

# TRINITY NEWS

## Lent II An Endless Pilgrimage of the Heart

“Faith is not clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart. Audacious longing, burning songs, daring thoughts, an impulse overwhelming the heart, usurping the mind. These are all a drawing toward serving God who rings our hearts like a bell. It is as if he were waiting to enter our empty, perishing lives” – Abraham Heschel.

It was also Heschel, a luminous Jewish writer, who said: “We cannot make God visible to us, but we can make ourselves visible to God.”

Abraham made himself visible to God. He was not only the founder of a race. He is also our first biblical model of a pilgrimage designed by God. As Heschel said “The word of God never comes to an end. No word is God’s last word”, and “faith is a blush in the presence of God.”

Abraham’s faith is emphasized by Paul in Romans 4.1-25. Faith is tied to courage in Abraham. He travels to an unknown destination infested by dangers. He trusts both in the call of God and the covenant promises of God. He is even prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac in obedience to a command of God. The angel’s voice resounds in time to save Isaac before the knife falls. The angel is never late, even if it is a close call!

Abraham becomes a model of faith, the faithful father of his people, a remembered symbol of the covenant of God with Israel. Even Moses, the most powerful human memory of the covenant, does not completely overshadow Abraham. Moses founded a nation based on covenant principles. Abraham before him in historic time had founded a race.

Without faith we tend to wither on the vine of our own self-delusion. Human characteristics that ennoble and sustain us require an ennobling and sustaining model. Abraham was the journey model for his people. Jesus is the “pioneer of our salvation” for all who follow him. A “pioneer” is a pathfinder, a journey-oriented person. Moses passed on the Ten Commandments as a summary of the Torah, “instructions from God.”

Jesus taught what he lived and the imitation of Christ in our devotions, our liturgies, and our teaching brings him before us all the time. The Jews had the Exodus as a model of pilgrimage. We have the life of Christ in his pilgrimage in time and beyond it. May we follow faithfully and arrive safely at our destination. May our departures and our arrivals be done with courage and the insights of faith.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

**TO PLAN:**

March 21, Monday.

- Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office.
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

March 22, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- The Lenten Study, 7:15pm @ the Tutton's (#3 Sta. Potenciana St., Urdaneta Village)
- Diocesan Convention (March 22-23rd)

March 24, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

**Next week's readings:**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-26,39-42