

**February 24-25, 2018**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Genesis 22:1-18**

**Romans 8:31-34**

**Mark 9:2-11**

**For whom would you die?** For whom would you sacrifice your own life so that they might live? The emotional ripples of the Florida High School shooting still wounding our hearts, this is not as far-fetched a question as it might have been years ago (before Columbine H.S.). In a life-threatening situation, whom would you protect first? Your spouse? Your children? A close companion/friend? A parent? A dignitary? Yourself? If you could only save one person...who would it be? Sensitized by the dismal circumstances within which we now live, this weekend's First Reading from Genesis may strike some as inappropriate or callous. The story of Abraham, out of fidelity to God, agreeing to sacrifice/kill his own son, Isaac, is a traditional Scripture selection for EVERY Lent. When we say we LOVE God...to what level, to what depth, do we mean? What are we willing to sacrifice so that our relationships with God are unimpeded? The Gospel of the Transfiguration is meant as a 'solace', offering us a hint of insight into the 'hidden' reality of Jesus...he is more than just a carpenter from Nazareth! The challenge of God to Abraham is the challenge that will later be asked of each of Jesus's disciples....are you willing to lay down your life for Jesus? Are we, as disciples of Jesus, willing to risk punishment, discomfort, rejection or even death for him....or would we just switch religions, switch Gods, to something less demanding? How deep and real is our relationship with Jesus? Have we seen our own glimpses of the 'Transfiguration'? Would we willing 'kill off' parts of our lives/personality/mannerisms in order to be in relationship with him? Would we accept death because of him?

Thank you for sharing this final Lenten weekend of February with our Santa Clara Community. A reminder for our First Eucharist Families of this afternoon's (Sunday) mandatory 'First Eucharist Retreat' for the children and parents from 2pm - 5pm. This coming Friday is Adoration from 9am-5pm and our Youth ministry will be hosting the Stations of the Cross and dinner that evening. **Please mark your calendars for our Lenten Reconciliation Service on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** Our Good Friday Prayer Breakfast Reservations are almost completely sold out...if you desire to attend, do not delay, make your reservations this weekend or risk being on a wait list. As the Lenten Season starts to become more and more real for you, please remember that you are loved. FKB