

A Reflection from Fr. Canisius for the Second Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners,

We all know that we should listen to Christ. We have all been told that we should do as God commands. There is a prayer that begins, “*Father, I abandon myself into your hands. Do with me what you will ...*” While most of us would affirm this sentiment on some level, if we take a moment to really sit with the idea of abandoning ourselves into God’s hands, of letting go of what we want and asking God to do what only he wills... well, some of us might begin to squirm.

And then we have the story of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham didn’t squirm. Abraham trusts in God’s goodness. This goodness is highlighted in our second reading from the Letter to the Romans. We are reminded that God, *who did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all*, will give us everything we need, along with his Son. This is the depth of God’s love for us. God, who gave us his beloved Son, commands us: *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.*

Our God did not hold back anything—not even his beloved Son—to lead us to the goodness he desires for us. In the Transfiguration, he shows us the glory that awaits us when we live and love in service of him.

And this God is present here today. In this sacred season, God is inviting us to listen more closely to his beloved Son who invites us to take and eat, to receive the gift of his body, poured out for us in this Eucharist. This is the love that leads us through our Lenten journey and through our lives. May we, in this sacrament, grow in trust and learn to follow Christ’s voice in all we do.

Thank you all for joining us at Mass every Sunday. Invite a friend or family member to our community. Also, mark your calendars and join us for our Lenten Discussion Series — *Renewed in the Lord: The Gift of the Eucharist* at St. Gabriel in Windsor Mill on **Thursdays** at 7:00 PM in the church: **February 29 and March 7, 14, and 21**. Please take advantage of this opportunity to grow in your knowledge and love of the Holy Eucharist as part of your Lenten journey!

Have a blessed week!

~ *Fr. Canisius*