

Homily Summary – 2nd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Short Overview: The readings this Sunday reveal two important movements of faith: trusting God enough to go forth and being strengthened by moments when God reveals His glory. Abram leaves his homeland trusting God's promise, while the disciples witness Jesus' Transfiguration on the mountain. Lent invites us to do both: to leave behind sin and old patterns, and to be strengthened by encounters with Christ - especially in prayer, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Like Mary, we are called to trust God not only in moments of glory but also on the journey that leads through sacrifice to resurrection.

Main Points

1. Faith Requires Going Forth

God calls Abram to leave his homeland and trust in a promise he cannot yet see.

Faith often requires letting go of security and trusting the One who calls us. Lent asks us:

- What habits, sins, or comforts must we leave behind?
 - Where is God asking us to trust Him more deeply?
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2. The Transfiguration Reveals Christ's Glory

Jesus reveals His divine glory to Peter, James, and John before His suffering on the Cross.

This moment strengthens them for the difficult road ahead.

God often gives us "**mountaintop experiences**" to remind us who Jesus truly is.

3. Mountaintop Experiences Strengthen Our Journey

We encounter God in powerful ways through:

- Prayer
- Mass
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Retreats
- Moments of beauty or grace
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation

These moments strengthen our faith, but they are meant to **prepare us for the journey back into daily life.**

4. Reconciliation Brings Real Transformation

Confession is one of the most powerful ways we "go forth" during Lent.

It is where:

- God's mercy meets our weakness
- Darkness is touched by Christ's light
- True spiritual transformation occurs

Lent invites us not just to feel inspired, but to **be changed by grace.**

5. Mary Shows Us How to Walk the Journey

Mary lived this pattern of faith perfectly:

- She trusted God when called into the unknown.
- She treasured moments of joy and glory.
- She remained faithful even at the Cross.

Mary teaches us to trust God **on the mountain and in the valley.**

Key Bible Passages

Genesis 12:1: "Go forth from your land... to the land that I will show you."

Matthew 17:1-9 : The Transfiguration of Jesus.

Matthew 17:5: "This is my beloved Son... listen to him."

Luke 2:19 : Mary treasured these things and pondered them in her heart.

Romans 8:17: "We suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

Catechism of the Catholic Church References

CCC 1425–1429 – Conversion and the call to ongoing repentance during our lives.

CCC 1446 – Christ instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation so the baptized can be restored to grace.

CCC 556 – The Transfiguration strengthens the disciples before the Passion.

CCC 2015 – The path to holiness passes through the Cross.

Reflection Questions

1. What might God be asking me to leave behind this Lent so I can follow Him more freely?
2. Where have I experienced “mountaintop moments” with God in my life?
3. Am I truly listening to Jesus in prayer, Scripture, and the teachings of the Church?
4. How might the Sacrament of Reconciliation help transform my life this Lent?
5. Like Mary, how can I remain faithful to God even when the journey becomes difficult?

Rhyme summary:

From Abram’s call to leave the land To the shining Christ on mountain grand,
We learn that faith must walk it’s way ... From fear and sin that cloud the day.
The Father’s voice says, “Hear My Son,” Through desert paths till Easter’s won.
God’s mercy and grace our hearts restore Until we rise transformed, forevermore.

Some Scriptural reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’"

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.’"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’"

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>