



[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

**I**n 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?***



**Holy Trinity**

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**St. Thomas More**

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**Adoration Room at STM**  
Open Monday - Sunday  
Regular Hours  
9 am - 6 pm

**Rav/Tort Group** taking orders now  
Orders will be filled starting in Sept.  
To place your order, call 815-252-2215.  
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**St. Patrick**

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**Website for the Three Churches**  
www.bureaucatholic.org  
and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



STM Chicken Dinner | 11:00am – 2:00pm | Sunday, August 20, 2023

Menu: Baked or Fried Chicken, Spaghetti, Salad, Bread & Butter,  
Dessert, Water, Coffee, Lemonade

Adults: \$12.00 - Kids: 10 & under \$6.00

Carry Outs Available By Calling 815-252-4377

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of August 7, 2023**

Monday	8/7			† No Mass
Tuesday	8/8	9:00 am	STM	† Special Intention
Wednesday	8/9	5:30 pm	HT	† Barb Hild
Thursday	8/10	9:00 am	HT	† Lois Flaherty
Friday	8/11	9:00 am	STM	† Sharon Riva

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of August 12-13, 2023**

Saturday	8/12	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Alan Hahn
Sunday	8/13	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Virginia McNally
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† Jim Smith
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For All Parishioners

## "Listen To The Voice of Jesus"

The transfiguration event is an affirmation of God's glory in Jesus. In his transfiguration, Jesus was confirmed by his Father and had affirmed his role in the salvation story. Two important figures of our faith—Moses and Elijah—stood side by side with Jesus, a signal that the prophecy has been fulfilled.



The apostles were overwhelmed by the vision, thus, Peter's immediate reaction was really to enjoy such event and offered Jesus that he would build three tents for them. But a voice from a bright cloud was heard saying: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Let us listen to the voice of the Lord that unfolds and reveals to us every day, in every event of our daily life in the people we meet and relate. Let us converse with God. Conversation is a two-way street: one talks while the other listens, and vice versa.

We listen to God in prayer, silence and solitude, and in solidarity with people. In prayer, we are able to talk and listen to God whom we have related to. After our prayer, our conversation with God, we are ready to discern his will for us.

We can also have our own transfiguration experience today. We can transfigure ourselves in Christ. Transfiguration is when we mirror God in our daily living by our faith and good works. Our good works are manifestations of our love of God and neighbor. Doing good and doing acts of charity are what the will of God tell us today. We can do it small or big time. All of us are invited to have our own transfiguration that would lead us to authentic transformation.

*(Excerpted from Interaksyon)*

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## Religious Education

We are getting ready for a new Religious Education year. Therefore, please do not forget to bring home a RE flyer, which contains very important changes regarding times and Confirmation class schedule. Flyers are in back of each church. We are looking for volunteer teachers and helpers. If interested please contact Michelle Bickett, the new Religious Education Director by phone: 815-751-2656; by email: [holytrinitycherry@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitycherry@gmail.com); or contact the church office.



Holy Day of Obligation

Please be informed this years Assumption of Our Lady, which will take place on Tuesday, August 15th, will be a holy day of obligation. Therefore, all Catholics are required to attend Mass.

Also be reminded that it is still considered a mortal sin to miss Mass on Sunday or a holy day of obligation without good reason.

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### LATEST OFFERING'S

JULY 30TH WEEKEND

HT – \$1,353.00

PETER PENCE \$15, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS \$15

SP – \$682.00

STM – \$916.00



Lord, thank you for giving me another day of life. We are only promised today, so please allow me this precious time to praise your name for all the goodness you lay upon my feet before I start each morning  
In Jesus Name, Amen!

### CONFESSIONS

THE NEXT CONFESSIONS  
WILL BE SAT. AUG 12TH  
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT  
ST THOMAS MORE  
IN THE HALL

# 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](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

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