

Readings for the week of February 18, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/
1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Friday:

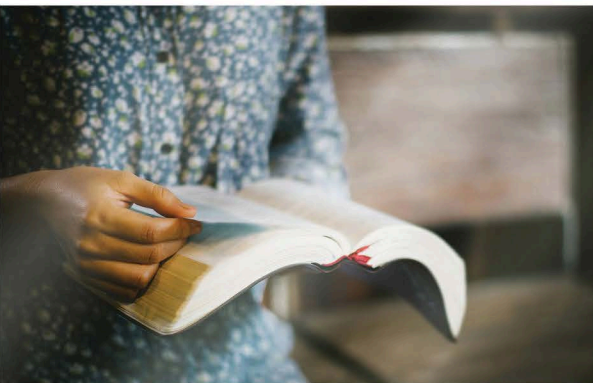
Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

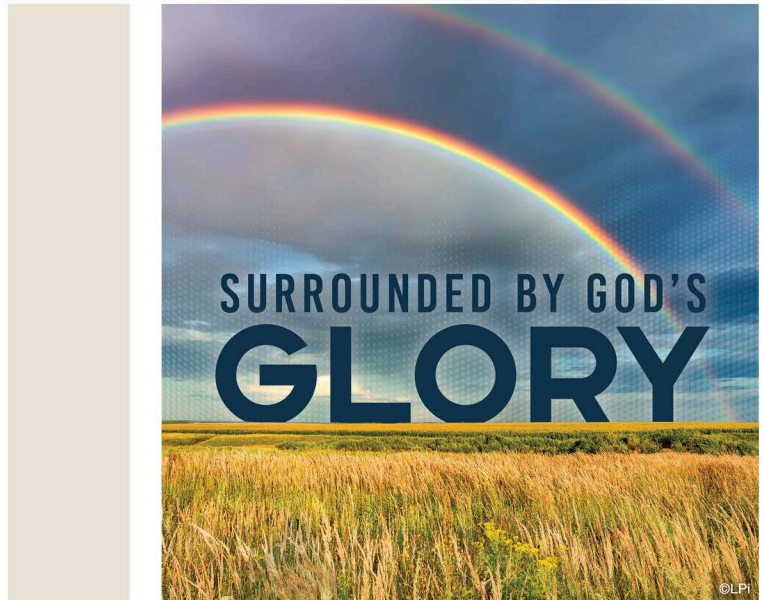
Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/
Mk 9:2-10



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous “Double Rainbow” video on YouTube to feel better. It’s hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. “Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!” he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, “What does it *mean*?” Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What *does* it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante’s medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God’s promise of peace. For Dante, it’s even more: nature’s encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, “Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory.” This Lent let’s embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Lent and the Flood

I would bet money that somewhere in your church this Lent, there's a bare tree branch draped in purple fabric and an empty bowl filled with rocks.

I'm not poking fun, the desert imagery that surrounds the season of Lent isn't a cliché — or if it is, it's only because clichés are essentially true. Lent is the desert. Lent is the wilderness. Lent is the time of less.

But what if Lent was also the flood?

It seems counterintuitive, floods are excessive, and we don't think of Lent as a time for superabundance. Lent is when we limit experiences outside of ourselves in order to limit proclivities within ourselves. Lent is not a time for anything to be washing over us, consuming us, carrying us away on a tide.

Unless...it is.

Consider the flood of the Old Testament. An act of destruction, yes, but also an act of purification. An endurance test for the soul, an epic trust fall exercise between God and Noah in which Noah had to ride the literal waves, clinging to life as God wiped away everything familiar. Everything sinful.

In Lent, we relinquish our weaknesses and our infirmities to the flood. It's frightening, certainly. But it's also exciting. Because just as the flood destroys everything, it also makes everything possible. It is a baptism.

Lent, like the flood, makes the world new.

"Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit." — 1 Peter 3:18

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What do the colors of the priest's and deacon's vestments mean?

Answer:

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the colors of the vestments evolved over the course of several centuries and there was wide variation both in the colors used, and in the feasts and seasons associated with particular colors. It was Pope Innocent III (d. 1216) who gave us the basic outline that was later prescribed by Pope Saint Pius V in 1570. The various colors remind us of the dominant themes of a particular season or celebration.

- **White:** Used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and in celebrations of the Lord, of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. This color is also used in Masses for the dead, at baptisms, weddings and other festive celebrations.
- **Red:** As the color of both blood and fire, red is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, as well as Pentecost and special celebrations of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, red is used on the feasts and memorials of the Apostles and those saints who died as martyrs.
- **Violet:** The color for Advent and Lent. Violet may also be used in Masses for the dead and on All Souls Day (November 2).
- **Green:** A color of life and hope, green is used throughout Ordinary Time.

Other colors: Rose may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent, black may be used in Masses of the dead and on All Souls Day, gold or silver may be used on solemn occasions in place of white, red, or green.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:
"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you
and your descendants after you
and with every living creature that was with you."
(Gn 9:8-10)

Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who
keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

It is not a removal of dirt from the body
but an appeal to God for a clear conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Pt 3:21)

Gospel:

He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him. (Mk 1:13)

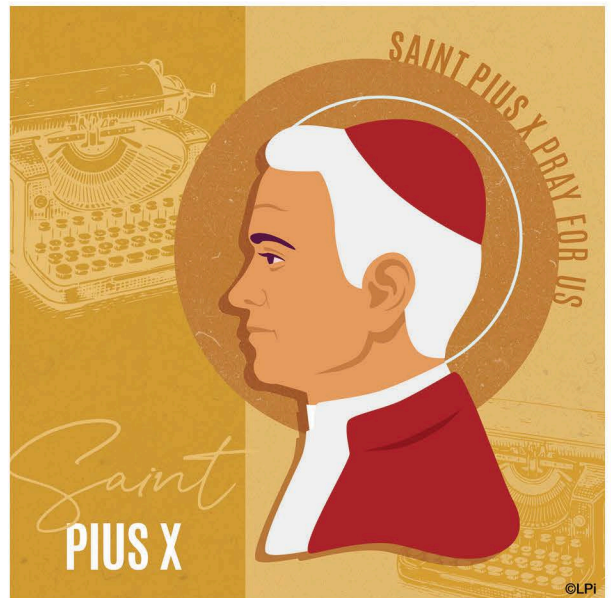
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

In the desert, Jesus endured forty days of hardship and temptation. But he did not endure it alone: "the angels ministered to him," the Gospel tells us. Remember that you do not face Lent alone. God is beside you in your journey to the desert.

Observances for the week of February 18, 2024

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent
- Monday:** Presidents' Day
- Wednesday:** St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- Friday:** St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

St. Pius X's devotion to the Eucharist was truly inspiring! He lowered the age of First Communion to seven years old, encouraging young hearts to encounter Christ early-on. He also advocated that everyone, regardless of their social class, should have access to the Eucharist.

Prayer for Lent

Dear Jesus,
This is the first Sunday of Lent, and I want to commit myself more deeply to you this season. Inspire me with the Lenten penances you most desire, the ones that help me to grow ever nearer to you.
Amen.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
- Mk 1:14-15

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

God used a rainbow as a sign of his covenant with Noah and all living creatures to never again flood the earth. Are there some additional signs in your life of God’s love for us?

Second Reading

Peter taught that baptism serves as an appeal or pledge to God for a clear conscience. What leads you to an examination of conscience?

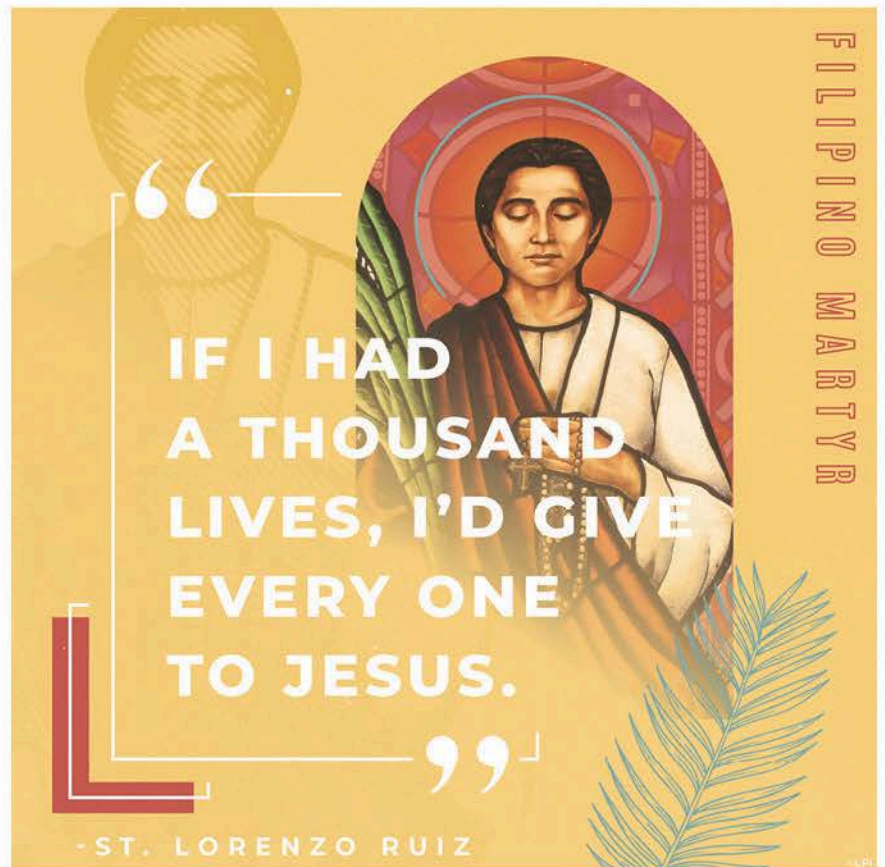
Gospel Reading

After a brief report of Jesus’ temptation by Satan in the desert, we hear the first words of Jesus at the launch of his public ministry in Galilee: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” As we begin the Lenten journey, what are some temptations you plan to face this Lent?



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A white bicycle with a wicker basket is parked on a wooden deck overlooking a forest. The text "YOUR WAYS ARE LOVE AND TRUTH." is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, "PSALM 25" is written in smaller, yellow letters. The background is a lush green forest with tall trees.

YOUR WAYS ARE LOVE AND TRUTH.

PSALM 25

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

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