

I will walk before the LORD, in the land of the living.

The first reading today is often called the *Akedah*, a Hebrew word that means "binding." In this reading God calls upon Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice in the land of Moriah. Abraham sets out to follow the divine instructions, ultimately binding his son and placing him upon an altar of sacrifice.

The story shocks people. "How could God ask such a horrendous thing of a father?" It is important to realize, however, that God does not allow the sacrifice to occur. The fact that God halts the sacrifice shows that God is not advocating such child sacrifice, which at that time was practiced in the ancient Near East. What, then, is the purpose of the story?

The *Akedah* shows the extent of the commitment of Abraham to follow God's word and the divine blessing that comes through such resolve. The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard wrote two tracts in which he explored the story. Their titles signal the depth of the proposed sacrifice: *Sickness unto Death* and *Fear and Trembling*. To emphasize such commitment this passage speaks the language of divine astonishment. God says, "I swear by myself ... that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son ... " (Genesis 22:16). In the context of the Lenten readings the *Akedah* helps us begin to appreciate the extent of the love of the Father in sending the Son to make the supreme sacrifice for humanity. To view this divine gift in the context of the family (father and son) helps us to sense the extent of the divine self-emptying for humanity.

The second reading, from Paul's Letter to the Romans, builds on this divine gift of the Father's Son and draws out from this gift the implication of God's great commitment to us. After giving his own Son for us, what will the Father not do to help us?

*Scripture Reflections and Commentaries by
Msgr. Ralph Kuehner and Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis*

Readings for the Week of March 8, 2009

Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
Monday	Saint Frances of Rome, religious Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday	Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday	Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday	Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1; Lk 16:19-31
Friday	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

ST. JOSEPH BINGO – Monday evenings, St. Joseph Bingo will be held in St. Ann's School Cafeteria. Doors open 5:30 P.M. Preliminary games begin at 7:00 P.M.

Put on those walking shoes and join us in preparation for St. Ann Centennial's Family Fun Day 5k walk/run! We will be meeting Saturday mornings starting March 7, 2009 in St. Ann's parking lot at 8:30am. This will be a walking group preparing for our 5k event! All abilities are welcome! If you have any questions or to RSVP, you can contact Angela at angelagoldschmidt@yahoo.com or call (513) 377-7060.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soup and Bread- Please join us in the cafeteria on Fridays during Lent for soup and bread at 5:30 followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. Do you have a favorite meatless soup or bread you would like to share? Please call Connie Jacquemin at 860-2653. Dates for Soup and Bread: March 13, and March 27.

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. On the First Fridays, March 6 and April 3, they will be held after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

St. Raphael's needs our help! . St. Ann's will be collecting food and personal care and household items every weekend during Lent.

St. Ann's Lenten Penance Service will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

P.A.C. Annual Lenten Fish Fry will be held Friday, March 20th in the school cafeteria.

Spruce up your Catholic Faith this Lent by participating in an adult faith formation program with Deacon Mike Mignery. Deacon Mike will be teaching and moderating a Dr. Stephen Ray and Defending the Faith Series. How do we speak about our Faith when someone asks us? Meetings will be March 19th and March 26th, from 7pm to 8:30pm, in the school cafeteria.

The C.R.E.W. Youth Group will be selling reasonably priced crucifixes throughout Lent as a fundraiser for Vacation Bible School this year. We will be located at the main entrance of church after Mass or in the parking lot if the weather is nice. Also look for us at the Lenten Soup and Bread Dinners, First Friday Masses, and the Fish Fry. Please support the VBS program! Crucifixes are a must for every Catholic home, and make wonderful gifts for Confirmation, 1st Communion, and Baptism! We are also looking for donations of large shoeboxes for VBS (we have a "road trip" theme, and the shoeboxes will be used as mini-suitcases for the participants). There will be a basket in the main entrance of church to collect these. Thank you so much for your support. For more information, contact Erin Hingsbergen at 513-856-8945.

A Pro-life Lent The traditional practice of "giving something up for Lent" is a practice of self-denial; our Lord said that to follow him, we must deny our very selves. It means we say No to ourselves and Yes to God and others. This reverses the pattern of sin, which says Yes to ourselves and No to God and others. In our culture, the most violent No to God and others is abortion. Four thousand times every day in our nation, people say No to a little child so that they may say Yes to their fears or their plans. This Lent, as we practice self-denial, let's think of these children. Let's offer our sacrifices for them. May all say Yes to God and Yes to the unborn. For more ideas about how to foster respect for the unborn this Lent, visit www.priestsforlife.org.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, March 8th

7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

Monday, March 9th

7:00 p.m. Centennial meeting

Wednesday, March 11th

8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul
 8:00 p.m. P.A.C. meeting

Thursday, March 12th

6-8:00 p.m. Pack 907

Friday, March 13th

5:30 p.m. Soup and Bread in cafeteria
 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 14th

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions
 4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass

Sunday, March 15th

7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION - ST ANN PARISHIONERS:

In order for ST. ANN PARISHIONERS to secure a spot in our KINDERGARTEN for the 2009-10 year, you must have your child's name on our register by Friday, March 13, 2009. Beginning on Monday, March 15th we will begin to accept registration for students from other parishes. Once those names are accepted, they will be guaranteed a spot in next year's Kindergarten class.

USHERS for MARCH

5:00 p.m. Neil Ferdelman, Mark Staarmann
 Tim Baker, Darlene Baker
 8:00 a.m. Don Wolf, Dick Cepluch
 Mindy Jones, Terry Faucett
 10:30 a.m. Don Arent, Lynn de la Court
 Cliff Poppel, Phil Poppel

OFFERTORY SCHEDULE for MARCH

March 7/8

5:00 p.m. Kalberer Family
 8:00 a.m. Kiep / Baumann
 10:30 a.m. Kelley Family

March 14/15

5:00 p.m. Doug Conrad Family
 8:00 a.m. Dean & Mary Sue Wright
 10:30 a.m. Jim Kreke Family

March 21/22

5:00 p.m. Adelsperger Family
 8:00 a.m. Mark & Jennifer Sanders
 10:30 a.m. Hare Family

March 28/29

5:00 p.m. Williams Family
 8:00 a.m. Ted Fontaine Family
 10:30 a.m. Patrick Hayes Family

Don't miss Badin High School's musical production of *Cinderella*, March 19-22. Performances are 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Matinee performance on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Buy tickets through the school office at 863-3993. \$10 per ticket. Value tickets of \$8 each are available when you purchase six or more tickets for the same performance.



Saturday, March 7th

5:00 p.m. Paul Sherlock – Birthday Remembrance (Wife)

Sunday, March 8th

8:00 a.m. John H. Meador, Jr.
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People

Monday, March 9th

7:15 a.m. Gladys Kettman (Mark Finan)

Tuesday, March 10th

7:15 a.m. Special Intention

Wednesday, March 11th

7:15 a.m. Bill Smith – 9th Anniversary (Moulvi Family)

Thursday, March 12th

7:15 a.m. Communion Service
 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton

Friday, March 13th

8:00 a.m. Marguerite Baynes (Patty & Betty)

Saturday, March 14th

7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant
 5:00 p.m. Doris Landrum and Frank Jost (Family)

Sunday, March 15th

8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People
 10:30 a.m. Sylvia Williman (Ron & Angie Salyer)

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
02/22/2009	\$ 7,092.05
<i>Shortfall</i>	\$ (4,979.95)
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 410,448.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 322,251.99
<i>Shortfall</i>	\$ (88,196.01)
Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
03/01/2009	\$ 10,321.41
<i>Shortfall</i>	\$ (1,750.59)
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 422,520.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 332,843.40
<i>Shortfall</i>	\$ (89,676.60)

100th Anniversary

Our next Centennial meeting will be Monday, March 9th at 7:00PM in the Parish Center. All are welcome to help in the planning of this upcoming event. Some of the things that we need your help with include: editing our Historical booklet, planning our Family Day and Run/Walk to be held on Saturday, May 16th, organizing and working to clean and beautify our church and grounds for the special occasion, designing and mailing our invitations to special guests, planning the Mass and reception. We are working on many activities, and want to make this a very festive time in our church's history. Please consider volunteering.

HELP—does anyone know the history of the St. Ann statue that is in the back of the church? When was it put there? Where did it come from? Was it a gift? If you have any information, please call Susan at the Parish Center. Thanks.