



Transfigurations in a Mutilated World

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

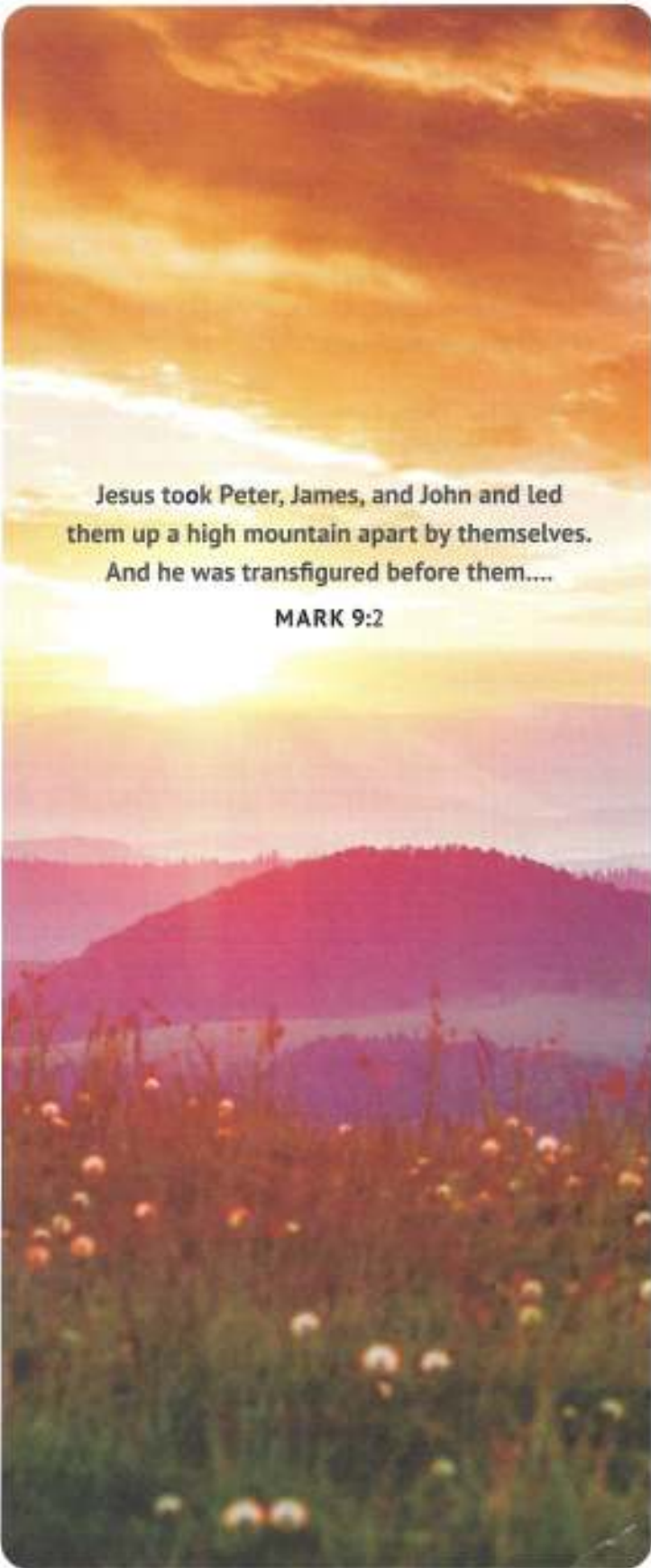
I've never met anyone who thought today's story in Genesis of Abraham and Isaac to be a good story. Abhorred, they ask, "Why would God test someone by asking him to sacrifice his son?" But what if we change the question and ask, "Why would the Hebrew people include that story in their most holy writings? Why would they tell it over and over?" Because of the ending—that's why. Like a movie we watch over and over even though we know how it ends, we watch it, in part, because the ending is satisfying.

The ending of the Abraham/Isaac story shows God is not interested in death and human sacrifice, contrary to the gods of that time. The God of the Hebrews is a God of Life—that's the surprise ending they love, and they keep telling it over and over lest they forget. For them, the part about the testing is simply a means to that unbelievable ending when God insists upon life, contrary to false gods.

In his poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," Adam Zagajewski writes of life's Godly moments in a world we have mutilated by violence, greed, division, and more. He muses on tender moments when we fall in love, on laughter until our sides hurt, on nature's dazzle, on the sweet taste of wine—all simple moments of a life-giving God transfigured in a mutilated world, for our God insists upon life. ●

Reflect

***Remember and give thanks for the moments
of this past week that made you smile.***



Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led
them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them....

MARK 9:2



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

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302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
To place your order, call 815-252-2215.
Leave name, phone number, & your order
Ravs/Tort are \$8.00/bag

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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



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, February 25th - 5th thru 8th Grades **at HT CHURCH**
Sunday, March 3rd - K thru 4th Grade & Confirmation Class
Sunday, March 3rd - Children's Mass for 3rd & 4th Grades

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 26, 2024

Monday	2/26			+ No Mass
Tuesday	2/27	9:00 am	STM	+ For The Purgatory Souls
Wednesday	2/28	5:30 pm	HT	+ Edmund Herrmann
Thursday	2/29	9:00 am	HT	+ John Hanck
Friday	3/1	9:00 am	STM	+ Bernard Schwamberger
		6:00 pm	SP	+ Stations of the Cross

Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 2 - 3, 2024

Saturday	3/2	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Julie Taliani
Sunday	3/3	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ For the Parishioners
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Laurence Fonderoli
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Temporarily Suspended

Freedom To Let Go

In today's reading Abraham is portrayed as being willing to let go of what was most precious to him, the only son of his old age. Many people find it a very disturbing story, because it portrays God as asking Abraham to sacrifice his only beloved son as a burnt offering to God. Abraham lived about a thousand years before Christ. In the religious culture of that time it was not uncommon for people to sacrifice their children to various gods. The point of the story seems to be that the God of Israel is not like the pagan gods. God was not asking this of Abraham. Yet, the willingness of Abraham to let go of what was most precious to him if that was what God was asking remained an inspiration to the people of Israel.

The early church came to understand the relationship between Abraham and Isaac as pointing ahead to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. Like Abraham, God was prepared to let go of what was most precious to him, his one and only Son, out of love for humanity. Saint Paul was very struck by this extraordinary generosity of God on our behalf, as he says in the 2nd Reading, 'God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all'. God let his precious Son go to humanity even though the consequences of that were the rejection of his Son and, ultimately, his crucifixion. When Paul contemplates this self-emptying love of God for us, he asks aloud, in the opening line of that 2nd Reading, 'With God on our side who can be against us?' Paul is declaring that if God's love for us is this complete, then we have nothing to fear from anyone.

In today's gospel reading, Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus, and there they have an experience of Jesus which took their breath away. It was an experience that was so precious that Peter could not let it go. He wanted to prolong it indefinitely and so he says to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here...' He and the other two disciples had a fleeting glimpse of the heavenly beauty of Christ, and did not want to let go of it. Yet, Peter and the others had to let go of this precious experience; it was only ever intended to be momentary. For now, their task was to listen to Jesus, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him'. That is our task too. We spend our lives listening to the Lord as he speaks to us in his word and in and through the circumstances of our lives. *From "Associationofcatholicpriests.ie"*

Traveling Monstrance at St. Thomas More

On Thursday, March 7th the holy hour will begin at 6:00 pm. While eucharistic adoration is at the heart of the holy hour, it includes Scripture, a reflection, and Benediction. Members of all 3 churches are urged to take some of their precious time to participate in this diocesan-wide holy hour. To those nostalgic parishioners: we will chant the Latin song, "Tantum Ergo Sacramentum" during the eucharistic adoration.

ADA Update

Have you made a pledge for the 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal? There is still time. A gift to the ADA, large or small, can go a long way. Consider a one-time gift or a monthly pledge for eight months. Every dollar raised to meet our goal supports important diocesan ministries, and every dollar raised over our goal will be kept in the parish. To date, we have received the following totals, along with the church goals. To those who have pledged, thank you!

HT - \$5,910.00 - Goal \$13,255.00

SP - \$2,110.00 - Goal \$8,915.00

STM \$3,190.00 - Goal \$9,272.00

LATEST OFFERING'S

FEB 18TH WEEKEND

HT - \$1,282.00

AID TO EUROPE \$161

SP - \$ 344.00

AID TO EUROPE \$107

STM - \$ 775.00

AID TO EUROPE \$60

Church Fundraisers

SP - Sausage Sales March 2nd

Order forms are in back of the churches

STM - FISH FRY Friday, March 15th at the church hall
4:30pm - 7:30pm | Adults \$14 - Kids 7yrs & under \$7

Menu: Fried Fish, Fries, Coleslaw, Drink, & Dessert
Carry-outs available by calling Jyll @ 815-252-4377

CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. MARCH 2ND

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST THOMAS MORE

IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

**What are the guidelines for producing a passion play?
My pastor said there are special guidelines to follow.
What are they?**

Please read "Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion," issued in 1988 by the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of what was then called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (The document is located at usccb.org.)

Passion plays should emphasize the saving action of Christ's death and resurrection without becoming stumbling blocks to understanding the role of the Jewish people in salvation history. The document warns that "stock ideas," unfortunately, can become vividly alive in passion dramatizations. It is all too easy...to resort to artificial oppositions...to heighten interest or provide sharp contrasts between the characters." We must avoid portraying the Jewish tradition as "a religion of only justice, fear, and legalism with no appeal to the love of God and neighbor."

It is simplistic and incorrect to blame Christ's death on certain historical groups and neglect the complexities of the Gospel portrait and of Christ's life. Christ freely undertook his passion and death because of the sins of all, so that all might attain salvation. This is the truth that passion plays should strive to communicate most clearly. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / 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
February 26	February 27	February 28	February 29	March 1	March 2	March 3
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a	Mt 7:14-15, 18-20	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: "Listen to Jesus!" The Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. "Listen to Jesus!" Don't forget.

ANGELUS, MARCH 16, 2014