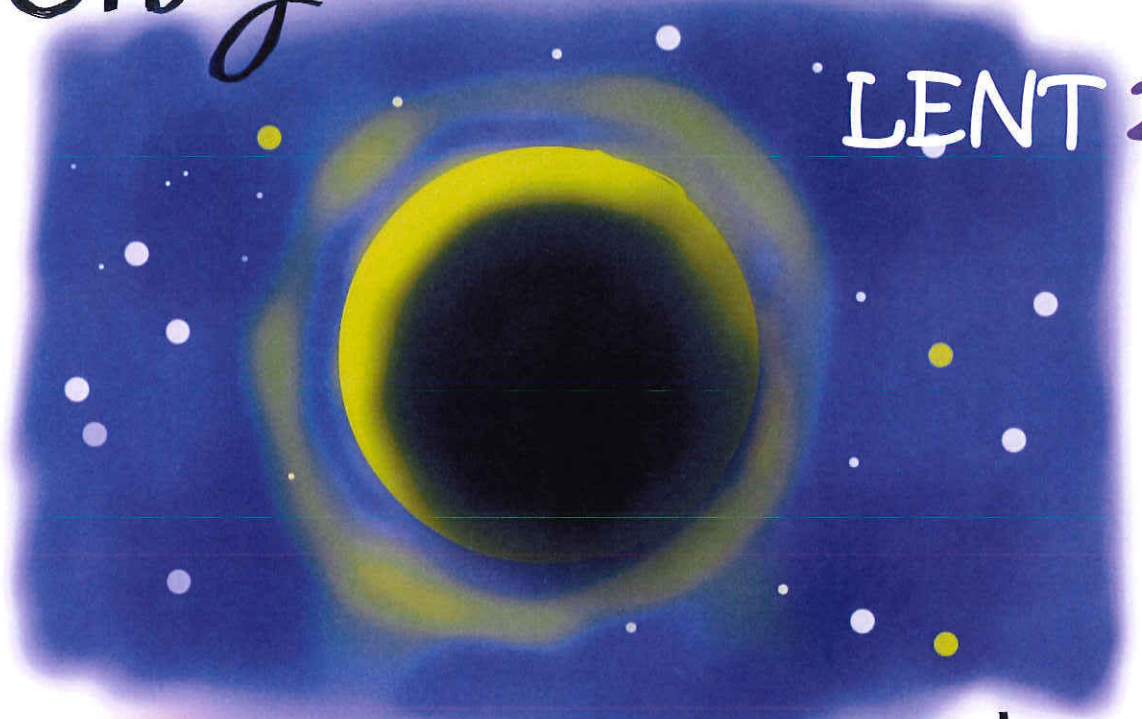


P  
r  
o  
p  
h  
e  
t  
i  
c  
  
O  
p  
p  
o  
r  
t  
u  
n  
i  
t  
y

DARKNESS cannot drive  
OUT DARKNESS;  
only LIGHT can do that.

LENT 2



HATE cannot drive  
OUT HATE;  
only LOVE can do  
that. MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.  
*Omegath*

## THE OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM AND JESUS

God tested Abraham by asking not for an ordinary sacrifice, which would have been a partial burning with the meat divided between God and the people and eaten by those who sacrificed, but for a holocaust, a total burning of the sacrificial animal. This type of sacrifice consecrated the entire offering to God alone. This is what God was asking of Abraham in offering his only son, Isaac. When Abraham demonstrated his obedience, that was enough. This story from today's scriptures foretells the completion of the blood sacrifices of the old covenant in the new covenant: the blood of God's own Son, offered to us on the cross and in the Eucharist. Abraham's obedience foreshadows the obedience of Jesus to God's promise of salvation. The obedience of Abraham is rewarded in the birth to him, through Isaac, of many nations. The obedience of Jesus is rewarded in the salvation of all people for all time. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

### Today's Good News ~Living with Christ

"Then Solomon said, 'The Lord intends to dwell in the dark cloud' " (1Kings 8:12). A classic Christian text from the fourteenth century is entitled *The Cloud of Unknowing*. St. John of the Cross wrote of spiritual "dark nights" in which our senses and intellect no longer help us grow any closer to God. Why? One traditional answer is that we are simply not capable of grasping God with the tools we use to understand the world around us. Since God is not just another being in the world, the only way we can have knowledge of God is through faith. Faith can be ours for the asking, though it may not be as clear and bright as we would like. I think of the Blessed Sacrament as a kind of dark cloud in plain view. Only faith tells me that Jesus is present. I may be no closer to grasping the reality of God, but faith allows me to worship the Lord and receive the gift of faith from God's hand. MARK NEILSEN

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Second Sunday of Lent; Penitential Rite for Candidates for Full Communion  
**Wednesday:** Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset  
**Friday:** Abstinence; First Friday; World Day of Prayer  
**Saturday:** St. Katharine Drexel; First Saturday



*World Day of Prayer*



**February 25, 2018 - All Family Faith Day**  
 Hypertension Sunday (Health Cabinet)  
**March 25, 2018 - Confirmation**  
**March 29, 2018 - Holy Thursday**  
**March 30, 2018 - Good Friday**  
**March 31, 2018 - Easter Vigil**  
**April 1, 2018 - EASTER**

### February 8- Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita

Bakhita, patroness of kidnapped and trafficked children, was abducted as a child becoming a slave thereby experiencing the meaning of slavery by living it. Pray to St. Bakhita to protect children. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.** [sistersagainstrafficking.org](http://sistersagainstrafficking.org)

**Preschool Assistant**  
 Teacher Position  
 Call 510- 465-8591  
 Ask for Gloria

**Scripture Study**  
 Thursday evenings, 7pm  
 Mother Lydia's Chapel  
 More information call  
 Gillian Small (510) 501-9726

We welcome all who come to celebrate with us. If you would like to register or if you need to update your information, please complete this registration form and place it in the collection basket, return to office or send us an email. Be Blessed!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Day \_\_\_\_\_ Eve \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

- New Parishioner
- Change of Information
- Moving: Remove from list
- Please Call me - best time \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to serve as \_\_\_\_\_