

People Progress

Sunday Community

Feb 25, 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent

E R Whelan

Thank you, Fr Ron MacDonell , for celebrating with us.

REFLECTION: by Mary Lou Halferty

Can you imagine a good and holy God asking his son, Abraham, to murder his son? This has always been etched in my consciousness. I can remember the outcry when our class of 13-year-old high school girls was presented with this story. There were murmurs of “No. No.” and “A good and gracious God would never ask for that.” Some students even cried. Even the student who was very quiet in class and never had much to say became quite upset by this debate, and the possibility of a God who would murder his or her own children. It became quite an argument. Would God ever want to kill his children? Would he be able to do it? Among the consoling thoughts that were offered, it seemed clear that God could not do such a thing as to kill his own child. The girls tried to imagine what a home would be like without parents to shelter and protect them. How to reconcile all of this? Our God is a loving God, we have been taught.

This is a difficult Scripture passage to do in a classroom. It’s hard to accept, hard to understand. For most of the girls there was no real consolation that day, no easy answers. We would all go on to struggle with this concept throughout our education and our faith lives. Does God have regard for some human lives and not for others? If God brought all life into being, is not all life good and valuable? Is it possible that God would take away someone’s life in a capricious fashion?

The second reading from Paul’s Epistle to the Romans says that God “did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us.” The story of Abraham and his son is a brutal and primitive story from the Hebrew Scriptures that is used in the Christian Era as a prefiguring of the life and death of Jesus. But we are assured by Paul that God’s redeeming love for us is demonstrated and revealed in the raising of Jesus from the dead as the Christ. And in the Gospel Transfiguration story, a voice affirms about Jesus that “This is my Son, the Beloved.” And the sense of all this is that if Jesus is “the Beloved,” so are we.

Readings:

Today: Gen 22.1-2, 9-13, 15-18	Psalm 116	Rom 8.31-35, 37	Mark 9.2-10
Mar 3: Exo 20. 1-17	Psalm 19	I Cor 1.18, 22-25	John 2.13-25

The Liturgy schedule:

Date	Planner(s)	Priest
Feb 25 Lent 2	Mary Lou & Brian Halferty	Fr Ron McDonnell
Mar 3 Lent 3	John & Mary MacMillan	Fr Jack Costello
Mar 10 Lent 4	Sharon McCarthy	Fr Paul McAuley
Mar 17 Lent 5	Maryanne S-J & Roberto J	Fr Prakash Lohale
Mar 24 Palm Sunday	Elizabeth Whelan	Fr Ron MacDonell
Mar 31 Easter	Volunteer needed	TBD

As you noticed, we now have planners/coordinators for all the Sundays of Lent. Thank you, volunteers!

We still need someone to coordinate Easter.

All Liturgies will be virtual — on Zoom — likely until the end of March.

This schedule, as always, is flexible. Planners, feel free to switch if you cannot do a liturgy on the scheduled date. Just be sure to tell the People Progress Reporter, so that we all know. Also, please notify PP early in the week (by the Tuesday before) if you cannot do a reflection.

People Progress Schedule

February: Elizabeth Whelan: erwhelan@icloud.com
March: John MacMillan: met191970@gmail.com
April: Maryanne: maryannestone.jimenez@gmail.com
& Roberto urosma@gmail.com
May: Mary Lou Jorgensen-Bacher mljb57@yahoo.ca

Please send your submissions to the People Progress Reporter by Thursday evening. People Progress welcomes new reporters. Thanks!

Announcements:

- We still need someone **to coordinate/plan Easter**. Please volunteer and email the Convenor, Sharon McCarthy at smdmcc1@gmail.com and also Elizabeth Whelan at erwhelan@icloud.com. Thanks so much!
- The series **Keeping Hope Alive** continues this Thursday, Feb 29 at the Carrot Common, in person, and also on Zoom. Registration is required for both, and emails have been sent to the Community.

February Birthdays: Happy Birthday to

4 Sharon McCarthy	23 Mary Beth MacMillan
4 Lucia Silveira	25 Timothy Watson
18 Rita Shaughnessy	28 Juan Alas

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Online liturgies are quite straight-forward.

Here are the duties, published weekly in People Progress (for reference.)

Duties of liturgy planners for virtual masses:

Early in the week before the liturgy:

- Call or email the priest to confirm Sunday's liturgy (contact info will be provided).
- Prepare or find a Reflection and send it to the People Progress reporter by Thursday. Please notify the People Progress reporter early in the week if you cannot do a Reflection.
- Select readers for the 1st and 2nd readings. Check with Sylvia Skrepichuk re: psalm.

On the Sunday of the virtual mass:

- Greet the group (Ask newcomers to introduce themselves)
- Give a brief introduction to the liturgy.
- Read your passage or be prepared to do a reading (if a volunteer is unable to log-in)
- Thank everyone who 'attended' and those who helped (at Announcements)