

Dear Padre,

For the past year or so I have been trying to pray on a regular basis, but I am constantly distracted. My mind wanders so easily. Do you have any suggestions?

Distractions in prayer are an inescapable part of the human condition and the result of our imagination. Even great saints experienced distractions in prayer, and some of their suggestions may help. When St. Thérèse of Lisieux struggled with prayer, she would recite an Our Father or a Hail Mary or read from the Gospels. Praying an act of faith or returning to God's presence and love can turn our focus away from other concerns, but even then, distractions may still arise.

When we become aware of them, we should calmly renew our focus and continue our prayer. Saint Teresa of Ávila offers this guidance: "We should not be distressed by reason of our thoughts, nor allow ourselves to be worried by them....The thing is inevitable, therefore do not let it disturb or grieve you" (*The Interior Castle*). No matter how often distractions return or how long they last, they are not sinful. Rather, they are opportunities to show God that we are sincere about praying.

Saint Alphonsus, another great teacher of prayer, reminds us that prayer is necessary, beneficial, and always possible. Hang in there, he says, because the devil would like nothing better than for you to stop praying. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](#) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
August 7 Weekday Nm 11:4b-15 Mt 14:13-21	August 8 St. Dominic, Priest Nm 12:1-13 Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14	August 9 Weekday Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35 Mt 15:21-28	August 10 St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr 2 Cor 9:6-10 Jn 12:24-26	August 11 St. Clare, Virgin Dt 4:32-40 Mt 16:24-28	August 12 Weekday Dt 6:4-13 Mt 17:14-20	August 13 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We have not seen with our own eyes the face of Jesus shining like the sun. However, we too were given the Word of Salvation, faith was given to us, and we have experienced the joy of meeting Jesus in different ways. Jesus also says to us: "Rise, and have no fear" (Matthew 17:7).

ANGELUS, MARCH 8, 2020



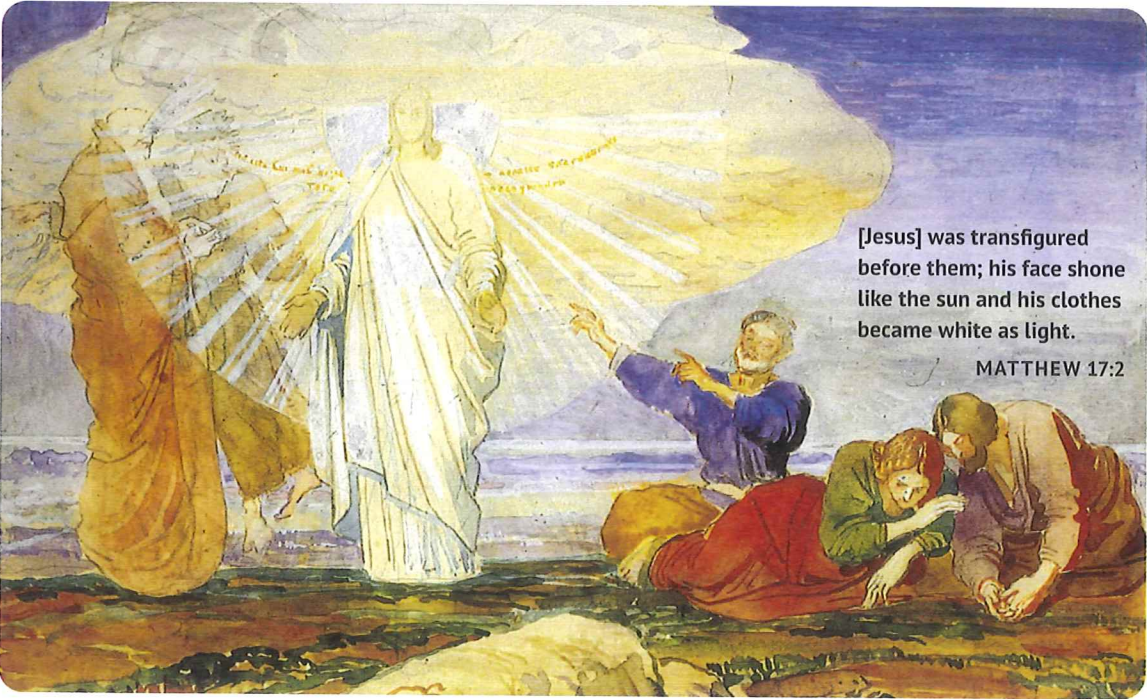
ENADAN / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 6, 2023

Transfiguration of the Lord (A)

Deuteronomy 7:9-10, 13-14 / 2 Peter 1:16-19 / Matthew 17:1-9



[Jesus] was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

MATTHEW 17:2

The Gift of Mystery

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In life there are moments that some call transcendence, when the divine shines through the human and the veil that seems to cloak another world falls ever so briefly to reveal that there are not two worlds but only one wrapped in mystery. That is what took place on a mountaintop when Peter, James, and John realized that this Jesus with whom they talked and walked and shared meals, this friend, this very ordinary one, was so much more, was extraordinary, was "of God." While real, it seemed better not to tell anyone about what they had seen.

Are there also moments in our lives when the human glows with the divine, when we come to realize more clearly than ever before that there is another power at play in life than you yourself? Most assuredly. While we are powerless to create such experiences of transcendence, more than 100 years ago the psychologist William James described such moments when they do occur. He identified four qualities in such experiences: 1) they seem closer to being emotional than intellectual or cognitive; 2) they tend to bring us new understandings of life and of what is, akin to insights, though they cannot be found in a book or be taught; 3) they tend to be very brief, a few seconds for most people; and 4) there is a sense of being sustained by a superior power. This was the apostles' experience of the transfiguration, the feast we celebrate today. ●

Reflect

Have you had an experience of the transcendent that changed you?



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Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

The Transfiguration of the Lord

8/5/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.
Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett
Reader: Volunteer
E.O.HC: Volunteer, Gwen Waechter
8/6/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller
Reader: Hannah Schauf
E.O. HC: Del & Julia Kaps

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8/12/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.
Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger
Reader: Gwen Waechter
E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden
8/13/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Cade & Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow
Reader: Alvin Bergkamp
E.O. HC: Toby & Jessica Luhman-Fuller

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, August 5	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, August 6	9:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving
Monday, August 7	8:30 a.m.	David Hoang
Tuesday, August 8	8:30 a.m.	Gary Sack
Thursday, August 10	8:30 a.m.	David Hoang
Friday, August 11	8:30 a.m.	Ritha Linenberger
Saturday, August 12	4:00 p.m.	Harold & Louraine Knoll F.
Sunday, August 13	9:00 a.m.	For the people

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.
Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.
Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.
Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

August 6, 2023

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

“This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him..” (Matthew 17:5)

My friends, on witnessing the transfiguration of the Lord, St. Peter said, “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.” My friends, in some ways, the whole Liturgical life of the Church is an attempt to give each of us a “mountain top” experience. These mysteries are meant to truly awe us, inspire us, and give us a glimpse into the very life of God. And nowhere is that more visible than at the banquet of the Lord, a moment to see our God truly present --- not with our eyes --- but with our hearts and minds and souls.

And most of us probably don’t want it to end, just like Peter. But it can’t be that way. At least, we can’t remain on the mountain forever to escape from the world, or from our responsibilities. Rather, at some point we must come down from the mountain and “use” the power of those experiences to face the challenges of day-to-day life. You see, true faithfulness is not about staying on the mountain top. It’s about being willing to come down the mountain, roll up our sleeves, and continue the work of the Lord.

Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for July 30, 2023: Envelopes: \$1450; Loose: \$367.75; Online Giving: \$592.84; Total \$2410.59;Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under + 649.42
CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$31078.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

RUMMAGE SALE –AUGUST 12 Plans are to have a food sale with the rummage sale as in the years past. We are asking all of our wonderful cooks to be thinking about what you might donate. We are asking that all donations be delivered to the hall before August 9th. Thanking everyone in advance for your donations. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact any of the following:

Jana Jenkinson	620-290-5201	Janet Rooney	620-640-1946	Tressa Powers	620-260-6247
Carolyn Robertson	620-290-5569	Jane Sullivan	620-355-5118	Gwen Waechter	620-272-1030

2023 STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE Saturday, August 19 in Dodge City at the Cathedral @ 9:30am
Discover ~ Dine ~ Tour This is an opportunity to tour the Catholic Chancery and the NEW Catholic Charities, discover how everything at the Diocese of Dodge City works, and hear stories from real refugees as well as dine with people from all over the Diocese. For more information or to register go to <https://www.dcdiocese.org/stewardship>

QUESTION OF THE WEEK Which self-interest of mine will I promise to put aside and what cross will I pledge to carry, transfiguring my life and my little part of the world?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (Opening Prayer for the Feast of the Transfiguration) God our Father, in the transfigured glory of Christ your Son, you strengthen our faith by confirming the witness of your prophets and show us the splendor of your beloved sons and daughters. As we listen to the voice of your Son, help us to become heirs to eternal life with him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 17:1-9)

Expectations Jesus didn’t fit people’s expectations of the messiah. He broke Jewish laws, befriended sinners, and instead of visibly defeating his enemies, his enemies seem to defeat him. Knowing that it will be difficult for his followers to keep believing, Jesus takes his closest disciples aside so God can help them understand who he is.

Listen to him The voice from the cloud repeats what it said after Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:17), but this time the voice adds, “Listen to him.” God promised to send his people a prophet like Moses: “to him shall you listen” (Deuteronomy 18:15). Jesus both fulfills and exceeds this promise, for he is greater than even the greatest figures from his people’s history.

Moses & Elijah Moses and Elijah, who represent God’s law and prophets, are two of Judaism’s most revered figures. Aspects of their stories point ahead to Jesus. • Moses led people out of slavery and into a new relationship with God • Moses went up a mountain to receive God’s law, and Elijah glimpsed God while on a mountain • while Moses was on Mount Sinai, a cloud descended upon it • Moses’ face shone because he spoke directly with God • Elijah didn’t die but was taken up to heaven; people believed he would return to warn people of God’s coming

Three tents Given the extraordinary scene unfolding before him, Peter believes the final age has come. He offers to make permanent shelters for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. Not only does Peter misinterpret what is happening, he speaks as if Jesus were on equal footing with Moses and Elijah. God clarifies the superior status of Jesus: Jesus is the final lawgiver and the greatest of all the prophets.

Do not be afraid People having a vision of heavenly figures typically bow down in fear (Daniel 10:8f, Revelation 1:17). The holy figure then raises the frightened person up. Jesus’ touch and reassuring words also echo his healing actions elsewhere in the Gospel.

(oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Daniel 7:9-10,13-14)

Literature for the oppressed Chapters 7-12 of the Book of Daniel are an example of apocalyptic literature, a genre in which the speaker has a vision that he shares with those who are persecuted. This author wrote in the second century BC to Jews who were persecuted by their pagan overlord. Daniel’s visions urge these Jews to stand fast.

The Ancient One The throne of the Ancient One (God) is a symbol of power and dominion. God rules not merely a single nation but all of heaven and earth. The description of pure divinity is awe-inspiring, even a little frightening.

Beastly nations In verses 1-8 Daniel dreams of four terrifying beasts that crawl out of the sea. The sea represents the abyss that God vanquished when he created the world (Genesis 1). In other Old Testament passages God conquers monsters and hurls them into the sea (Isaiah 27:1, Job 26:12f). In Daniel these monsters represent rulers and nations that oppose God and his kingdom.

One like a son of man In contrast to the evil beasts, Daniel has a vision of a human-like figure who approaches God from heaven (not the sea). This non-threatening and recognizable figure represents Israel, the nation through whom God will establish his kingdom and end the reigns of the beastly nations. Jesus’ use of the title Son of Man evokes this passage.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION AUGUST 6,2023

“...then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.’” -Matthew 17:5

When Peter, James and John heard this they immediately fell prostrate to the ground and they “were very much afraid. “We, too, may respond the same way when we hear God’s voice. How many times do you become fearful when invited to participate more fully in the life of the Church? Or, when someone says something negative about the Church, are you afraid to respond? Remember, we too, are beloved sons and daughters of God; Jesus is there to help us, but we need to listen.

“Una voz salió de la nube, diciendo: “Este es Mi Hijo amado en quien Yo estoy complacido; escúchenlo a Él.” Mateo 17:5

Cuando Pedro, Santiago y Juan oyeron esto inmediatamente se postraron en el piso ante Él y tenían “mucho miedo”.Nosotros también debemos responder de la misma manera cuando oímos la voz de Dios.¿Cuántas veces nos sentimos temerosos cuando nos invitan a participar más completamente en la vida de la Iglesia?¿O, cuando alguien dice algo negativo acerca de la Iglesia, y tenemos miedo de responder?Recuerde, nosotros también somos los hijos amados de Dios; Jesús está allí para ayudarnos, pero necesitamos escuchar.

O.C.I.A (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or finding out more about the teachings of the faith? Consider joining the St. Anthony's OCIA program. The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith. The process invites participants into discernment, prayer, and spiritual formation. If you'd like to join us, please call please call Fr. Peter (620-355-6405) or Mrs. Karen Burden (620- 355-6388)

ADULT CONFIRMATIONR

If any adult Catholic who hasn't been confirmed and would like to be confirmed this coming Easter Please call Fr. Peter (620-355-6405) or Mrs. Karen Burden (620- 355-6388) On behalf of the Catholic faith community of the St. Anthony, we look forward to welcoming you.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: If I'm aware of a sin, either mortal or venial, may I receive the Eucharist at mass? Or would I have to go to confession first? - Rachael

A: As the quote from the Catechism above notes, only mortal sins would exclude one from receiving Communion. If one is aware of mortal sin(s), one should refrain from going forward to receive if they have not first gone to sacramental confession. As the Catechism notes, there are rare exceptions to this rule. Canonists define "grave reason to receive communion" in different ways, but most all concur that the reason must be more serious than ordinary embarrassment at not going forward. Most restrict it to danger of death. Even in such cases the communicant is required to make an act of contrition that includes the intent to confess the sin later, if a priest can reasonably be found. There are some who struggle with habitual mortal sin, e.g. Masturbation, and in such cases they should work closely with a confessor so as be able to stay faithful to communion. Ed.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

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.

(Preparetheword)

FESTIVIDAD DE LA TRANSFIGURACIÓN DEL SEÑOR

Mejora tu visión

La mayor parte del tiempo, bajamos la cabeza. Nos centramos en el día que tenemos por delante o en la tarea que tenemos entre manos. Nos preocupan las relaciones personales que fallan o el alto costo de vida. La visión transfigurada nos invita a elevar más la mirada o a captar verdades bajo la superficie de las cosas. La visión más amplia y profunda nos revela cómo responder de forma efectiva a lo que vemos. Los santos de todas las generaciones han ejercido esta visión profética, reconociendo un problema social y proponiendo luego una respuesta creativa. Reza por las noticias diarias y pide la guía de una visión aclaradora.