



# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART.

—ROMANS 10:8

FEBRUARY 17, 2013

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

## PASSING THE TEST

“Test” is a four-letter word. Spelling tests, driving tests, SATs, all bring a knot to the stomach. Tests are something we would rather forgo, but also something we must undergo. Lent, too, is a four-letter word and is also a kind of test, for the only way to Easter is to pass through Lent. Today’s reading from Deuteronomy commends Israel for its faith in the God who saves. No matter the tribulation, Israel’s faith enables it to persevere. This faith/test theme also appears in the reading from Romans. Paul boldly asserts that faith in Christ will see the believer through any trial. The Gospel passage makes it clear that even Jesus was tested. It describes a test, a struggle between good and evil, that dramatically demonstrates Jesus’ faith in the power of God’s life in him. This power enables him to overcome temptation. This power is with all of us who celebrate the test of Lent, a power enabling us to pass with flying colors.

## TOGETHER IN MISSION

TODAY WE ARE called to share our gifts with other parishes and schools within the L.A. Archdiocese. It is through the **TOGETHER IN MISSION CAMPAIGN** that we can most effectively support ministry outside of our parish boundaries. When you give to this campaign, you are providing for ministry, education and services in 35 parishes and 52 schools...**three of which are in Long Beach**. You are very directly, helping to bring the Good News, the Word of God, to thousands of people.

## YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY — LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION ON THE SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS...

The Gospels say that Jesus spoke seven times while he hung dying on the cross. Each time he spoke has been called a “word.” During Lent, we will provide a different ‘word’ each week. You will have the opportunity to reflect on:

- THE SCRIPTURE WITH THE WORDS OF JESUS.
- YOUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN ORDER TO PLACE YOURSELF CLOSE TO JESUS AND TRY TO ENTER HIS EXPERIENCE.
- A PERSONAL VISUAL INTERPRETATION OF JESUS’ WORDS.

Please take time this week to meditate on the ‘word’ of Jesus (below). You are encouraged to compare your personal experiences with those of Jesus and to utilize the questions as a guide to enter his experience.

**You are invited to share your ideas with other parishioners each Sunday at 10:00a.m. in the rectory.**

**“INDEED, I PROMISE YOU,  
TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.”** Luke 23:39-43

*In spite of moments of torment,  
am I able to look forward to the promises Christ offers to those who seek his way?*

(Like the good thief, how can I recognize the generosity and goodness of those who are outcasts in our society such as the homeless, the poor, the elderly living in isolation? Do I seek them out?)

If you care to enhance your meditations, there is a booklet available (\$15) which includes artwork and suggested music. Please call Sr. Sharon at 562.439.0931 x 5.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**This Monday and every Monday of Lent, we will gather in the church at 6:30 p.m. to pray the Stations of the Cross.** Please include this beautiful devotion in your Lenten journey, allowing yourself to imagine his entry into the experience of those who are tortured, unjustly accused or victimized, sitting on death row, carrying impossible burdens, facing terminal illnesses, or simply fatigued with life.

## LITURGY MINISTERS

Liturgical ministers are reminded to send in their non-availability dates for March, April and May before next Monday, February 25.