

**Genesis 22: 1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18**  
**Romans 8: 31b-34**  
**Mark 9: 2-10**

*FOCUS: Abraham had great faith and trust in God*

*When we hear the story of Abraham and Isaac from the Book of Genesis, we hear a story of faith and trust. Abraham is willing to sacrifice his son as God has instructed. If we look earlier in Abraham's life, we find that this is a story of trust on more than one level.*

*When God first called Abraham God promised that he would be the father of a great nation; however, Abraham and Sarah remained childless. God eventually fulfilled his pledge through the birth of Isaac, even though both Abraham and Sarah were past the age of having children. Isaac was the fulfillment of the hope of all spouses to see their married love realized in the creation of new life.*

*Now God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac and Abraham is prepared to obey. God's promise that Abraham's descendants would number more than the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore, and the fulfillment and joy Abraham found in his son would end if Isaac dies. Yet Abraham is ready to make both of these sacrifices.*

*Although we only have recorded the actions of Abraham and not his thoughts, it would seem reasonable to conclude that Abraham believes that all he has is a gift from God. Because of his faith, Abraham understands that what God has given him is to assume that Abraham does not consider that God owes him anything, and that Isaac is a gift with which he and Sarah have been graced. The loss of Isaac on a human level will be tremendous, but Abraham submits to God's will. He is God's servant and will do what God commands.*

*Of course, Abraham passes the test. Isaac is spared and Abraham does become the father in faith of the Chosen People. Though Abraham may not have expressed it in the same way, Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, tells us, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" God was for Abraham and his promises to him were brought to fruition. God is for the Lord Jesus and his Transfiguration was a foreshadowing of the glory that would be his in the Resurrection and Ascension. God is for us as well, even if we cannot understand his plan for us in our lives. We believe that faithfulness and trust in God will result in his plan unfolding for us in a manner that will result in god's glory and in our sharing in that glory in the heavenly kingdom.*

Prayers for little hearts:

Dear God,

Help me to really love people. Help me to prove it with my actions. In Jesus' name,  
Amen











*recover by penance what we have lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where you are the Queen of angels and of men. Amen*

*Jesus, we humbly ask you to glorify in heaven and on earth, the servant of God, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who generously participated in Your sufferings, who loved Thee so much and labored for the glory of your heavenly Father and for the good of souls.*

*With confidence, we beseech thee to grant us, through her intercession the grace of ... (Healing of Michael Kwinn III) which we ardently desire.*

**Pray:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen (3 times)*

**Format borrowed from Prayer for Intercession of Padre Pio**