

FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

March 3, 2019

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 10, 2019

First Sunday of Lent

<p>Jesus warns us not to be hypocrites. We easily and forcefully criticize and condemn others for their faults while willfully remaining blind to our own. Broadcast media gives us daily training in doing this and we readily participate through social media. Make the season of Lent a season to cultivate the virtues of patience and compassion towards others and humble honesty for ourselves. Pray more. Criticize and post less.</p>	<p>Notice that Jesus “was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” What is a wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family relationships which you have avoided? In the forty days of Lent, it is not a matter of us working on things but God working in us. Open your heart, trust the Spirit and spend this Lent in “your wilderness.”</p>
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March 17, 2019 Second Sunday of Lent	March 24, 2019 Third Sunday of Lent	March 31, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Lent
<p>In the Transfiguration, Jesus changed His appearance in front of the apostles and then a mysterious cloud came over them. The apostles “were terrified as they entered the cloud.” Every one of us is a constantly-unfolding mystery. When we enter into a relationship with another, we can expect change and we should expect it to be unsettling, for it might require us also to change.</p>	<p>In this third week of Lent, the gospel challenges us to repent. What are you clinging to that is actually destroying you? It could be anger that is eating you up; a jealousy that hardens your heart; or a false pride that blinds you to the goodness of others. These things can destroy us and the relationships that we value. Let us see repentance in a positive light as an opportunity to be embraced by Jesus’ great mercy that will set us free.</p>	<p>We may feel like the Prodigal Son but the gospel wants us to be merciful like the father who was forgiving and understanding of his son. In families we all make mistakes and need to forgive one another. Who in your family needs your forgiveness and acceptance?</p>

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- March 3, 2019** For the courage to replace criticism with compassion. Let us pray to the Lord.
- March 10, 2019** That families will make the time and effort to pray and listen for the Lord. Let us pray to the Lord.
- March 17, 2019** For the courage to be open to change and new relationships. Let us pray to the Lord.
- March 24, 2019** That families will make the time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us pray to the Lord.
- March 31, 2019** For families who are threatened by selfishness, arguments, self-righteous anger, or intimidation, that they seek help and find it. Let us pray to the Lord.