From the Desk of the Pastor ....

One cannot miss a discernable pattern in the various stories in the book of Genesis. God bestows innumerable blessings upon people who instead of appreciating the giver of the gifts, consistently display ingratitude. Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and chose to place themselves out of God’s loving and providential care. Cain refuses to mend his ways, become self-centered and gives in to envy to the point of killing his brother Abel and eliminate competition. The people of God during the time of Noah took God and his gifts for granted and pursued evil. The people building the tower of Babel attempted to appropriate the gift of language in order to promote pride and to build a city for themselves rather than enhance divine worship and praise.

However, today’s first reading presents a welcome change: Abraham and his wife Sara: We are invited to explore in detail their faith journey. Abraham upon hearing God’s call, responds generously and leaves behind all that is familiar to him, even the land of his ancestors, and seek security in the words God speaks to him. God establishes a covenant with him and promises him with the blessings to become the ‘father of a great nation’ through his son Isaac and grandson, Jacob: Israel.

The Gospel recounts the event on Mount Tabor, where Peter, James and John witness the stunning power of God, as Jesus is transfigured before their eyes. God’s voice thunders forth: “This is my Chosen Son, Listen to Him.

On Mount Tabor, the sky was clear. Jesus was praying. As he prayed, his face shone and his clothes dazzled. On one side of him was Moses – the great lawgiver. On the other side was Elijah – the greatest of all the prophets. And, there was the voice of the Father. No wonder Peter exclaimed: ‘It is wonderful for us to be here!’

Then there would be another day and another Hill. This time the sky was dark. The face of Jesus was covered with sweat and blood. His clothes did not dazzle – they had been taken from him. For companions he had two thieves. There was no voice from heaven, only scoffers were heard. The disciples in fear for their lives, did not want any part of this, they ran away.

The only thing in common was that once again Jesus was praying. What sustained Him in bright and dark moments alike was his special relationship of fidelity and filial devotion with the Father.

This special relationship is now open to us. It will sustain us through all our dark moments until the glory of Easter shines fully on us.

The readings today challenge us to listen to God speaking to us: having chosen us in Christ, He calls us each by name, and continues to establish a covenant of love with us.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This devotional prayerful exercise will be held in the Church on all Fridays during the season of Lent. All are invited.

- after the 9am Mass in English and
- 6:30pm in Spanish

SCHEDULE OF LENTEN DEVOTIONS & CELEBRATIONS

March
13th Friday, 2nd Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis
20th Friday, 3rd Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis
27th Friday, 4th Week of Lent: 9:30 am Stations of the Cross in English; 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis

April
3rd Friday, 5th Week of Lent: 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross in English & Spanish with Soup Supper
5th Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: We commemorate the glorious entry of Jesus in Jerusalem.
Regular weekend Masses’ schedule: Palms will be blessed at the beginning of each Mass.
6th Monday of the Holy Week: 9:00 am - Mass
7th Tuesday of the Holy Week: 9:00 am - Mass
- Parish Penance and Reconciliation Liturgy: 6:30 pm (English & Spanish)
8th Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9:00 am - Mass

Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. John the Evangelist wishes to thank you for the many coats that were collected during the coat drive on February 2nd, 2020. The coats collected were taken to the St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelter on Howard Street. Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our less fortunate brothers and sisters, thanks to you, they will be warm this winter.