



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 31

February 28, 2021

Dates to Remember

- February 27:
4:00 PM Mass
- February 28:
9:00 AM Mass
- Please see our parish website for reservation information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

Jesus Transfigured

Jesus reveals himself as the perfect icon of the Father, the radiance of his glory. He is the fulfillment of revelation; that is why beside him appear Moses and Elijah; they represent the Law and the Prophets, so as to signify that everything finishes and begins in Jesus, in his passion and in his glory. With Peter, James, and John we too climb the Mount of the Transfiguration today and stop in contemplation of the face of Jesus to retrieve the message and translate it into our lives; for we too can be transfigured by Love. In reality, love is capable of transfiguring everything. Love transfigures all!

— Pope Francis

Second Sunday of Lent

Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lenten Prayer for Unity and Justice

Creator Spirit, help us respond to your call to be members of one family.

Guide us to constant, peaceful concern for sisters and brothers throughout the world.

Make us mindful of the needs of those who must endure day by day the injustice of hunger and poverty.

Bless us all this Lenten season that we may live in harmony and unity with others. Renew our Christian commitment to the global family.

— *Prayers Without Borders: Celebrating Global Wisdom*
(Copyright 2005: Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, MD)

Sunday Gospel Connection: February 28, 2021

The Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

Mark 9: 2-10

Gospel Background: On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event.

The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship.

In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death.



(Continued on pg. 3)

Continued from page 2)

Family Connection: Every family has special moments that they remember and share again and again. In sharing these stories, the meaning and importance of these events develop and deepen over time. This is how it was with the disciples' remembrance of Jesus' Transfiguration. The full significance of what they had seen and experienced could only be understood after Jesus' death and Resurrection. As they told other believers about this event and recorded the story for us in the Bible, our understanding of what it means to call Jesus God's own Son has also deepened.

As you gather as a family, think about some special family memories that your family tells over and over again. Talk about why these memories are important to you. Recall that in the Bible we find many important memories about Jesus that have been recorded for us so that we can believe that Jesus is God's Son. Read today's Gospel, Mark 9:2-10. What do we learn about Jesus from this Gospel? (He fulfills the promises God made to Israel through the Law and the Prophets. God glorified Jesus in his Resurrection. Jesus is God's Son.) Conclude in prayer together that as we continue to read the Bible, we will deepen our understanding of and our love for Jesus. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-of-lent-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>

LOYOLA PRESS.
A JESUIT MINISTRY

The Way of the Cross

The 14 Stations of the Cross represent events from Jesus' passion and death. At each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

1. Jesus is Condemned to Death.

Pontius Pilate condemns Jesus to death.

2. Jesus Takes Up His Cross.

Jesus willingly accepts and patiently bears his cross.

3. Jesus Falls the First Time.

Weakened by torments and by loss of blood, Jesus falls beneath his cross.

4. Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother.

Jesus meets his mother, Mary, who is filled with grief.

5. Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross.

Soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross.

6. Veronica Wipes the face of Jesus

Veronica steps through the crowd to wipe the face of Jesus.

7. Jesus Falls a Second Time.

Jesus falls beneath the weight of the cross a second time.

8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.

Jesus tells the women to weep not for him but for themselves and for their children.

9. Jesus Falls the Third Time.

Weakened almost to the point of death, Jesus falls a third time.

10. Jesus is Stripped of His Garments.

The soldiers strip Jesus of his garments, treating him as a common criminal.

11. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross.

Jesus' hands and feet are nailed to the cross.

12. Jesus Dies on the Cross.

After suffering greatly on the cross, Jesus bows his head and dies.

13. Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross.

The lifeless body of Jesus is tenderly placed in the arms of Mary, his mother.

14. Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb.

Jesus' disciples place his body in the tomb.



LOYOLA PRESS.
A JESUIT MINISTRY

St. Joseph Pray for us!



Since we are unable to host a Table this year, we still would like to help out those who are in great need. The pandemic has increased the demand for basic human needs such as food and toiletries. Every week, you have been hearing about the plight of the food pantry at St. Eulalia and the increased need for food.

In the spirit of St. Joseph, we are taking a collection in his honor. All monetary donations received will go toward purchasing non-perishable foods to help stock the St. Eulalia food pantry.

How can you donate?

Through the end of March, 2021, here are ways to donate.

- 1) A donation box will be in back of the church;
- 2) Mail a check payable to Divine Savior and make a note on it for St. Joseph.
- 3) Go to church website and click on the Caravan of Care Go Fund Me page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/CaravanOfCareHelp>

We thank you for your generosity.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Help Us to Love

Loving Father,
you sent us the gift of your Son,
One like us in all ways but sin,
to show us what it means to love as you love.
Listen to him, you tell us.
Provide us with the grace to hear
and respond to his voice,
to look at the world's brokenness and
not feel despair,

but see your promise that all the world
shall be transfigured by your love.
Allow us to be transfigured to do what
you will,
that we might use the life we have been
given to glorify you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Glimpses of Glory



Today's readings: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19; Romans 8:31b–34; Mark 9:2–10. After Jesus first predicts that he will suffer, he takes Peter, James, and John apart from everyone else. These apostles see Jesus in his glory, in gleaming clothing with Moses and Elijah, whose presence communicates that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Then the apostles hear a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” As quickly as the vision appears, it ceases.

As conflicts arose between Jesus and the leaders of the day, the apostles may have taken comfort in knowing that Jesus is God’s “beloved Son.” Walking through the passion with Jesus, they could cling to the glimpse of Jesus’ glory.

The words *beloved Son* also may have called to mind for them the sacrifice of Isaac. Abraham had been obedient to God and had not withheld his beloved son. Abraham knew God and, therefore, knew that God is a keeper of promises. Somehow, even when it seemed impossible, God’s promise would be fulfilled. Abraham would be the father of many through Isaac. He believed in God’s promise, even when it seemed that the promise could not be kept. In this moment we see another prefiguration of what is to come, the impossible hope that endures through Good Friday and is vindicated on Easter morning.

Where have you glimpsed resurrection? How can you hold to these moments in your times of trial?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 1

Mercy

Jesus instructs his followers to do the seemingly impossible: be merciful just as God is merciful. God's mercy is endless. How can we ever manage to love as he does? Living in a world that overflows with brokenness, we have endless opportunities to bring mercy to another. In our families, we have so many chances to forgive. How can you extend mercy to someone today? *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, March 2

The Greatest among You

From birth, human beings prefer to look at other human faces more than anything else. We come into the world ready for relationships of love. Yet as we seek out that love, we miss the mark. Rather than authentic love, which both affirms us and challenges us, we seek out approval, acclaim, and status. We look for relationships that reflect us back to ourselves in a positive light. Humility is opting out of this unwinnable game. It is knowing that we have an identity that cannot be taken away from us: beloved child of God. Once we accept that this is the love we are looking for, the love that grounds our being, we no longer worry about where we fit. We can instead imitate the one who humbled himself, who came in our likeness, who lived in love. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, March 3

St. Katharine Drexel

St. Katharine Drexel was an heiress in Philadelphia who felt incredibly moved by the plight of Native Americans and African Americans in the United States in the late nineteenth century. She recognized this pull on her heart as a call from God, and she gave up her fortune and founded a religious

order, establishing missions and schools that served these groups. She listened for God's voice and responded. How can you do the same? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, March 4

St. Casimir

St. Casimir was a Polish prince with legendary generosity to the poor. Is there a sacrifice you could make today in order to give generously to the poor in his honor? Consider what Abraham said at the end of today's Gospel reading. How has Christ's rising from the dead persuaded you to be merciful? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 5

Act with Justice

Over and over, the prophets and Jesus call us to give up our sinful ways and act with justice. We fail to recognize that the goods of creation are intended for all people and cling tightly to what we have when many do not have enough. Today choose to eat a simple lunch or dinner, and donate the cost savings to a charity that serves those who are food insecure. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 6

Merciful Love

Spend some time reflecting on the words of Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son, and allow yourself to hear it with new ears. The son behaved as though his father were dead, yet the father watched for the son, ran to him, embraced him, and threw a feast to celebrate his return. What does that tell you about the vastness of God's merciful love for you? Is there anything you could do for which God could not forgive? *Today's readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*

