

PARISH CALENDAR

Second Sunday
of Lent

March 17, 2019

Redeem us, O God of Israel!

Saturday, March 16	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 17	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:45 a. m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 18	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, March 19	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, March 20	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 21	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:30 p. m.	<i>Prayer Meeting - Church</i>
Friday, March 22	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Stations of the Cross -
Saturday, March 23	..... 4:00-4:45 p. m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Ex:3:1-8a, 13-15: I AM sent me to you. This is my name forever
1 Cor:10:1-6, 10-12: Do not be unaware; take care not to fall
Lk 13:1-9: If you do not repent, you will perish

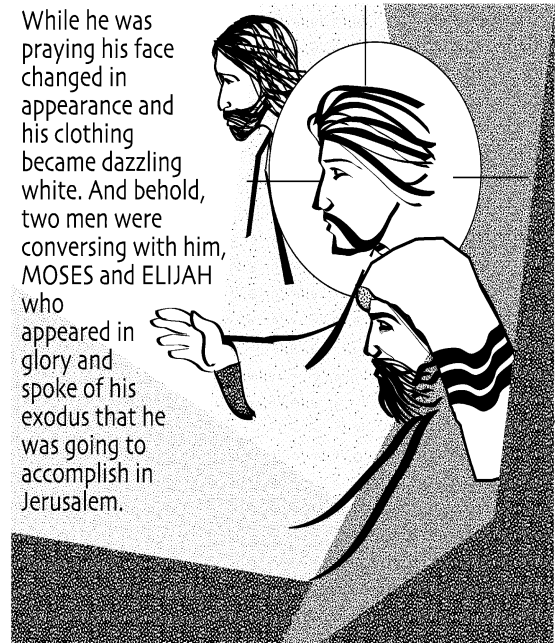
Reflection

The message of the Transfiguration, shown to the privileged three (Peter, James, and John), is meant for us all. It is meant for our world today, a world tormented and hungering for a savior. Transfiguration happens at a high price—the suffering and death of the Chosen One. Those of us who seek to listen to him and to follow him must be willing to suffer for others that they, too, might find hope, come to trust in the God who fulfills promises, and so experience transformation.

We do this by acting as witnesses to the Transfiguration for others. Recall Paul’s comment in today’s second reading: “Observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us.” Paul is stating a very simple but very crucial Christian truth: Everyone needs models of genuine Christian living. And that’s what “witnesses” do. Even our smallest gestures are noticed by others and suggest to them what is important in our lives.

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While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, MOSES and ELIJAH who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.



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**By your
CROSS, O LORD**

**you have
saved the world**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION RICE BOWL: ENCOUNTER ANNET: In Uganda, we encounter Annet and her family, children forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit www.csricebowl.org for more information.

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE: The Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy is organizing a 3-day conference to be held at the Hawaii Convention Center on **May 24-26, 2019**. The conference theme - "Divine Mercy and the Message of Fatima" will focus on the connection of Divine Mercy to the messages given by Our Lady Fatima in 1917. For more information, please call 389-5764 or visit the www.divinemerchyhawaii.org.

PRO-LIFE MESSAGE: "When someone is pregnant, she is not "expecting a child", she already has one; She is not "Going to be a mother", she already is a mother. The baby is not "on the way", the baby has already arrived. If we are going to change the way society treats unborn children, we have to change the way we talk to them. Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

WORD OF LIFE: "Fatherhood has its origins in God, and so we pray to you, Father Almighty, for those men who have adopted a child. Give them a mind receptive to your guidance, a patient voice, and loving heart." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities* "Novena to St. Joseph: for those on the Path of Adoption" www.usccb.org/adoption-novena

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 17 Sun: Second Sunday of Lent

Gen:15:5-12, 17-18; Ps:27; Phil:3:17-14:1; Lk:9:28b-36

Mar 18 Mon: Lenten Weekday

Dan:9:4b-10; Ps:79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk:6:36-38

Mar 19 Tue: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sam:7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps:89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Rom: 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt:1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Mar 20 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Jer:18:18-20; Ps:31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt:20:17-28

Mar 21 Thu: Lenten Weekday

Jer:17: 5-10; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk:16:19-31

Mar 22 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Gen:37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps:105: 16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt:21:33-43, 45-46

Mar 23 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Mi:7:14-15, 18-20; Ps:103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk:15:1-3, 11-32

Transformations

My father used to say, "I was an expert on women, until I married one." He was saying that he went through a transformative experience because of the presence of another. We have experiences like this as well, experiences that enable us to perceive more definitively, to feel more sincerely, and to recognize more clearly the presence of the One who loves us—the presence of God. Experiences like these, not as rare as we might think, are like doors opening onto the holy. We need only pay attention and realize that no matter where we are, we are in the company of the holy.

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NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's second reading we learn that one of Saint Paul's principles of Christian living is to watch and imitate other followers of Christ. There is a pattern for Christian living that Saint Paul wants others to discover and then imitate. This pattern includes a life prayer, selflessness, sacrifice, and caring for others, including our family of faith. Good stewards choose their friends wisely. They cultivate friendships with other Christian stewards, spend time with them, observe how they live, ask questions about their faith and learn from them. Who are your friends? Are they good stewards of their faith? Are they those who can help you on your own journey of faith? (**International Catholic Stewardship Council**)

In the verses from Genesis just prior to those of today's first reading, Abram is just about at the end of his rope. He wonders aloud whether he and Sarai will ever have children of their own. God answers, taking Abram out to view the beauty of the night sky. There, bathed in the starlight, God makes a remarkable covenant with Abram. Unlike customary Semitic covenants in which the weak are obligated to the powerful, here the all-powerful God is willingly obligated to the powerless Abram. God makes it very clear that Abram does not have to do anything to earn God's generosity (in the form of descendants and land). All Abram has to do is to have faith, to trust that God will act on his behalf. God promises Abram trusts. The covenant is fulfilled. Although the reading from Philippians is not directly linked either to the Genesis passage or the Gospel, it disposes us to both. The reading reminds us that we are beneficiaries of God's amazing grace. We are not citizens of an earthly kingdom but of a heavenly one. Baptism opens the gate to that citizenship; a well-lived life paves the road to it. Finally, a share in Christ's glorified body will be a benefit to all heaven's citizens.

In today's Gospel, we find Jesus at prayer on a mountain. With him are the inner group of his apostles, all of whom are asleep—a foreshadowing of things to come on another mount. Suddenly, Jesus is wrapped in glory. With him stand others not unfamiliar with mountaintop visits from God: Moses, who communed with the Lord amid fire and storm, and Elijah who was attentive to the gentle wind-whisper of the divine voice. Moses the great leader and lawgiver and Elijah the great prophet stand upon the mountaintop, flanking Jesus, and all three are bathed in glory. They are speaking of Jesus' coming "passage" or pasch—his passing over through suffering and death to new life—and how everything the Law and the prophets said of the messiah might be fulfilled.

The sleeping disciples observe none of this, but when they awake and see the three together, Peter is awed and overjoyed and asks to erect three booths. Just then, all heaven breaks loose. The voice of God comes forth from the cloud, as it did when the Israelites left Egypt, as it did on Sinai's peak, and as it did at Jesus' baptism. The voice identifies Jesus as the Suffering Servant of God described by Isaiah (42:1). Its message is a revelation, a fulfillment, and a command: "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

The scene painted by today's Gospel is an awesome one. A number of powerful images from the Scriptures, both Hebrew and Christian—God (God's presence in the cloud—Shekinah), Jesus, Moses, Elijah—come together at the Transfiguration. It's as if all God has done and will do for us is set before us in one majestic moment. On the mountain, we discover who Jesus is, what he must do, and the fullness of the glory that will be his once he accomplishes his mission.

