequented parties, and twice was engaged to be married. After his graduation from school he shocked everyone by announcing that he was going to be a Passionist priest, having been inspired to his vocation by the Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom his family had a great devotion. His life was then marked with prayer, sacrifice, and devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, taking the religious name Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother. He was stricken with tuberculosis about a year before he was to be ordained, and died at the age of 24. Many miracles were attributed to him after his death, including the healing of St. Gemma Galgani. St. Gabriel Possenti is the patron saint of Catholic youth, seminarians, clerics, students, and Catholic Action. His feast day is February 27th.

Wednesday, Feb. 28– Pope St. Hilary - Pope Saint Hilary (5th c.) was Bishop of Rome from 461 to 468. Not much is known of his early life other than that he was from Sardinia. He rose to prominence in the Church when he became archdeacon under Pope St. Leo the Great, working closely with him as a trusted aid. St. Leo sent Hilary as one of the papal legates to the Council of Ephesus in 449. There St. Hilary fought bravely against the monophysite heresy, for which his life was threatened. He was forced into hiding and fled back to Rome for safety. He was so highly esteemed that after Pope Leo's death he was elected to the papacy. As pope, St. Hilary fought for the rights of the papacy in spiritual matters against the Roman Emperor, and increased organization and discipline between the bishops and the Holy See. He also did much work in building, remodeling, and decorating Roman churches and other public places. Pope St. Hilary's feast day is February 28.

Thursday, Feb. 29– St. Oswald – St. Oswald of Worcester (d. 992) was born into a Danish family, but was raised from a young age in England by his uncle, the Archbishop of Canterbury. He received much of his schooling in France and it was there where he, desiring a stricter life of asceticism, took his monastic vows with the Benedictines. After returning to England he worked with the Archbishop of York and was made Bishop of Worcester in 961, and later Archbishop of York in 972. He is most remembered as a fervent supporter of church and monastic reforms. He invited many religious communities into the diocese, founded his own monasteries, and worked generously with the poor. His daily custom during Lent was to wash the feet of the poor. It was in this service that he died on February 29th in the year 992. His feast day is February 29th.

Friday, March 1– St. David of Wales - St. David of Wales (6th c.), also called Dewi Sant by the Welsh, was a missionary priest, Celtic monk, archbishop, miracle-worker, and the founder of many monasteries in Wales and western England. He was descended from Welsh royalty, and in medieval times many believed he was the nephew of the famed King Arthur. His great leadership abilities gave him influence over many Church affairs. In the dozen monasteries he founded he established strict asceticism modeled after the early desert hermits. St. David is often depicted standing on a mound with a dove on his shoulder. According to legend, one day while preaching a dove rested on his shoulder, and the earth rose to lift him above the crowd so that all could hear him speak. During a battle with the Saxons, St. David advised the Welsh soldiers to wear leeks in their hats to distinguish themselves from their enemy; this is the origin of the leek as an emblem of Wales. St. David is one of the great saints of the 6th century whose work helped to establish Christianity in Europe. He is the patron saint of Wales, and his feast, "St. David's Day," is a popular cultural celebration. The Cathedral of St. David's in Pembrokeshire was built over his remains and became a pilgrimage destination for centuries. St. David of Wales' feast day is March 1st.

Saturday, March 2 – Bl. Charles the Good - Blessed Charles the Good (1083–1127), also known as Charles I and the Count of Flanders, was born in Denmark, the only son of King Canute IV (St. Canute) and Adela of Flanders. He was five years old when his father was assassinated in the Odense Cathedral, after which he and his mother fled for their lives to Flanders. He grew up in the royal court in that country and accompanied his maternal grandfather, a Count, on a crusade to the Holy Land. After his grandfather's death, Blessed Charles became an advisor to the next Count, his uncle; after his uncle's death, Charles became Count. He was highly regarded by the people for his holiness and virtue. He was outspoken against the common practice of hoarding grain and selling it at inflated prices, and opposed the prominent Erembald family who gained their financial prosperity through this unjust practice. On March 2, 1127, while Charles was in church praying, he was slain by soldiers loyal to the Erembald family, in the same manner his father was killed. His death sparked a public outcry and uprising against the Erembald family, while Charles was immediately looked upon as a martyr and saint. His feast day is March 2nd.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



FEBRUARY 25, 2024

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. Feb. 25	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Giovanni Stella, Ronald Keil, Chuck Wurth
	10:30a.m.	SP	Larry Miller Maryann Thatcher
Tues. Feb. 27	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Feb. 28	6:45a.m.	SP	Rosary
	7:10a.m.		Mass
Thurs. Feb. 29	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Mar. 1	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Mar. 2	8:00a.m.	SP	Mass
	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. Mar. 3	8:30a.m.	OLM	Giovanni Stella, Ronald Keil, Chuck Wurth
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cathy Warner

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Feb. 25 – Youth breakfast after Mass
- Feb. 28 –Rel. Ed 6:45 pm Elem.
- Mar. 3, 10, 17 – Adult Lenten Study After Mass
- Mar. 13 – Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
- Mar. 14 – St. Therese Book reflection 7 p.m.
- Mar. 20 – Penance Service 6:45 p.m.
- Mar. 28 – Holy Thursday – 6:00 p.m.
- Mar. 29 – Good Friday – 3:00 p.m.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 18, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (8 envelopes) \$ 376.00
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 444.00

BUDGET \$ **1,747.00**
 Over/(Under) (\$ 927.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Maintenance \$ 4.25
 Black & Native American \$ 50.00
 Votive Candles \$ 4.00
 Eastern Europe \$ 25.00
 Mass Stipend \$ 20.00
 Christmas \$ 100.00
 Postage Help \$ 20.00
 Initial Offering \$ 5.00
 CPC Jar \$ 2.26
TOTAL COLLECTION \$ 1,050.51

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	March 3, 2024
Greeters/Gifts	Mary Bird Marge Crowell
Reader	Anita Van Zile
Servers	Evan Beauregard Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Dennis & Denise Miller
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Terry Kovar Dennis & Denise Miller

Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

TRUST—the state of being relied on, or the state of one to whom something is entrusted

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 9:9-10**

Dear Padre,

What are the guidelines for producing a passion play? My pastor said there are special guidelines to follow. What are they?

Please read “Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion,” issued in 1988 by the Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of what was then called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (The document is located at uscbb.org.)

Passion plays should emphasize the saving action of Christ’s death and resurrection without becoming stumbling blocks to understanding the role of the Jewish people in salvation history. The document warns that “‘stock ideas,’ unfortunately, can become vividly alive in passion dramatizations. It is all too easy...to resort to artificial oppositions...to heighten interest or provide sharp contrasts between the characters.” We must avoid portraying the Jewish tradition as “a religion of only justice, fear, and legalism with no appeal to the love of God and neighbor.”

It is simplistic and incorrect to blame Christ’s death on certain historical groups and neglect the complexities of the Gospel portrait and of Christ’s life. Christ freely undertook his passion and death because of the sins of all, so that all might attain salvation. This is the truth that passion plays should strive to communicate most clearly. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



GORA KALWARIA, POLAND / STANISLAW TOKARSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY

February 26
Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b-10
Lk 6:36-38

TUESDAY

February 27
Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16-20
Mt 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY

February 28
Lenten Weekday
Jer 18:18-20
Mt 20:17-28

THURSDAY

February 29
Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5-10
Lk 16:19-31

FRIDAY

March 1
Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

SATURDAY

March 2
Lenten Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

SUNDAY

March 3
Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
1 Cor 1:22-25
Jn 2:13-25



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: “Listen to Jesus!” The Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. “Listen to Jesus!” Don’t forget.

ANGELUS, MARCH 16, 2014