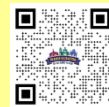
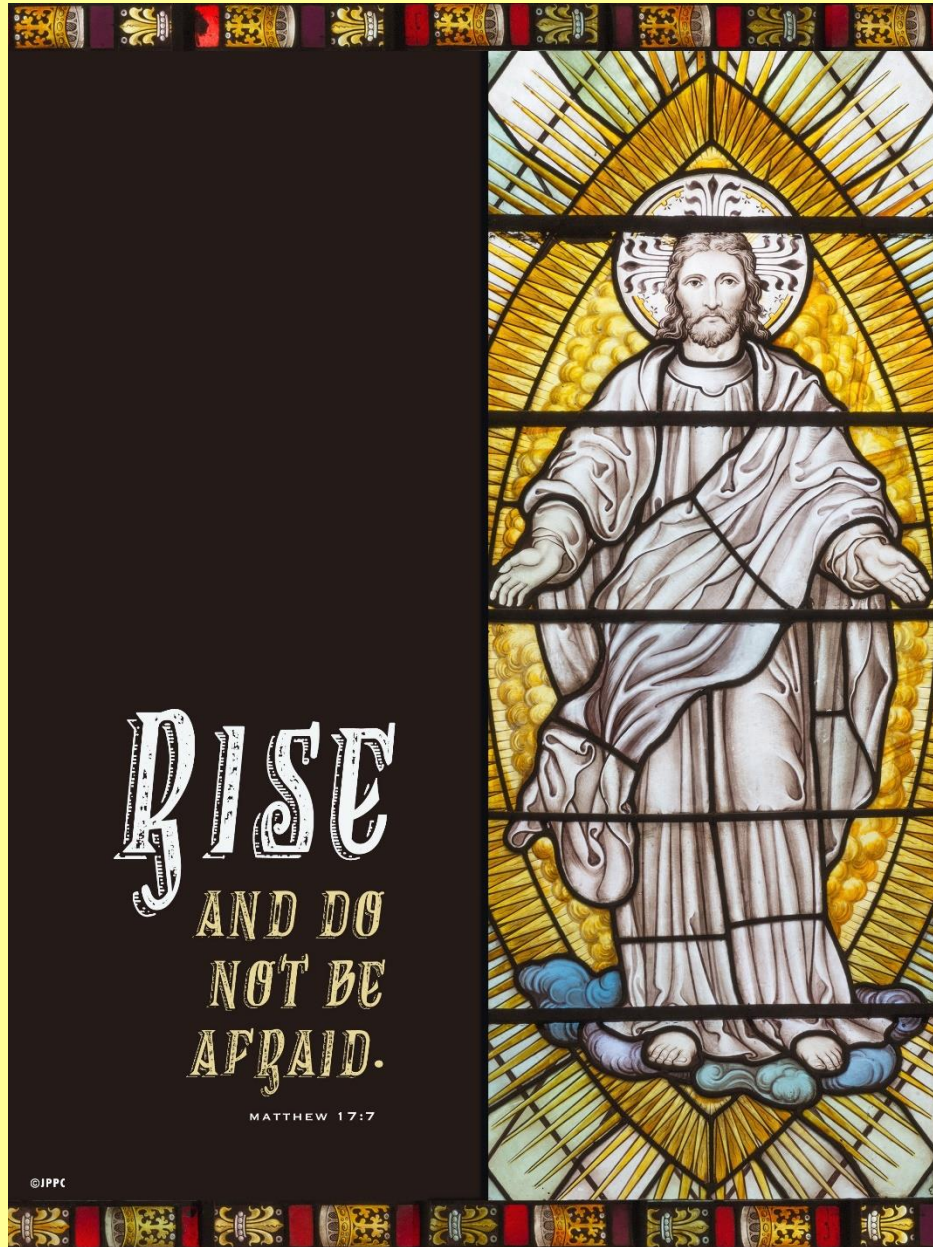


Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6, 2023



Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal
57 Richards Avenue,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074
smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org www.smshschool.com

Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent
Towne Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-1173 or email ripco@comcast.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Summer)

Saint Mark Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information and available dates/locations.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** (*for the summer months*), beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Or you can use this link for online giving:

<https://app.gabrielsoft.com/guest/mafrdiocese/31>

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**
Sunday 11:00 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**

Weekday Masses

Monday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church (for Summer)**
Rosary for Life 4:00 pm each Monday prior to 4:30 pm Mass
Tuesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Wednesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church (for Summer)**
Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service
Saint Mark Church

Links to: Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

Parish Office

14 Park Street, North Attleborough,
Massachusetts 02760
Parish e-mail • stmaryna@noozi.com
Parish website • www.saintmaryna.com
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248
Faith Formation • TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823



August 5/6- The Transfiguration of the Lord

Saturday August 5 – Vigil (St. Mark)

4:00 pm Barbara Linfield

Sunday August 6 (St. Mark)

8:00 am William M. Copley, Sr.

Roger Corriveau

Sunday August 6 (St. Mark)

9:30 am Deceased Members of the
Gray Family

Sunday August 6 (St. Mark)

11:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Paquin

+++++

Monday August 7 (St. Mark)

4:30 pm Rose & Anthony Martinelli

Rev. Roger L. Gagne

Tuesday August 8 (St. Mark)

8:00 am Sandra King

Wednesday August 9 (St. Mark)

4:30 pm All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday August 10 (St. Mark)

8:00 am People of the Parish

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August 12/13- 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday August 12 – Vigil (St. Mark)

4:00 pm Donald Lander, Jr.

Sunday August 13 (St. Mark)

8:00 am Edith Myers

Sunday August 13 (St. Mark)

9:30 am John Kostkan

Sunday August 13 (St. Mark)

11:00 am David Corvese

+++++

Parish Contributions

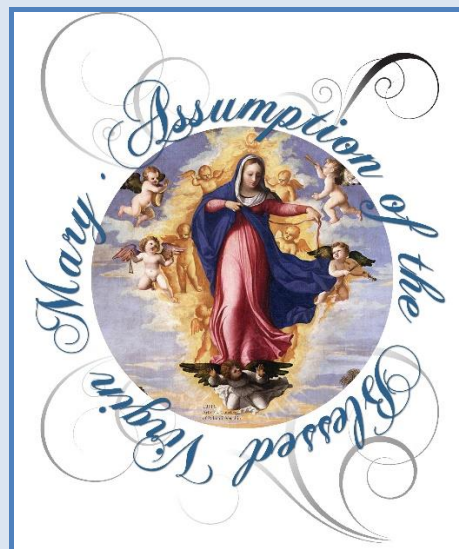
Collection for July 29/30: \$9,516.85

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Rosary for Life

The Respect Life Committee of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is pleased to announce that every Monday we will lead a Rosary for Life at 4:00 pm, prior to the 4:30 pm daily Mass in **Saint Mark Church**. The communal Rosary is also livestreamed each week for any participants who wish to join us remotely. Please note the revised location for the summer months.

Feast of the Assumption of Mary August 14/15



The summer holyday of obligation, The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be celebrated on August 15.

There will be three Masses for the holyday; all celebrated at Saint Mark Church. The schedule is as follows:

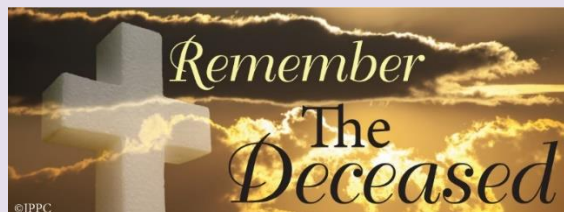
Monday evening, August 14 – Vigil Mass at 7:00 pm

Tuesday morning, August 15 – Mass at 8:00 am

Tuesday afternoon, August 15 – Mass at 12:05 pm

As is our custom, the collection taken at the holyday Masses will go entirely to our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society to help fund their charitable work. Your generosity and concern are very much appreciated.

NOTE: due to the 7 p.m. vigil Mass, there is no 4:30 p.m. daily Mass on Monday, August 14.



Please Pray for our Deceased:

Roderick A. McGarry, III

Thomas M. Pastore

Irene "Rita" Riel

*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.
Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Eucharistic Adoration

Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said:
"A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a sharing in the work of Redemption."

Please join us at **Saint Mark Church**, Friday, **September 1st**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. **Please note the revised location for summer Adoration.** Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption.

For more information call Joanne Regali (508-643-3821) or Arlene Hall (508-801-2243). Please leave a message if the call is not answered immediately.

82nd Annual Catholic Appeal



82ND ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

*Thank you for your most generous support of the 2023 Catholic Appeal! The books are now closed. We are proud to report that our parish community has contributed **\$96,390.00** in 2023! Thank you to the 378 donors from Transfiguration of the Lord Parish who stepped forward and made a gift to ensure the campaign was an overwhelming success.*

Thanks to the generosity of the faithful parishioners of the Diocese of Fall River, the 2023 Catholic Appeal raised \$4.5 million in gifts and pledges to sustain its longstanding mission of serving those in greatest need. While the 2023 books are now closed, please note that the Catholic Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts encourages support for the Catholic Appeal at any time. They continue to welcome donations (which will now be counted as "new money" toward the 2024 Appeal) online at www.givefrdiocese.org, by mail, or dropped off at the parish. It is more important than ever that we spread the mission and the message of the Catholic Appeal every day. We can't thank you enough for your loving support.

The Sacrament of the Sick

If an ill family member is desirous of or in need of the comfort and grace of the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office to make an appointment for Fr. Costa to visit. With the present vocation crisis in our Diocese, priest chaplains are not available at Sturdy Hospital. Pastoral Care of the Sick is provided ably and graciously by Deacon Del Malloy. If a family member is at Sturdy and would like to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office in order for Fr. Costa to visit as soon as he is able. The hospital does not send out notifications to the parishes when parishioners are admitted.



ANointing
OF THE SICK

Thank you for sponsoring our new Ritual Books!

We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support and interest in sponsoring the purchase of new ritual books for each of our 3 churches. Given their importance and the respect these books deserve, we are able to invest in some new editions thanks to your generosity. Please note that **ALL** ritual books have now been sponsored.

Memorial names will be inscribed on the inside cover of each book and will be recognized in an upcoming edition of the parish bulletin. We are most appreciative of your kindness and generosity!

~Father Costa

Prayer and Pizza

Are you looking for another way to deepen your spirituality? Do you have "knots" in your life that you need help undoing? Please join us on the third Wednesday of each month for "Prayer and Pizza." Following the 4:30 pm Mass on **Wednesday, August 16**, we together will pray the rosary, which will be offered up to Mary, Undoer of Knots (maryundoerofknots.com). Whether you pray the rosary daily or have never prayed it before, please consider joining us for "Prayer and Pizza." All are welcome! Please contact Rick Leco (508 930 9264) or Vicky Curran (508 930 3306) with any questions.



FAITH FORMATION

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese

508-695-3823

transfigurationreled@gmail.com

Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Summer Office hours from July 3rd to August 9th:

Monday and Tuesday

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Faith Formation Office hours (after August 9th):

Monday – Thursday

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The students currently enrolled in the Faith Formation program will be promoted to the next grade level. Parents/guardians will receive information regarding their child's grade in August 2023.

Registration for students entering first grade or are new to the program will begin on August 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact the Faith Formation office at: 508-695-3823 or transfigurationreled@gmail.com to register.

Mrs. Elaine Corvese

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART SCHOOL - JOIN NOW!

Give the gift of a Catholic education - the faith formation and goal of creating saints is priceless!



When I say "we are" - you say "Saints!" **We are Saints!**

Our students participate in a variety of sports offerings from cross country to tennis to basketball to volleyball to track and field - we have something for everyone. Skill building and sportsmanship are the foundation of our SMSH athletic program. We invite you to learn more about our sports teams and Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School by visiting our website www.smshschool.com.

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

Call for Assistance If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Contact Jim Schromm with any questions: jim.schromm@verizon.net.

Pax Christi at LaSalette Shrine



Save the Date! Pax Christi at LaSalette Shrine, Attleboro, will host an evening program entitled "Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons," on **Thursday, September 28, at 7:00pm at the Shrine**. The guest speaker will be Peter Metz, a retired MIT-educated engineer who, motivated by his Catholic faith, works on social action initiatives, chief among them the creation of a world without nuclear weapons. The program is free and open to the public. Mark your calendars now!

Saint of the Week: Saint Dominic
Tuesday, August 8th

If he hadn't taken a trip with his bishop, Dominic would probably have remained within the structure of contemplative life; after the trip, he spent the rest of his life being a contemplative in active apostolic work.

Born in old Castile, Spain, Dominic was trained for the priesthood by a priest-uncle, studied the arts and theology, and became a canon of the cathedral at Osma, where there was an attempt to revive the apostolic common life described in Acts of the Apostles.

On a journey through France with his bishop, Dominic came face to face with the then virulent Albigensian heresy at Languedoc. The Albigensians—or Cathari, “the pure ones”—held to two principles—one good, one evil—in the world. All matter is evil—hence they denied the Incarnation and the sacraments. On the same principle, they abstained from procreation and took a minimum of food and drink. The inner circle led what some people regarded as a heroic life of purity and asceticism not shared by ordinary followers.

Dominic sensed the need for the Church to combat this heresy, and was commissioned to be part of the preaching crusade against it. He saw immediately why the preaching crusade was not succeeding: the ordinary people admired and followed the ascetical heroes of the Albigenses. Understandably, they were not impressed by the Catholic preachers who traveled with horse and retinues, stayed at the best inns and had servants. Dominic therefore, with three Cistercians, began itinerant preaching according to the gospel ideal. He continued this work for 10 years, being successful with the ordinary people but not with the leaders.

His fellow preachers gradually became a community, and in 1215 Dominic founded a religious house at Toulouse, the beginning of the Order of Preachers or Dominicans.

Dominic's ideal, and that of his Order, was to organically link a life with God, study, and prayer in all forms, with a ministry of salvation to people by the word of God. His ideal: contemplata tradere: “to pass on the fruits of contemplation” or “to speak only of God or with God.”

The Dominican ideal, like that of all religious communities, is for the imitation, not merely the admiration, of the rest of the Church. The effective combining of contemplation and activity is the vocation of truck driver Smith as well as theologian Aquinas. Acquired contemplation is the tranquil abiding in the presence of God, and is an integral part of any full human life. It must be the wellspring of all Christian activity.

St. Dominic



“We must sow the seed, not hoard it.”
-St. Dominic (August 8th)

REFLECTION

“The nation...doesn't simply need what we have. It needs what we are.”

-St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (August 9th)

“...The word of God is a light to the mind and a fire to the will.”

-St. Lawrence (August 10th)

“We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become.”

-St. Clare of Assisi (August 11th)

“To be faithful, we must live simply. Then being free from attachments, we are possessed by nothing.”

-St. Jane Frances de Chantal (August 12th)

Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, August 6, 2023

Sunday, Aug 06, 2023

Improve your vision

Much of the time, we keep our heads down. We focus on the day ahead or the task at hand. We worry about personal relationships gone awry or the pricey cost of living. Transfigured seeing invites us to lift our gaze higher or to grasp truths under the surface of things. The broader, deeper vision reveals to us how to respond effectively to what we see. Saints in every generation have exercised this prophetic vision, recognizing a social problem and then creatively proposing a response. Pray the daily news—and ask for the guidance of a clarifying vision.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9 (614). *"As the visions during the night continued, I saw: One like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven."*

Monday, Aug 07, 2023

May your faith ripen sweetly

It's about this time of year that grapes in many parts of the world begin a crucial transformation process the French have named *veraison*. It's when grapes start to ripen and change from green to purple—not always at the same time in the same cluster, making for some beautiful color combinations. Mostly likely because of the timing of his feast day, Pope Sixtus II is the patron saint of grape prosperity. Where are you in the midst of your own *veraison* as a Christian? Pray for cause to celebrate your faith bearing ripe fruit.

MEMORIAL OF SIXTUS II, POPE, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21 (407). *"They all ate and were satisfied."*

Tuesday, Aug 08, 2023

For want of a better word

When Dominic founded the Order of Preachers in 1216, he'd been appalled by the rise of the Albigensian heresy, denying the goodness of God's creation. Even more appalling was the lack of informed preaching to inoculate the congregation against it. Dominic threw himself into the kind of witness modeled by the Acts of the Apostles, his new religious community adopting the motto "to praise, to bless, to preach." Not surprisingly, the Dominicans have given us eloquent saints, including Catherine of Siena and Thomas Aquinas—even captivating the world in 1963 with a chart-topping pop song, "Dominique." To quote another Dominican, Saint Martin de Porres: "Everything, even sweeping ... could be a prayer, if it were offered to God."

MEMORIAL OF DOMINIC, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14 (408). *"Throughout my house he bears my trust: face to face I speak to him; plainly and not in riddles."*

Wednesday, Aug 09, 2023

The awful truth

The bombing of Nagasaki, which occurred on this day in 1945, was truly awful in all senses of the word. Splitting the atom to unleash its enormous power put the genius and depravity of humanity on full, awe-inspiring display. Though we have many positive uses for atomic energy, its initial use to increase our

capacity to kill on a massive scale is a moral failure that we have yet to overcome. The war machine rages on. What role will you play in helping humanity move toward the good?

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28 (409). *"We have sinned, we and our fathers; we have committed crimes; we have done wrong."*

Thursday, Aug 10, 2023

Where's your treasure?

During the persecution of the Early Church, Saint Lawrence was under a death threat from Emperor Valerian. But his persecutor offered a deal. Lawrence could live if he turned over the treasures of the church. In one of history's most audacious rebukes, Lawrence is said to have gathered the poor and sick and told Valerian: Here is our treasure. For his act of resistance and faith, Lawrence was burned to death. How do you resist injustice? Saint Lawrence, give us courage.

FEAST OF LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26 (618).

"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."

Friday, Aug 11, 2023

Love takes its toll

Inspired by her mentor Saint Francis, Saint Clare and the women who eventually joined her to form the Poor Clares had a "radical commitment to corporate poverty." The women lived simply and spent most of their day in prayer and chores. It was a hard life, but one filled with joy for those who chose it—and continue to choose it. Spend time today pondering this pearl of wisdom from Clare: "Love that does not know of suffering is not worthy of the name."

MEMORIAL OF CLARE, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Matthew 16:24-28 (411).

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Saturday, Aug 12, 2023

Youthful endeavors

According to the United Nations website, half the people on Planet Earth are under 30 years of age. Yet only 2.6 percent of government lawmakers worldwide are under 30. International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12, is designated by the United Nations to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. Pope Francis teaches in *Laudato Si'*, "What kind of world do we want to leave ... to children who are now growing up?" (#160). International Youth Day recognizes everyone's responsibility to hand on a sustainable, free, and secure Earth to the next generation. What's going on in your community to accomplish this goal?

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20 (412). *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord - August 6, 2023

First Reading

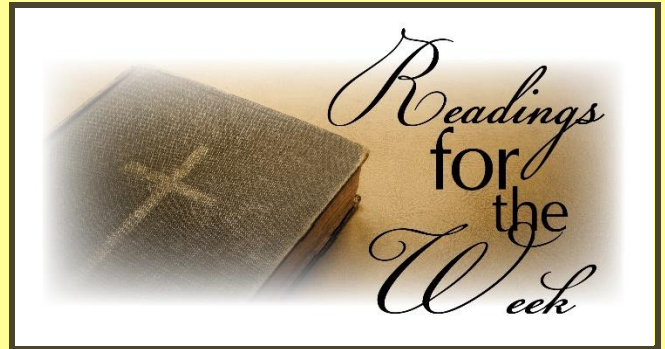
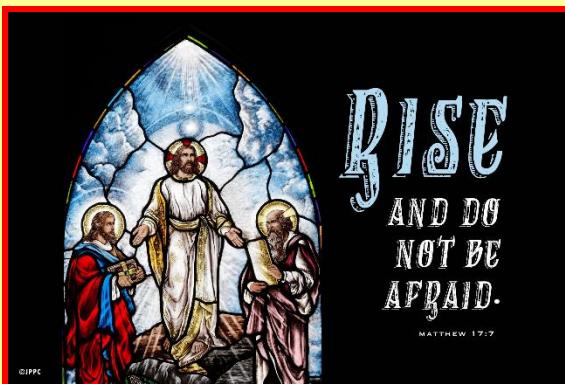
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

As I watched:
Thrones were set up
and the Ancient One took his throne.
His clothing was bright as snow,
and the hair on his head as white as wool;
his throne was flames of fire,
with wheels of burning fire.
A surging stream of fire
flowed out from where he sat;
Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him,
and myriads upon myriads attended him.
The court was convened and the books were opened.

As the visions during the night continued, I saw:
One like a Son of man coming,
on the clouds of heaven;
When he reached the Ancient One
and was presented before him,
The one like a Son of man received dominion, glory,
and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve
him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not be taken away,
his kingship shall not be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High
over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Second Reading

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Peter

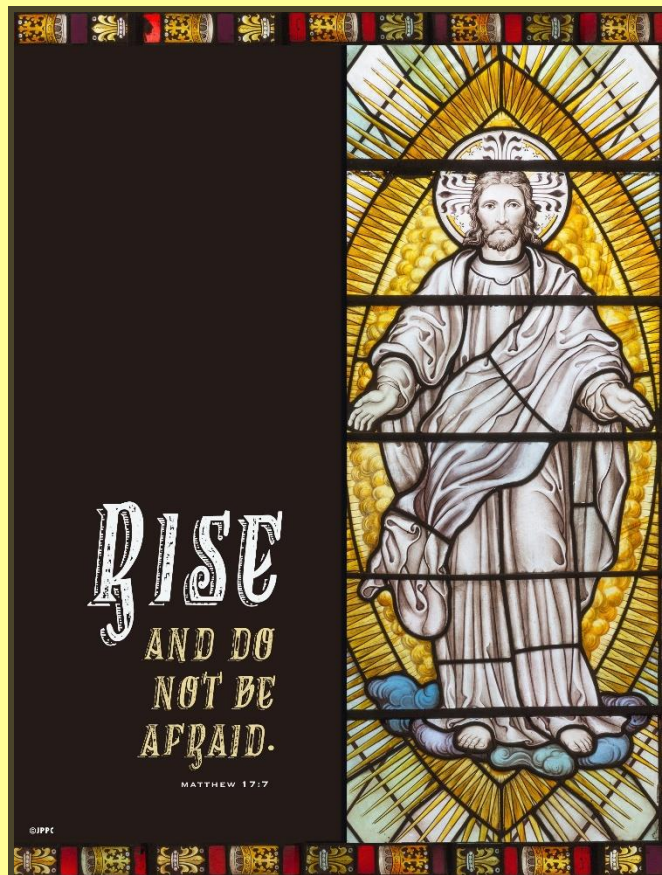
Beloved:

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Lord, it is good that we are here.
If you wish, I will make three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
While he was still speaking, behold,
a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,
then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well
pleased; listen to him."
When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate
and were very much afraid.
But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
"Rise, and do not be afraid."
And when the disciples raised their eyes,
they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Once in a Lifetime:

We cannot sustain peak experiences for too long. But we can remember them and draw on them. We can return to them when our wells are dry, our hopes flag, and our spirits wilt. The transfiguration of Jesus is a mystical, stunning experience crowded with memory and promise. The transforming experience on Mount Tabor is charged with enough insight to last a lifetime.

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 9

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16–19

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1–9

Comment:

The three readings today are suffused with light that blinds and reveals. The first reading from the visionary book of Daniel tells of a time of everlasting dominion. Images of victory abound and overwhelm, and those who listen understand that they are called to live in the hope of promises fulfilled. When tribulation is the daily visitor, visionary writings usually make their appearance. They are filled with promise, and they require and offer hope. Today's reading from Daniel soars but is grounded in hope.

Today's second reading from 2 Peter, one of the last New Testament letters written, deals with the troubling delay of the long-awaited Second Coming of the Lord. To a weary and bewildered fledgling community, God's majestic triumph certainly seemed long in coming.

Nonetheless, the writer of 2 Peter expresses his unshakable confidence in the triumphant coming of the Lord. He recounts the peak experience—the showing forth of God's majesty in Jesus on the mount of transfiguration—and he tells those who doubt and whose faith is shaken that the Lord most certainly reigns now and will just as certainly come in glory.

The story of the Transfiguration is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Another similar story is also thrice recorded—the baptism of Jesus. Both stories are theophanies (divine manifestations). At once they veil and reveal the presence and action of God. At Jesus' baptism, he accepts his mission; in the Transfiguration, Jesus sees his mission as a Passover from death to life. These theophanies close with the words "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17), and "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5).

Reflection:

After all was said and done, it appears that Peter understood the meaning of the Lord's transfiguration. In the second reading, the writer of 2 Peter offers the fruit of Peter's reflections. In contrast to the crackling splendor of that visionary experience, he offers the image of quiet lamplight, the steady flame tended by those who are awake and whose hope burns through the night "until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

The reality of the life-giving Lord is inside us; we can take it along. It sustains us when we turn to the work of every day. We cannot sustain peak experiences, but we can tend the steady lamps that light our way and soften the night. The morning star flickers in our inner selves. The triumphant, risen Christ is named the morning star in the Easter *Exsultet* that rings out in the night and ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection. Jesus' transfiguration told us this would be so.

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