



CONSOLATA SHRINE
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
21st February 2021



FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-15

God's covenant with Noah, delivered from the waters of the flood

A reading from the Book of Genesis

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25:4-9

R. All your paths, O Lord, are mercy and faithfulness, for those who keep your covenant

O Lord, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth,
and teach me; for you are God of my salvation. **R**

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R**

Good and upright is the Lord:
he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgment;
to the humble he teaches his way. **R**



SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

“Baptism now saves you.”

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.



Glory and praise to you, O Christ
*Man shall not live by bread alone, but every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.*
Glory and praise to you, O Christ



GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

“He was tempted by Satan, and the angles ministered to him.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness. And he was



in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angles ministered to him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel.”

**Reflection: The New Creation by Scott Hahn,
Ph.D.**

Lent bids us to return to the innocence of baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle. And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation. We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel. Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam - the beloved son of God, living in harmony with the wild beasts, being served by angels. Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death, Jesus is victorious. This is the good news, the "gospel of God" that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom. In the waters of baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son. We were made children of God, new creations. But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness - a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness. We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Savior - the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm. He feeds us with the bread of angels, and cleanses our consciences in the sacrament of reconciliation. As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows - to repent and believe the gospel.

Announcement

1. Welcome to First Sunday of Lent; this year our Lenten Campaign contributions will be channeled to support St. Mary's Village Home for Aged Women at Sagana. Kindly pick an envelope from blue boxes and return them with your offering.
2. There will be the Way of the Cross on all Fridays of Lent after 1.15pm mass, 4pm and after 5.30pm Mass. This year the way of the Cross will be done in the Church Compound.
3. Next Saturday 27th, there will be an on-going formation from 10am – 1pm for children who have received the First Holy Communion in 2019 and 2020.
4. Next Sunday 28th, there will be Children Mass at 9 o'clock. All children are invited to participate in the Mass. Please note that there will be no Children Sunday Service.
5. This Year 2021 is dedicated to the Patronage of St. Joseph. The Official launch of St Joseph Year in the Archdiocese of Nairobi will be on 21st March 2021 at Parish Level.
We shall be praying the prayer to St. Joseph during all Masses from tomorrow. This will be immediately following the after the communion prayer.
6. There will be Confessions during all Masses throughout Lenten Period as a preparation for the coming Easter. Christians are asked to be going for Confession before the Mass they intend to attend so as to participate fully in Mass.
7. We are all reminded to put on mask properly, wash hands before entering the Church, keep social distance in and outside the Church.
8. The Pastoral Team wishes you all a Fruitful Lenten Period.

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