

Second Sunday of Lent

The Transfiguration (transformation) of our Lord

The lesson is based on the Gospel according to St Mark 9:2-10



Material needed: On a table put a photo of a memorable event that was witnessed (e.g an ordination of a priest) or ask the candidates to think of any event they have witnessed and ask them to write a little paragraph about that event.

Invite 1 candidate to read aloud this Sunday's Gospel.

Read the passage below and answer the question that follows.

1. On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship.
2. In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel 9:28-36 includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.
3. **Elijah and Moses** are significant (important) figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfilment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.
4. On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism.
5. In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation (looking forward) of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death.

Prayer

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Questions.

1. What do the disciples witness in today's gospel?
2. Who are Elijah and Moses?
3. What does Peter want to do?
4. What instruction does Jesus give to his disciples after the transfiguration
5. **Referring to paragraph no 5**, Peter and the other disciples were privileged (lucky) to witness the transfiguration so that they would later understand the meaning of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.
What do they learn about Jesus at the transfiguration that will help them understand Jesus better?
6. What are some things you can do this Lent to learn more about Jesus?

Activity 1

Complete the following Word Search.

Lent

T G P W Z P C B E G W P P Y I R T V J P
B G O D T R I D U U M S A C R U M Y Y J
Y T N G K I L V H O L Y S A T U R D A Y
A T O N E M E N T F O R S I N D M R T E
D Y I I G S N S T Q N P I G D F R L L C
S I T T C T T E D I T N O I S S A P P N
E B A S R Q A P R F E C N E N I T S B A
N B C A L U P T P C Y Q S P U I P M W N
D C I F K I E U R Y P M U B P A X G Y E
E Z F M U N L A A A T Y N I W H N Y R P
W J I P O Q C G Y D Y A D I R F D O O G
H I T W D U H E E N C N A M F O L L A F
S T R R Y A D S R U H T Y L O H K D K V
A Z O Z T G Q I X S K T E O A L E H Z D
D J M L R E C M A M I S E G A X E S Q E
T O W K O S T A Q L G H N G M P W I S I
Y S T K F I J G A A P O Y T L D Y S Q K
Y K W H H M W K B P N F O S K Q L L V F
Y H K D X A G R J Z E I X G Q C O H I W
O I M P C T Y R U T J V C A W G H I F E

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|-------------------|----------------|
| Abstinence | Mortification |
| Ash Wednesday | Palm Sunday |
| Atonement for Sin | Passion Sunday |
| Fall of Man | Passiontide |
| Fasting | Penance |
| Forty | Prayer |
| Good Friday | Quinquagesima |
| Holy Saturday | Septuagesima |
| Holy Thursday | Sexagesima |
| Holy Week | Triduum Sacrum |
| Lent | |

The Eucharist is our food for the journey

Visiting our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament during our Lenten journey



“I am the bread of life whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”(Jn6:35)

It's Lent and time to take into consideration what we can do to strengthen our relationship with God and grow more deeply in our faith. What better way to do that than adding extra time with the sacraments of confession and Eucharist? Christ gave Himself to us totally and completely, even to the humiliating (embarrassing) and horrid (unpleasant) death on the cross. During this time of Lent, we can find time in our busy plans to give a part of us to Him, by Walking into a Eucharistic chapel, away from the noise and the activities of life and step into another world where we experience the worshipful, sacred silence.

Looking at is the exposed Blessed Sacrament, Jesus physically present, as He said, as the Bread of Life that has become His true Flesh, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, waiting humbly on the altar for us to adore, love, and spend time with.

There is a deep sense of peace in Jesus' Eucharistic presence. Jesus calls us to Himself especially when we feel close to drowning, when we feel the waves of hardship going far above our heads. In those moments, Christ addresses Himself to us in the same way that He addressed St. Peter, "Take heart it is I; have no fear." (Matthew 14:27). Jesus takes us by the hand and provides the strength and courage we need to endure in trials. The peace of Christ brings healing and fortitude.

Prayer

I adore You, O my Saviour, present here as God and as man, in soul and in body, in true flesh and blood. ... I praise, and bless, and give myself wholly to You, who is the true Bread of my soul, and my everlasting joy. Amen

Activity 2

Match A and B (you can refer to the previous lessons on the Eucharist for some answers)

A	B
1. What is the Blessed Sacrament?	a. Monstrance
2. What is Holy Communion?	b. Paschal Mystery
3. What is the name of the vessel in which the Blessed Sacrament is placed during the exposition and benediction?	c. To receive Holy Communion once a year during the Easter season.
4. What is the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus called?	d. The body and blood of Jesus Christ.
5. What is Easter duty	e. Passover
6. What is the name of the Jewish feast that celebrates God's action in delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt?	f. To receive the body of our Lord Jesus under the appearance of bread and wine.