



March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

Gen 12:1-4a | 2 Tim 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

What struck me when I first read this passage from the Book of Genesis, in which the Lord speaks to Abraham, is God's proclamation that it is through *his will* and *his work* that the blessings and goodness of Abraham's future will come about. It is not a vague statement, in which the subject is omitted. God clearly says, "I will make your name great." Abraham was a faithful servant of God and sought to obey God's will, but that is not what made his name memorable. It is due to God's will and generosity that Abraham's blessings came about. I sometimes struggle with giving up credit for the good things in my life. I want to believe that *my work*, *my talents*, and *my dedication* have brought about these good things. But the reality is that all of who I am and the skills that I have is a gift. I was created by God and formed by others to hone certain dispositions and talents that have led to my accomplishments. When we come to realize that all we have is a gift, we are able to offer our lives back to be transfigured and glorified by God, who creates and gives all things.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Many scholars identify this moment of the Transfiguration as the climax of the narrative arc of the Gospels, after which Christ's actions lead to his suffering and death. In his passion, Christ demonstrates the ultimate submission to the will of God, taking on the weight of human sin in order to redeem us. In this moment of Transfiguration on the mountain, we glimpse the beauty of the glorification that will result from this perfect obedience to God's will. We, too, are called to surrender ourselves fully to God. Following Jesus' model of humble submission to the Father's will does not involve false humility, in which we are self-deprecating or overly critical of ourselves. Instead, we are called to acknowledge and celebrate our gifts and accomplishments, while also recognizing that who we are and the gifts that we have come from our generous and loving God.

REFLECT

Reflect on the gifts and talents you have been given, as well as the accomplishments that have come about because of these gifts. Take a moment to thank God for all that he has given to you, and ask him to reveal how you can be a witness to his goodness through the prudent use and celebration of these gifts.

Church of the Ascension
ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a
Confessions: (Sat) 4p-4:45p

By Josef Buchbinder, Public Domain

The Three-Tent Solution

Saint Peter's idea at the Transfiguration charms us with its reasonableness. When blessed with the sturdy foundation of the law of Moses, the strong prophetic tradition of Elijah, and the kindly ministry of Jesus, why not build an institution that encompasses all three? Peter's plan wasn't faulty, because the church does honor all these roads to truth in its scripture. But Peter's architectural model envisioned these men as leaders of equal merit. God, the voice that speaks from the cloud, clearly differentiates between the three, calling Jesus alone "Beloved Son." The paths of law and prophecy both lead at last to Jesus.
-Takefiveforfaith.com

Celebrate Reconciliation Sacrament with Our Children

Mar. 14 at 10:30am

Clara and **Isabel** in our parish will celebrate their First Reconciliation on March 14 at 10:30am. It will start with a short liturgy of the word. Fr. Hao and Fr. Maurice will be available also for others to celebrate this sacrament of mercy. Please come a few minutes before 10:30am to show your support for them.

Daylight Saving Time Returns

Mar. 8

Remember to "spring forward" one hour next Sunday.



Food Insecurity in SC County

A 2023-24 study indicated that the highest and most enduring hunger level in our county is in East San Jose, where 30% of the population experiences food insecurity, as well as in downtown San Jose.

Currently, there are 27,400 children facing hunger in the county, and close to 134,000 residents depend on federal food assistance, with around 55,000 at risk from possible cuts to SNAP/CalFresh.

- Second Harvest of Silicon Valley

WEEKLY OFFERING - Feb. 22

-Total: **\$6,060** (\$4,858 + online: \$1,202. Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$227,557**. Budget: \$231,200.

-Church in Eastern Europe (Ash Wednesday): **\$1,241**.

-Black & Indian Missions: **\$1,407**.

Thank you for your generosity.

Consider an **IRA to Charity Contribution**: individuals aged 70½ or older can transfer to a church up to \$108,000 annually without increasing taxable income or requiring itemized deductions.

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 28	Sat	05 pm	Terry Lynch +
Mar 01	Sun	07 am	John Miller +
		09 am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		05 pm	Joseph Fiorentino, Sr. & Family
Mar 03	Tue	08 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
Mar 07	Sat	09 am	Levy Acheron Castillo +

Lenten Quotes

"Ash Wednesday is full of joy... The source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust."

- Fr. Thomas Merton

"Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won't always find answers, but you will always find Jesus."

- Fr. Mike Schmitz

Stations of the Cross

-*Early Roots*: This practice started with pilgrims in Jerusalem during the 4th century.

-*Symbolic Pilgrimage*: To help believers 'walk in Jesus's footsteps' without going to Jerusalem, Franciscan friars built outdoor shrines in Europe since the 15th century.

-*Formalization*: In 1731, Pope Clement XII approved the 14-station structure, and this devotion was made available in all Catholic churches.

Come to 'walk in the footsteps of Jesus' with us through the Stations of the Cross devotion every Friday during Lent after the 8:00am Mass.

Divine Mercy Devotion - Mar. 6

Chaplet and Rosary start at 3:00pm, along with Confessions during the Exposition, then Benediction.

Pray40

In 2025, nearly 2 million people joined Pray40, leading to Hallow app reaching #1 overall in the App Store.

Journey with **Jonathan Roumie** with daily meditations.

Join **Mark Wahlberg** and **Chris Pratt** in fasting challenges rooted in Scripture.

Pray alongside **Sr. Miriam James Heidland**.

Listen to Sunday homilies from **Fr. Mike Schmitz**, host of the #1 Christian podcast Bible in a Year.

"Hallow has been transformative not only for me but for so many others. There's something for EVERYONE – meditations, prayers, music, the saints – making it



Virtual Parish Mission with Fr. Michael Moore

Watch his four reflections (Feb. 2-5) at Ascension on ascensionsaratoga.org.

"Jesus Christ, Son of God, Not Only With Us But Also Within Us."



Refugee Foster Care

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County supports unaccompanied refugee minors fleeing persecution and violence. The service is seeking families to welcome a refugee youth into their home. To learn more, join a virtual information session on March 26, 26 at 6:30pm. Call 408-325-5107 or email snavarro2@ccsc.org.