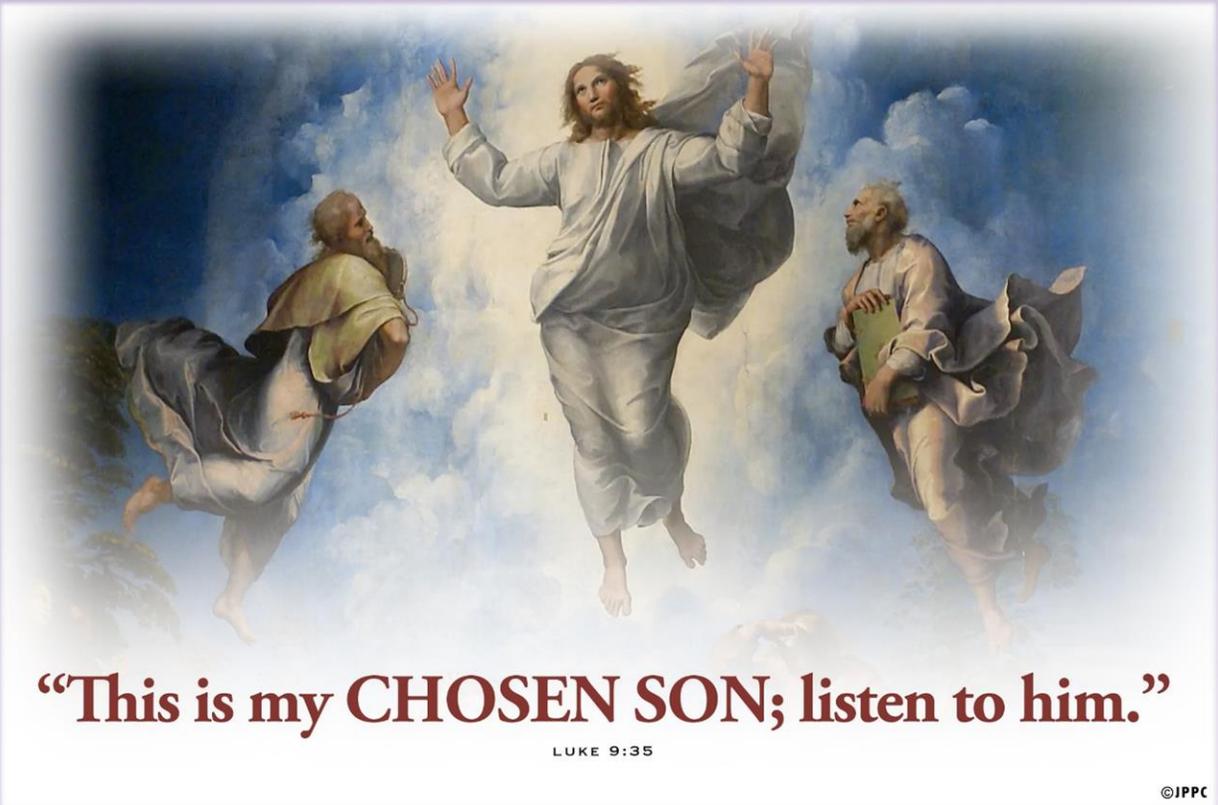


# Second Sunday of Lent

March 13, 2022



Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street  
North Attleborough, Massachusetts

## Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. Rodney E. Thibault, J.C.L., Pastor

Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali

Mrs. Monica T. Forte, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager

Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education, Grades 1-8 & Confirmation

Ms. Nicole Barton, Music Director

Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor

Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

### Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Charlotte Lourenco, Principal

57 Richards Avenue,

North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760

(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074

[smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org](mailto:smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org) [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com)

### Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent

Towne Street

North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760

(508) 695-1173 or email [ripco@comcast.net](mailto:ripco@comcast.net)

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saint Mary Church • Saturday 3:00 pm

### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are currently scheduled on scheduled Saturday afternoons at 1:00 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact Monica Forte in the office at [stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com) for more information and available dates.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

### Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged with our parish priests. Please call the parish office to arrange a visit.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration is offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in Saint Mary Church, beginning at 9:00 am with Morning Prayer and ending at 6:00 pm with Evening Prayer and Benediction.

### Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Or you can use this link for on line giving:

<https://app.gabrielsoft.com/guest/mafrdiocese/31>

Thank you for your ongoing support!

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm Saint Mary Church

Sunday 8:00 am Saint Mark Church

Sunday 9:30 am Saint Mary Church

Sunday 11:00 am Sacred Heart Church

### Weekday Masses

Monday 4:30 pm Saint Mary Church

Tuesday 8:00 am Saint Mark Church

Wednesday 4:30 pm Saint Mary Church

Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service

Saint Mark Church

**Friday 7:00 pm Saint Mary Church\*  
during Lent**

*Links to:* Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

### Parish Office

14 Park Street, North Attleborough,  
Massachusetts 02760

Parish e-mail • [stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com)

Parish website • [www.saintmaryna.com](http://www.saintmaryna.com)

Phone (508) 695-6161 Fax (508) 695-5248

Faith Formation • [TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com](mailto:TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com)

# MASS Intentions

## March 13 - Second Sunday of Lent

<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b><u>March 12</u></b>
4:00 pm	Rita DiRenzo
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>March 13</u></b>
8:00 am	Maria E. Pereira
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>March 13</u></b>
9:30 am	Deceased members of the Berger family
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>March 13</u></b>
11:00 am	Marielle & Omer Martineau
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>March 14</u></b>
4:30 pm	David Parenteau
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>March 15</u></b>
8:00 am	Elizabeth Morrissey
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>March 16</u></b>
4:30 pm	Janet Caldwell
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>March 17</u></b>
8:00 am	George Hevey
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	<b><u>March 18</u></b>
7:00 pm	

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## March 20 - Third Sunday of Lent

<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b><u>March 19</u></b>
4:00 pm	Joshua Ferns
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>March 20</u></b>
8:00 am	Deceased members of Seymour family
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>March 20</u></b>
9:30 am	Joseph & Gloria Cardello
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>March 20</u></b>
11:00 am	Mary Ruth Torrey

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### **Please join us**

Fridays during Lent in Saint Mary Church,  
 Father Rodney will be available for  
 Confessions from 6:00 – 6:25 pm  
 Stations of the Cross will begin at 6:30 pm  
 Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm

## *From Father Rodney*

The second reading we hear this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent is a letter that Saint Paul wrote to the Community at Philippi. According to an account in the Acts of the Apostles (16, 9-40), Saint Paul establishes at Philippi the first Christian Community in Europe. He wrote to this Christian Community while he was in prison somewhere, indeed in danger of death, because he had been preaching the name of Christ. He is, however, undeterred in his efforts. He expresses gratitude to this community of faith but encourages them to think of heavenly thoughts. He implores them to not focus their attention solely on the earthly realm but rather, the heavenly. The section of this letter we hear today is oftentimes used at a funeral Mass. Since the quote is brief, I will add it here for your further reflection. Paul writes, "For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their 'shame.' Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself." (Phil. 3: 18-21). In the briefest of Paul's letters, he conveys despite his own pains and sufferings a message of hope that whatever we do in this life should focus on the next. As we journey through the Lenten season, we should remember that we began this sacred time marking ourselves with ashes and we reminded that we are dust and unto dust we shall return. Taking stock of our own mortality is always a healthy Christian exercise because we are reminded that our true home is not the here and now but rather, life eternal in God's Kingdom. As we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter, let us ponder and pray about suffering here and now and ask God to reassure us that the suffering will indeed one day come to an end when He, we pray, welcomes His Holy People, back into His Heavenly Kingdom.

*Continues next page*



2022

**Congratulations to**

Eamon Adams, Natalie Alger, Luke Antonetti, Megan Atwood, Brady Backner, Ava Banks, Ryan Bannon, Megan Barrett, Angelina Benedetti, Stella Bibby, Cody Boutilier, Elise Boyd, Kaylyn Boynton, Haleigh Branconier, Christopher Brayley, Tea Briggs, Rylee Brown, Joseph Brucato, Sydney Bryan, Christian Bumpus, Addison Burdette, Ashlyn Burns, Mallory Burns, Dylan Butler, Grace Cabeceiras, Jacqueline Carfagna, Elizabeth Carley, Clare Carroll, Jeremy Carter, William Cassidy, Daniel Castano, Max Certuse, Sarah Christo, Andrew Clarke, Madalaine Clayton, Austin Clemente, Reid Clemente, Amelia Cody, Gabrielle Colleran, Christopher Colonna, Joseph Connolly, Kyra Connolly, Gianna Consalvo, Ashton Constantine, Gianna Corrado, Lucas Crovo, Molly Cullen, Patrick Curran, Maeve Cusack, Jace Cuzzi, Adrianna DaRosa, Teresa Degon, Evan DeRuisseau, Margaret DiFonzo, Nathan Dion, Hailee Dockery, Julie Donato, James Doyon, Hannah Elliott, Noemie Eugene, Samantha Falter, Natalee Fisher, Jillian Flotildes, Amanda Forbes, Conor Ford, Kayli Furtado, Peighton Gagne, Raegan Gagne, Jack Gaudette, Sean Gunn, Ethan Gustafson, Nicholas Guthrie, Zachary Haffner, Samuel Haggarty, Patrick Hamilton, Maggie Handren, Grace Hardy, Braden Hartigan, Caitlin Hinckley, Alexander Hyde, Colin Igoe, Lauren Inglese, Lauryn Isabella, Finn Kane, Jack Keenan, Marissa King, Zachary Kolakowski, Emma Latham, Tyson Laviano, Tyler LaVoie, Thomas Le, Gianna Leco, Justin Lee, Penelope Leung, Anthony Lombardo, Ella Machunis, Sara Maciejewski, Grace Manning, Dylan McCall, Aidan McDermott, Delia McKenna, Colleen McKeon, Ava Membreno, Karley Mercier, Sydney Moore, Andrew Nee, James Nelson, Grace Nobrega, Laney O'Donnell, Brady Paradis, Andrew Paulhus, Sydney Piette, Audrey Poisson, Ryan Poisson, Ellie Regan, Ava Reynolds, Evan Rivas, Matthew Rivera, Joseph Roberge, Alexander Robin, Delaney Robinson, Mary Rogers, Nathan Romano, Emma Routhier, Emma Roveda, Jake Santucci, Andrew Schmidt, Madeleine Scott, Logan Shiner-McCracken, Elizabeth Silva, Brennah Soeldner, Camden Souza, Madelyn Steel, David Stigliano, Colin Sullivan, Samantha Sweeney, Jillian Tait, Julia Tamul, Madeline Tani, Emily Tucker, Jack Turcotte, Abigail Waldron, Audree Way, Audrey Weishaar, Bryan Welch, Norah Wells, Tristan Welter, Matthew Whalen, Sophia Willard, Nico Woelfel, Shea Young

*From Father Rodney continues:*

*A sincere word of thanks!*

This past Saturday, 151 of our young parishioners confirmed their faith in Jesus Christ as they were sealed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It was truly a blessed event and it took lots of time and dedication. A word of thanks to all of the catechists who helped to prepare our young people for Confirmation. You also all did such an amazing job facilitating the flow of the ceremony. Corraling 1100+ people is no easy undertaking. To the music ministry, thank you for your efforts. I have received so many words of praise about the upbeat and lovely music that assisted in making our celebration so celebratory. There were also those behind the scenes such as Monica Forte who went above and beyond ensuring that all of the particulars were taken care of for that special day. Last but not least, a heartfelt word of thanks to Elaine Corvese, the Director of Faith Formation for your unfailing dedication and commitment. To each and one of you, from your grateful pastor, THANK YOU!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Rodney*

**Parish Contributions**

Collection figures from February 26/27  
\$13,080.13

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**FAITH FORMATION**

*Director of Religious Education  
Mrs. Elaine Corvese*

**Please note new email address:**

[TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com](mailto:TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com)

**First Communion** will be held on  
**Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Saint Mary Church,**  
groups as follows:

10:00 am for students with the last name A-J  
1:00 pm for students with the last name K-Z.



H O L Y E U C H A R I S T

## Pray for Ukraine

Please join together in praying a decade (or more) of the Rosary daily for the people of Ukraine and Russia and for the end of the war.



At the back of each of the churches in the Parish there is a blue binder with the Ukrainian colors on the front. If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to do so, please sign your name as a simple commitment to pray daily until the end of this crisis. Sometimes even as a people of God we can feel overwhelmed or powerless when we see the images coming out of Ukraine and hear about demonstrators in Russia being beaten and any independent news sources being shut down. We can lose heart. We often forget that we have the most powerful weapon of all... prayer and when we come together as a community there is real power. Thank you for taking a few moments out of your day to unite with the larger Catholic/Christian community to pray for an end to this crisis.

## Men's Group FOR LENT!

Do something special for LENT! Come together with likeminded men to discuss faith and family life. Join us next Saturday March 19 at St. John's in Attleboro. Topic will be Physics and Faith with Dr. Chris Baglow. Program starts at 7am and runs through 8:15am. Join us at 6:30am for a free breakfast! Each week stands on its own so even if you can only make one week it will be worth it for you and us!



## Eucharistic ADORATION

### Monthly Adoration

Monthly Adoration is offered the *first Tuesday of every month (April 1 is next)*. You are invited to join us in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Saint Mary church, beginning at 9 a.m. with Morning Prayer and ending at 6 p.m. with Evening Prayer and Benediction. You can drop in at any time for as long as you like or, if you would like a specific time slot, please call Joanne Regali 508-643-3821 and leave a message.



## Synod Listening Phase

You are invited first to participate in our online survey. Take a picture of the QR Code with your phone or browse to this link:



## [TOLSurvey.com](https://TOLSurvey.com)

Live listening sessions will take place after all Masses the weekend of March 19th and 20th.

Additional sessions are also happening after daily Mass on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Monday evening March 21st at 7pm, and Tuesday after daily Mass on March 22nd.

A Zoom session will also be held on Thursday March 24th at 7pm.

## Prayer and Pizza

Looking for another way to deepen your spirituality? Do you have "knots" in your life that you need help undoing? Please join us on the third Wednesday of each month for "Prayer and Pizza". Following the 4:30 pm Mass *Wednesday, March 16*, we together will pray the rosary, which will be offered up to Mary, Undoer of Knots (maryundoerofknots.com). Whether you pray the rosary daily or have never prayed it before, please consider joining us for "Prayer and Pizza" All are welcome! Please contact Rick Leco (508 930 9264) or Vicky Curran (508 930 3306) with any questions.





### Join the “Ashes to Fire Choir”!

This is a perfect opportunity to get involved in the music ministry here at Transfiguration of the Lord but not have the yearlong commitment. The ATF Choir will run from Ash Wednesday through Pentecost and provide music for Palm Sunday and the Holy Triduum. Weekly rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 7-9pm with the possibility of additional rehearsals as needed. You do not have to know how to read music, but it is helpful. All are welcome. We are always looking for instrumentalists to enhance the liturgy.

**The Children’s choir started back up again on the first Sunday of March.** Rehearsals will be held at **Sacred Heart following the 11am mass until 1:30pm.** The children’s choir will sing on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. (More information to follow regarding Mass times) Grade 1-6 and 7-12 are all welcome.

**If you play an instrument, we also welcome you to join us!** We are always looking for instrumentalists to enhance the liturgy. (String, brass, woodwind, drums/percussion, guitar, bass, piano, etc.) **For more information on either group, please see our music director, Nikkie Barton, after Mass or via e-mail at [Transfigurationmusicdirector@gmail.com](mailto:Transfigurationmusicdirector@gmail.com)**

### Donation Statements

The 2021 year end tax reports are available for those parishioners using the budget envelope system. Please contact Monica in the office, email preferred, ([stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com)), if you would like your statement. You may also call (508-695-6161) and leave a message with your name and address. Letters can be mailed or emailed to you.

### Scheduling Baptisms

Parents requesting the baptism of their child should be registered members of the parish who attend weekend Mass on a weekly basis. Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays at 1:00 pm at 14 Park Street with a maximum of four families. Please contact Monica in the office via email ([stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com)) for more information and visit the parish website [www.saintmaryna.com](http://www.saintmaryna.com) and click on the “Sacraments” tab for more detailed information.

*What Are The Requirements To Be a Godparent or Sponsor?* If you have been asked to be a godparent, requirements set by the Roman Catholic Church are as follows: You must be a confirmed Catholic, at least 16 years old, registered in a parish and practicing your faith by regular participation at Mass. If you are married, your marriage must be recognized as valid by the Church. If you are currently a member of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish and have been asked to be a godparent, please see Father Rodney after Mass. You may contact the office for more information.



### Knights of Columbus

Council #330 of North Attleboro was founded over 120 years ago in 1898 and this Council has always represented the entire Catholic community of North Attleboro. Charity is our leading principle, and our focus is on providing support and assistance locally. We are looking for Catholic men to join our Council and help us support our community as our members have been doing since 1898. If you are interested in learning more about membership, please contact Jim Schromm, [jim.schromm@verizon.net](mailto:jim.schromm@verizon.net) or (508) 643-3623.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our  
Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the  
dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at  
the right hand of God, the Father  
almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and life everlasting.

Amen

## **Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society**

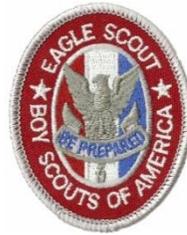
Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.

## **Benjamin Bonville's Eagle Project Diaper Drive**

Did you know that many families with babies and toddlers cannot afford to buy enough diapers to change their babies as needed? Sadly, if babies are not changed often enough throughout the day, medical treatment for a variety of issues may be required.

Benjamin Bonville, a Boy Scout in Troop 23 North Attleboro, is conducting his Eagle Project by running a Diaper Dive to serve to



help the mothers and families of North Attleboro and Attleboro. All of the donations will be distributed to Abundant Hope Pregnancy Recourse Center. There is no

government agency that will contribute to the rising cost of diapers, not even WIC or SNAP! During the month of March, Benjamin and his fellow Scouts will be collecting diapers of any size. The Diaper Drive Eagle Project will run March 1st through 31st. Aware, that diapers are expensive, perhaps, you could share the cost with friends. There are pack 'n plays in the main entrance entrances of all churches for your donations continuing through the month of March.

Scout Benjamin Bonville thanks you in advance for your generosity in support of his Eagle project.

## **Lenten Regulations for Fast & Abstinence**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

## Readings for March 13

### First Reading

#### A reading from the Book of Genesis

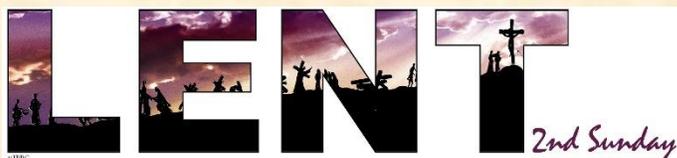
The Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



### Responsorial Psalm

#### **R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

#### **R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.  
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance  
seeks.

#### **R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.

Hide not your face from me;  
do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper: cast me not off.

#### **R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the  
LORD  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

#### **R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

## Second Reading

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

[Join with others in being imitators of me,] brothers and sisters, [and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their “shame.” Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But] our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, (beloved).

The word of the Lord.

### Thanks be to God



## Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

#### Glory to you, O Lord. †

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.” After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



## *Bishop da Cunha's 2022 Lenten Message*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The holy season of Lent is again upon us, a season in which we are called to embark on a spiritual journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal. The Church reminds us that the Lord calls us and invites us during this time to a life of change and conversion. The Scripture readings speak of beginning anew; of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving; of conversion of heart; of forgiveness. They remind us we are called to live a holy life.

We begin this Lent with cautious optimism that progress is being made against the coronavirus pandemic. We are hopeful and grateful, as the number of cases continues to decline, illness is less severe, and vaccines are widely available.

In some ways, the pandemic may have seemed like an extended Lent, as many parallels can be seen between them. During Lent we practice penance, sacrifice, fasting, and abstinence to come out on the other side renewed and strengthened to celebrate the Paschal mystery and new life at Easter. In a sense, the coronavirus ushered in a long-lasting "Lenten Season." We have made sacrifices, we have experienced or witnessed suffering, and now look forward to new beginnings and emerging from the ashes of the pandemic.

Many of us are eager to reconnect and stay connected with family and friends. Lent, especially this year, can help support this. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to spend more time together in prayer, in growing in understanding of faith, in service to those in need, and in support of one another as we try to live better and more holy lives.

As we seek ways to practice prayer, fasting, and charity this Lent, let us not forget to consider doing so with our parish community — gathering for Mass, prayer services, the sacraments, and for working together to serve the poor and needy within the community. I hope this Lent can be a time for vibrant parish community involvement, reinvolved, and forging lasting relationships in and with Christ.

Suffering, pain, sadness, the cross, these are never a dead end, Jesus' Passion assures us, death will never have the last word for He has conquered it when He rose again. They point to new life. How can we find, during Lent, signs of life for us, our communities, our country, and world?

It is important to remember that Lent is not an end in and of itself, but a season that leads us to the joyous and hope-filled celebration of Easter. Likewise, this year it can also be a season to lead us to reconnect with God, with church, with community and with family after pandemic-imposed restrictions kept us apart. Let this Lent be the time to restore our practice of the faith and rebuild a vibrant church for now and the generations to follow.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.*  
Bishop of Fall River