

FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 4th-5th, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

Gospel reading

Matthew 17:1-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,
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."

Intercession

That, enkindled by the transfigured Christ, we may make our parish, his tent, greater through our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

Copy for bulletin announcement

In a profound moment, Jesus offered a taste of his divinity to Peter, James, and John in the Gospel today. Jesus made known the glory he had with the Father before the world began. These three disciples were privileged to witness the manifestation of the Transfiguration.

As powerful as the Transfiguration must have been (Peter was so awed, he didn't even know what he said), that encounter can't equal receiving the Eucharist! Receiving an image of God through one's eyes can't rival the privilege of taking God himself into one's body through the Eucharist.

Our community needs to know about this. When you support the diocesan *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, you help our parish can get the word out: God is here! He lives in our little tabernacle! It's a secret that shouldn't be kept. God doesn't want to overpower us with his transfigured divinity every day. God's care is manifest in the Eucharist: its humble appearance enables the fragile human heart to "fill that gap" with faith.

As Saint Thomas Aquinas says, where "our feeble senses fail," faith rises (the *Tantum Ergo*). Please help our parish facilitate these privileged encounters by support the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Through your generosity, you'll help us provide the Eucharist to all who seek it in the quiet, human way our Lord seems to prefer.

Copy for pulpit announcement

In today's Gospel story, Jesus shows Peter, James, and John a glimpse into His divinity. He is beautiful. Our parish can reveal Christ's beauty in quieter, arguably more, powerful ways. He lives right here, highly accessible in our tabernacle. This Lent, please prayerfully consider making a sacrificial gift to our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Together, we can become the image of God to our neighbors and stimulate their divine hunger. Our mission is to attract them by the beauty of Christ himself alive in us. Give generously so we can accomplish our Church's mission as one body in Christ.

Social media post/content

Photo: A painting of the transfiguration with rays of divine light shooting forth from Jesus atop Mount Tabor, the three Apostles shielding their eyes or looking on in awe.

Header: "His face shone like the sun." – Matthew 17:2

Sub-header: Second Sunday of Lent

Copy: God manifests himself in humble, quiet, and often majestic ways. In today's Gospel, He opts for the majestic atop Mount Tabor. Oh, what a sight to have been there!

We ask you this Lent to lend your prayer, resources, and gifts to our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Every day in our parish, He opts for a quieter manifestation. He comes, secret from our sight, at the bidding of a humble priest. He comes vulnerably, in the form of bread and wine, and we know He's here. He promises to return your generosity to you a hundredfold.