

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 2010

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010

(Deut26.16-19, Matt5.43-48)

5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

Eileen Crosby by Evelyn Crosby

Douglas Weston by Jean Weston

Daniel Lopez by his family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

(Gen15.5-12, 17-18, Phillipians3.17-4.1, Luke9.28b-36)

10:30 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010 - NO MASS

(Dan9.3, 4b-10++, Luke6.36-38)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

(Isaiah1.10, 16-20, 27-28, 31++, Matt23.1-12)

5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

The Hon. Frederick Collins & Mrs. Irene Collins

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

(Jer18.18-20, Matt20.17-28)

9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010

(Jer17.5-10, Luke16.19-31)

9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010

(Gen37.3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28, Matt21.33-43, 45-46)

9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

(Micah7.14-15, 18-20, Luke15.1-3, 11-32)

5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

Myles & Mary Redmond by their family

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010

(Exodus3.1-8a, 13-15, 1Cor10.1-6, 10-12, Luke13.1-9)

10:30 Lorraine West & Family (Estate)

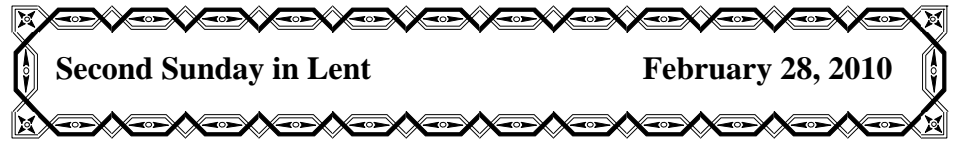
This Week at Ascension

Monday: Lenten series ***Chocolate for Lent*** in the Parish Room of the rectory from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Christian Meditation at 7 p.m. in the East Sacristy for information call 931-5536.

Wednesday: **Sunday Scripture Reflection** with Fr. Pat in the Parish Room of the Rectory **will resume on March 10.**

Thursday: **Choir Practice** at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.



Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2010

2nd Sunday of Lent (Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus is at the top of a mountain, deep in prayer, when he changes in appearance. His clothes become dazzling white and Moses and Elijah suddenly appear and converse with him. Half asleep, Peter offers to erect three booths (tents), one for each of the distinguished visitors and Jesus. Without warning, a cloud envelopes them and a voice comes from it. The vision quickly ends and Jesus and the three disciples are alone again.

This Gospel story is rich with symbolism. Some Jews believed the righteous would wear white clothing in God's kingdom and would live in tents because the Jews lived in tents when God led them out of Egypt, through the desert, and into the Promised Land. All this symbolism makes it likely Peter thought he was in the kingdom of God.

The strangest feature of today's Gospel reading is the appearance of Moses and Elijah, two important Old Testament figures who had been dead for hundreds of years. Moses represents the laws God gave him on Mt. Sinai, laws the Jews believed were a guideline to holiness. Some Jews believed following the laws was a sure way to please God and to reserve for oneself a spot in his kingdom. Elijah, on the other hand, was one of the greatest prophets in the history of the Jewish people. Many Jews believed he would return to the earth to prepare the way for the messiah, God's chosen one who would usher in God's kingdom on earth.

Since the Jewish people called their Scriptures (what Christians call the Old Testament) "the Law and the Prophets" we can assume that is what Moses and Elijah represent when they appear together in today's Gospel. We can interpret their presence with Jesus to mean that just as God once worked to save the Jewish people from their physical enemies in the days of the Old Testament, he is now working through his son, Jesus, to save the world from its spiritual enemy, the devil.

All this symbolism points to Jesus being the messiah, a conclusion the voice from the cloud supports when it identifies Jesus as the chosen one (another way of referring to the messiah). The Old Testament sometimes uses a cloud as a symbol of God's presence (see Exodus 13:21, Exodus 16:10, and 1 Kings 8:10-11). Therefore, the voice must belong to the heavenly Father.

Thus, we'll miss the point of today's Gospel if we focus only on the change in Jesus' appearance. What's more important is that the Father used this occasion to confirm Jesus' mission as the messiah, the person he chose to establish his kingdom on earth.

For Reflection: Just as Jesus was at prayer when all this happened, prayer can also transfigure our lives. Identify an area in your life that needs change and ask God to transform you into a new person, pleasing to him in every way.

Lenten Food and Clothing Drive

The need for non-perishable foodstuffs at St. Willibrord's Food Bank is ongoing. Over 400 food packages are distributed each month. To show our support and concern for the needy, we are once again asking for a special effort during Lent to help keep their Food Bank well stocked. Tinned goods such as fish and ham, and dried goods such as cereals and pasta are what they want and need. Clean clothing is also in demand as is clean bedding. Bins in which to deposit donations are provided in the vestibule at the back of the church.

Benedict Labre House

A special thank-you to all the volunteers who cooked for and served 141 people at Benedict Labre House on February 14th. As usual the meal was enjoyed and much appreciated. Thanks also to those who made financial donations. With the extra money we were able to purchase some much needed kitchen items for the house.

Online Lenten Retreat

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>



**Development
and Peace**

Share Lent Campaign

As Pope Benedict reminds us "Food and access to water are universal rights of all human beings without distinction or discrimination." Yet more than a billion people do not have enough food to live healthy, productive lives. Most live in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. This is where Development & Peace works in solidarity with partners to increase access to food for poor communities. A new partner in Madagascar has helped a thousand families increase the amount of rice they grow, and a Haitian partner has trained small scale farmers to increase their yield sustainably. For more information go to www.dev.org or pick up literature at the back of the church.

Parish Support

We encourage all parishioners to use the regular Sunday envelopes. These are mailed to parishioners four times a year. To obtain envelopes please call the parish office (932-3131) or fill in the form below and place it in the collection plate. We extend a warm welcome to new parishioners. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Msgr. Harty & Fr. Donnelly after Mass.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____