



In addition to the other sample homilies in this package, we respectfully offer a few additional points related to the readings for the First, Second and Third Sundays of Lent 2015.

The First Sunday of Lent

Reading II 1 Peter 3:18-22

- We have been baptized into new life with Christ.
- We can appeal to God through Christ for the grace for a clear conscience or a proper disposition with regards to chastity and purity in our thoughts and actions.
- Jesus, who is at the right hand of the Father, will supply the grace, strength and peace needed for those who struggle with explicit materials. All things, even our personal struggles, are under his authority. We should turn in trust to him.

Gospel Mark 1:12-15

- Jesus, himself having endured temptation in the loneliness of the desert, understands our struggles with temptation and the loneliness we can experience at those times.
- He loves us and has compassion for our struggles. We turn to him in trust for help.

Second Sunday of Lent

Reading II

Romans 8: 31b-34

- God is on our side when we struggle.
- His love and support for us is total: he handed over his son that we might be freed from sin.
- Our hope should be unshakable as we have Jesus at God's right hand to intercede for us. He helps us as we proclaim the real meaning of love and the true beauty of human sexuality in the face of a culture that can seem overwhelming.

Gospel

Mark 9: 2-10

- "The Transfiguration cloud reveals that God's new and eternal dwelling place, where heaven meets earth, is Jesus himself, and by implication, all those who are joined to him." 1
- The transfigured Lord offers us hope of transforming our lives.

Third Sunday of Lent

Year B

Reading I

Exodus 20: 1-17

- Certain behaviors and activities (use of explicit materials) have consequences for marriages and families.
- God is merciful and is eager to show us the way to joy and happiness in life.

Gospel

John 2: 13-25

- Jesus is eager, full of "zeal," to help us uncover and heal all that is weak or broken in our hearts.

Year A option for the Scrutinies

The Scrutinies of RCIA provide a time to “examine how we are, the areas of our lives where we are tempted, or seriously sin - in what we do and in what we fail to do.” 2

Perhaps the best message of the Gospel passage from John 4:5-42 is this:

Like the Samaritan woman, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves, in all our struggles, fears and failings. Yet, he loves us and comes to us offering us his life. This life, this living water of his love, will truly satisfy our thirsts and longing unlike anything we turn to in the world.

1. The Gospel of Mark Mary Healy p.175 2008
2. The Scrutinies onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/scrutiny p. 1
3. All other support: The New Jerome Biblical Commentary Brown, Fitzmeyer, Murphy 1990