

## Second Sunday of Lent | Year A

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Gn 12:1-4a | 2 Tm 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9)

God chose Abram and blessed him, promising that he would bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him. Heeding this word, let us turn to God with our prayers.

1/ The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him. For all God-fearing peoples. We pray that, with Pope Francis being the leader, God may deliver the faithful from destructive forces in this world and grant them the tranquility of heart. Let us pray.

2/ Paul strengthens Timothy by saying that, just as Abram was blessed, God will bless those who fear him and honor Abram. Because of Jesus, all Gentile Christians are now blessed. For people who have no faith in God and Jesus. We pray that they may see God's grace conferred on those who follow Jesus, and so turn to him. Let us pray.

3/ From the cloud came a voice that said that Jesus was the beloved Son, with whom God was well pleased. Those who fear God are called to listen to Jesus. To hear Jesus is to heed the good news of the Gospel. For those who are struggling between good and evil. We pray that they come to Jesus, learn from his message, and trust in God's grace. Let us pray.

4/ Peter, James, and John were given the opportunity to see the glory of God who brought the dead back to life. Moses and Elijah, who had died, came back and conversed with Jesus. For those who believed in Jesus and have gone before us. We pray that, even as Peter, James, and John were able to see God's glory, we may envision the dead being raised to everlasting life. Today we remember [**at 4:30 Mass**] Sonny and Betty Hardesty, and Frank Whelan; [**at 10:00 Mass**] all deceased members of Saint John the Apostle Parish. Let us pray.

God and Father of light, in you is found no shadow of change but only the fullness of life and everlasting truth. Open our hearts to the sound of your whispering voice and free us from the original darkness that shadows our vision. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord.