



**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, February 28**

5 p.m. Anne Johnson (D)

7 p.m. Meve Ortiz (D)

**Sunday, March 1**

8 a.m. Ruby Guillot (D)

10:30 a.m. People of the parish

**Monday, March 2**

No Mass

**Tuesday, March 3**

8:30 a.m. Betty Rollins (D)

**Wednesday, March 4**

6:30 p.m. Theresa Fall (D)

**Thursday, March 5**

8:30 a.m. David & Kevin Wilson (D)

**Friday, March 6**

8:30 a.m. Bob Walter (D)

**Saturday, March 7**

5 p.m. Altar Society & their families

7 p.m.

**Sunday, March 8**

8 a.m. Bill McDaniel (D)

10:30 a.m. People of the parish

**BREAK OPEN THE WORD**

[Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18](#)

[Rom 8:31b-34](#)

[Mk 9:2-10](#)



When we hear in Mark's Gospel that Jesus took the disciples "off by themselves", it is his signal that something very important is about to take place; something about faith in Jesus that is imperative that his followers must be aware of. This phrase is repeated throughout Mark's Gospel to introduce special moments of revelation or an important teaching (4:34; 6:31-32; 7:33; 9:20; 13:3). This weekend it announces the transfiguration of Jesus. Mark makes it clear that the disciples were being offered a glimpse of Jesus' glory, more dazzling and white than any man-made bleach could achieve.

Scholars suggest that the transfiguration is a post-resurrection appearance that the evangelist has projected back into the time of Jesus' ministry. This would account for the fact that the disciples did not seem more sure of Jesus' messianic identity than before the transfiguration. Perhaps it was Mark's intent to offer his readers a glimpse of the risen Lord and to point to the resurrection (v. 9) as the decisive moment when Jesus would be fully revealed.

Moses and Elijah represent the law and the prophets. They are also witnesses to the fact that the law and the prophets are fulfilled in Jesus: "looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus" (v. 8). To further affirm the unique and salvific role of Jesus, the voice from the cloud identified Jesus as God's Son and said, "Listen to him" (v. 7).

In verse five Peter, as only Peter can, takes charge and boldly announces a new building program; Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter's excitement is best understood if we take into account his Jewish traditions. Every autumn, the Israelites celebrated Sukkoth, the Feast of Booths, Tents or Tabernacles. This feast commemorated their desert sojourn from Egypt to the Promised Land with God leading them every step of the way. Through the centuries, the feast had acquired a messianic character. It was believed that during the feast, the Lord of Hosts would appear and vindicate Israel while punishing all her enemies (Zech 14:16-19). Was Mark announcing, through Peter, that the Day of the Lord had indeed come? It would seem so, but Mark was quick to point out that this feasting would begin only after Jesus had died for sinners and was risen from the dead (v. 10).

But for the time being, Jesus will dedicate himself to transforming others. As he changed sinners into forgiven believers, the alienated into friends, the sick and the maimed into healthy people, he also expanded puny and narrow nationalistic concerns into a universal love on the Father's part. We who are his followers are to continue the process of transformation until he comes in glory that never ends.

It's not too late to commit to a Lenten journey that leads to a new and exciting awareness of the Day of the Lord. Now is the acceptable time.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**



Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

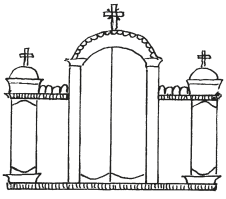
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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Tuesday  
March 3  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## BISHOP'S FAITH APPEAL REPORT

GOAL: \$77,077.00

123 families donated \$53,285.00 which is 69% of our goal from 19% of our parishioners.

Pledge envelopes are available in pews and in the church office.

## MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

The first weekend of each month is designated for a **FOOD DRIVE**. Bring your non-perishable food items to church 7, 8 to place in the baskets at the two main church entrances. The donations go to Orange Christian Services to benefit the needy in Orange County.

## FAITH IN ACTION ADVOCACY DAY

On March 24th, 2015, Catholics across the State of Texas will use peaceful persuasion and courageous witness to address the Texas legislature's in its responsibility to bring about social structures that uplift all the people of Texas. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the formation of a society that reflects the love and mercy of God. If you are able to attend the Advocacy Day in Austin, a bus (free of charge) will depart St. Francis' parking lot early in the morning, returning very late in the evening. Call Janis Beach ASAP to reserve a spot 883 4566

Welcome our newest parishioners: Betty Thayer, Rhonda Dixson, Mary Catherine Murray, Cindy and Hugo Medina and their children Ashley and Kevin



May our faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace:  
Jason Krustchinsky, Charles Forster



Congratulations to the newly married  
Juan Olvera and Mayra Valzquez



Please welcome the newly baptized:  
Mia Guadalupe Ibarra, daughter of Dario Ibarra and Nancy Delafuente;  
Jace Reed Hale son of Josh Mercer and Sydney Hale;  
Cass Maddex Maldonado, child of Stephen and Meagan Maldonado

## LISTEN AND FOLLOW

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." And listen they did. From that moment on, Peter, James, and John were ardent followers, forsaking everything to follow in their Master's footsteps. Like the psalmist crying, "O Lord, I am your servant," the three disciples committed themselves to lives of incredible hardship and indescribable joy. After that day on the mountain, they never again wavered in their chosen vocation.

Though our tests may not be as severe as Abraham's and our peak experiences not as dramatic as the Transfiguration, we all face the daily challenges of walking "before the Lord in the land of the living." As we follow our varied calls to love and serve, let's be comforted by Paul's reminder to the Romans: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Within the tradition of the Christian church, there are differing ways of observing a Lenten fast. For Eastern Catholics and Orthodox, the discipline is close to our understanding of "abstinence." Certain foods are eliminated from the diet entirely. The rules are basically monastic rules, and the customs of a monastery table are embraced in the home. This year, "Meatfare Sunday" is February 26, and it is the last time that meat is admitted to the diet until Easter. The following Sunday, known as "Cheesefare Sunday," takes cheese and all dairy products from the table. It is also known as "forgiveness Sunday" because a true fast is about crowning life with love, holding back harsh words, and cutting off anger.

The Eastern churches fast even from celebrating the Eucharist from Monday through Friday. We don't count Sundays as fast days, but Eastern Christians fast through the weekends. People are expected to come as close to the ideal as possible, and the Lenten services keep reminding them not to take pride in their fasting, since the devil himself never eats! What's left on the menu? Grains, vegetables, eggs (maybe), and fish. Imagine the joys of the Easter table after such a fast!

Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## NEW IDEA

Everybody thinks of changing humanity; nobody thinks of changing themselves. Leo Tolstoy

## THE ART OF LISTENING

If you want God to listen to you when you pray, shouldn't you listen to God when God speaks to you? Anonymous

## EASTER LILIES FOR THE ALTAR

Easter lilies for the church altar can be given in honor of a loved one for a \$12 donation. Paula Perkins 883 7393 is collecting payment by cash or check made out to SFA Altar Society.



The Altar Society sale of RADA Cutlery is ongoing with the next order to be placed March 12. Call Cathy Manshack 882 9600 for more info or to place an order. Catalog available in church office.



**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**

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February 24, 2015

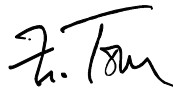
Dear Parishioners:

In the last several weeks we have begun our 2015 Bishop's Faith Appeal. We still need your help to make sure that we meet the needs of the diocesan ministries. In the kickoff several weeks ago, both Jerry Ehrman and I shared with the parish the importance of every member supporting the BFA. This diocesan campaign directly supports the diocesan ministries on which we as a parish family rely. As your pastor, if you have not already done so, I encourage you to please take part in this year's campaign.

We made our goal last year because folks joined their brothers and sisters across the diocese in making the church visible. From assistance to Youth Programs in small rural parishes, to assistance with marriage annulments and Religious Educations programs here in Orange, our BFA dollars were put to good use last year!

On the second weekend of Lent we hear the story of the Transfiguration from Mark's Gospel. He wants us to understand that Jesus dedicated himself to transforming others into the creatures the Father intends. As he changed sinners into forgiven believers, the alienated into friends, the sick and the maimed into healthy people, he also expanded our puny and narrow parochial concerns into an awareness of the universal love of the Father. We who are his followers are to continue the process of transformation until he comes in glory that never ends.

For all your efforts in ministry, we give thanks.



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Rev. Thomas E. Phelan, Pastor



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Mr. Jerry Ehrman, BFA Chairman

# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

## ESCUCHA Y SIGUE

“Este es mi Hijo amado; escúchenlo”. Y sí que lo escucharon. Desde ese momento, Pedro, Santiago y Juan fueron sus ardientes seguidores, desechándolo todo para seguir las huellas del Maestro. Tal como proclama el salmista, “Señor, he aquí tu servidor”, los tres discípulos se comprometieron a vidas de increíbles penurias e indescriptible gozo. Después de ese día en la montaña, nunca más dudaron de la vocación escogida.

Aunque nuestras pruebas no sean tan severas como la de Abraham, ni nuestros momentos sublimes tan dramáticos como la Transfiguración, todos confrontamos los retos cotidianos de caminar “en presencia del Señor en el país de la vida”. Mientras seguimos nuestros diversos llamados a amar y servir, seamos confortados por lo que Pablo les recuerda a los romanos: “Si Dios está a nuestro favor, ¿quién estará en contra nuestra?”

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## TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Cuando Jesús se transfiguró sobre la cima de un monte, Pedro, reconociendo que algo sagrado ocurría en ese lugar quiso construir tres chozas. Como si buscara hacer un santuario, un lugar santo, donde Dios se manifestara de manera particular. El santuario puede ser el lugar entero o sólo parte de un edificio. En nuestras iglesias, el santuario es el presbiterio donde se encuentra el altar mayor, donde son consagrados el pan y el vino. iglesias antiguas como las Basílicas romanas tienen un segundo santuario que es la capilla donde se reserva el Santísimo Sacramento en el tabernáculo o sagrario.

Los santuarios más importantes de la cristiandad se encuentran en Palestina. Europa tiene varios santuarios como la tumba de Santiago en Compostela, España. Algunos santuarios famosos de América son los de Guadalupe (México), Teresa de los Andes (Chile), Señor de los Milagros (Perú), Cristo Negro de Esquipulas (Guatemala), Montserrat (Colombia) y el de la Divina Misericordia (Chicago). Todo santuario es un lugar donde se une el recuerdo y la vivencia contemporánea de la fe, son lugares donde la Iglesia institucional y la religión popular conviven y se enriquecen mutuamente.

Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## UNA NUEVA IDEA

Todo el mundo piensa en cambiar a la humanidad, pero nadie piensa en cambiarse a sí mismo.

León Tolstoy

## EL ARTE DE ESCUCHAR

Si quieres que Dios te escuche cuando rezas, ¿no deberías tú escuchar a Dios cuando te habla?

Anónimo

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT

February 22, 2015

<b>Amount needed each week</b> (Regular collection)	\$11,873.00
Weekend regular collection (including building fund)	9,251.41
<b>Short of Goal</b>	<b>2,621.59</b>
<b>Year to date totals (February 22, 2015)</b>	
Amount needed (\$11,873. x 34 fiscal weeks)	\$ 403,682.00
Total Sunday collections to date	392,626.23
<b>Year to date shortage</b>	<b>11,055.77</b>

## UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION

**Catholic Relief Services Collection** March 15

Online giving is an excellent way to fulfill your obligation to support St. Francis parish. Go to [www.stfrancisorangetx.org](http://www.stfrancisorangetx.org) and click the Online Giving link.



## Saturday, February 28

Reconciliation 4-4:45 p.m.

5 p.m. mass

7 p.m. Spanish mass

Adoration sign up at entrances

## Sunday, March 1

8 a.m. mass 10:30 a.m. mass

Adoration sign up at entrances

Confirmation class 5:30 p.m.

Sonlight choir 6:30 p.m.

## Monday, March 2

Adult choir 6 p.m.

Women's ACTS 6:30 p.m.

Divorced Catholics 7 p.m. youth room

## Tuesday, March 3

Men's faith sharing 5:45 a.m.

Women's faith sharing 6:15 a.m.

8:30 a.m. mass

Adoration 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

RCIA 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, March 4

Parkinson's Support Group 10 a.m.

RE grades K-8 5:15-6:15

Keysis grades 9-12 6:30-8:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. mass

Pastoral Council 7:15 p.m.

## Thursday, March 5

8:30 a.m. mass

Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Francis/Claire

## Friday, March 6

8:30 a.m. mass

Girl Scouts 4:30 p.m.

KC Fish Fry 5-7 p.m. San Damiano Center

Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.

## Saturday, March 7

Reconciliation 4-4:45 p.m.

5 p.m. mass

7 p.m. Spanish mass

## Sunday, March 8

8 a.m. mass 10:30 a.m. mass

Confirmation class 5:30 p.m.

Sonlight choir 6:30 p.m.