

Fr. Simon Sez

I can't help but reflect on this Sunday's Sacred Scripture readings in light of the past two weeks for my family. As you probably know, I had a funeral for my nephew Alex Singleton, age 21, of Fort Pierre a week ago Monday, February 20, 2023 and had a funeral for my sister Lynette Singleton, his mother, this past Wednesday, March 1, 2023. (See millerfh.com and millerlienfh.com for the obits.)

My family took double death hits involving two different types of circumstances, a sudden death and a seven year battle against brain cancer. In hindsight, with either case, I can say God in his infinite mercy prepared us for these tragedies in various ways along with wonderful, loving support from many people all along the way. God walks with us through suffering in these ways and many others which truly help us if "we are always courageous ... for we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:6)

In order to see this in today's gospel proclamation (Matthew 17:1-9), we need to see it in the context of the preceding passages. Just six days prior to the Transfiguration, St. Peter professed his faith in Jesus saying, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matt 16:16) "From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things..." (Matt 16:21)

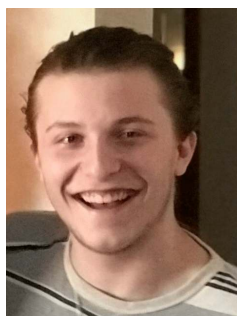
Jesus chose Peter, James, and John to witness the Transfiguration to help prepare them to endure seeing him suffer and to endure their own sufferings. What did they have to do and what do we have to do? Do what God the Father said to them through the bright cloud of the Holy Spirit hovering over them, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."



Thank to All: Our heartfelt thank you goes to the many people who supported Lynette Singleton and family since her brain cancer diagnosis May 2015 and at this time of the passing away of Lynette and her son Alex. We appreciate people who have reached out to us with

Masses, prayers, donations, cards, food, words of encouragement and other means of support including fundraisers. Special thanks to Fr. Darin Schmidt, Fr. Ron Garry, Fr. Joe Holzhauser, Fr. Brian Simon, music and meals volunteers, close friends, extended family, and Avera Home Health, Maryhouse, Oahe Manor and Hospice. God bless you through your generosity.

John and his sister Wendy Singleton
Alice Simon family



Sully Buttes (ABO) Girls Basketball going to the State Tournament!: I am planning on being gone to the Girls State Basketball Tournament in Huron this Thursday and Friday, March 9 - 10, 2023. Our girls team is seeded #4! If I do not return to Gettysburg in time for the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 6:30 p.m., I will ask a lector to lead it.

Listen to Him: Scott Hahn Reflects
on the Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 33:4-5,18-20, 22; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Today's Gospel portrays Jesus as a new and greater Moses.

Moses also took three companions up a mountain and on the seventh day was overshadowed by the shining cloud of God's presence. He too spoke with God and his face and clothing were made radiant in the encounter (see Exodus 24, 34).

But in today's Lenten Liturgy, the Church wants us to look back past Moses. Indeed, we are asked to contemplate what today's Epistle calls God's "design . . . from before time began."

With His promises to Abram in today's First Reading, God formed the people through whom He would reveal Himself and bestow His blessings on all humanity.

He later elevated these promises to eternal covenants and changed Abram's name to Abraham, promising that he would be father of a host nations (see Genesis 17:5). In remembrance of His covenant with Abraham, He raised up Moses (see Exodus 2:24; 3:8), and later swore an everlasting kingdom to David's sons (see Jeremiah 33:26).

In Jesus' transfiguration today, He is revealed as the One through whom God fulfills His divine plan from of old.

Not only a new Moses, Jesus is also the "beloved son" promised to Abraham and again to David (see Genesis 22:15-18; Psalm 2:7; Matthew 1:1).

Moses foretold a prophet like him to whom Israel would listen (see Deuteronomy 18:15, 18), and Isaiah foretold an anointed servant in whom God would be well pleased (see Isaiah 42:1). Jesus is this prophet and this servant, as the Voice on the mountain tells us today.

By faith we have been made children of the covenant with Abraham (see Galatians 3:7-9; Acts 3:25). He calls us, too, to a holy life, to follow His Son to the heavenly homeland He has promised. We know, as we sing in today's Psalm, that we who hope in Him will be delivered from death.

So like our father in faith, we go forth as the Lord directs us: "Listen to Him!"

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