

# Pastor's Letter

**February 25, 2024—2nd Sunday of Lent**

Dear Church Family,

In our first reading, God asks Abraham to give up the one thing that he loved more than anything, his only beloved son Isaac. How could God ask such a thing? This would be horrific in and of itself, but it is made even more troubling by the fact that Isaac was a gift that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah as part of the covenant made with God in which he promised to make Abraham's descendants a great nation with a land of their own. Through these descendants God had said that all the nations of the world would be blessed. Was God going back on that promise now?

The rest of the story shows us that God was testing Abraham's faith. He tells Abraham not to hurt his son, but because he was willing to make this sacrifice for God, the covenant is renewed and strengthened. More importantly for us today, this story foreshadows God's own offering of his Son for the establishment of the new covenant that would embrace all humankind, not just the physical descendants of Abraham. St. Paul says in our second reading from his letter to the Romans, "He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?" God's own Son sealed the new covenant in his blood for the salvation of the world. If God would do that for us, we should trust him with everything that we hold dear including our hopes for the future and even our very lives.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus gives his disciples a glimpse of the glory of his divinity to encourage them to face the trials that are ahead of them in Jerusalem where Jesus will suffer and die. Our Lord was raised in glory because he was willing to entrust himself completely to the will of the Father. May all of us follow his example and that of Abraham who held nothing back from God.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

## **Thank You Jo and Ava**

This weekend we are saying thank you to our retiring parish secretaries, Jo Whewell and Ava Fessler. We are very grateful for their many years of dedicated service to our parishes and wish them every blessing in the years to come.

