

AUGUST 6, 2023
**THE TRANSFIGURATION
 OF THE LORD**

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

Through the transfiguration of Jesus, we can come to better know our Triune God.

The Transfiguration was clearly a frightening event for the disciples present. For us, though, hearing the story and placing it into the larger salvation story with which we are familiar can help us understand more about our Triune God. We see the divine person of the Son transfigured into the glorified body he will have at his resurrection; the same transfiguration that will occur at our own rising with Christ in our glorified bodies.

At the same time we hear a voice – named in this Scripture passage as just a voice but whom we know as the divine person of the Father – calling out from the cloud. In everything that Jesus does and in all that he is, he is calling us to know the Father as he knows the Father. What do we know from what Jesus has taught us?

Jesus has revealed that God is love. Some can perhaps misinterpret this with a deficient understanding of love, imagining that the Father is soft, passive, and tolerant of everything that happens in the world. But that sort of interpretation of God turns him into an apathetic Father who pays little attention to his children’s lives. This could not be further from the truth. The Transfiguration makes clear that the Father is calling us to listen to Jesus, to follow him, and to gain eternal life through him.

Because God is love, his power is never used to intimidate or scare us into serving him. Our first reading today describes a vision of God’s throne that appears awfully intimidating without the context of complete self-giving love that is God. The passage from Daniel reads, His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A surging stream of fire flowed out from where he sat. Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him. If we read that description without the knowledge of God as love, it sounds like the Father created us to cower before his power for all eternity.

But God is not an insecure dictator who needs the worship of others in order to feel powerful. When Scripture is read within the context of the complete story of salvation, we see that the Father desires all people to turn away from evil and be brought into eternal life through Jesus Christ. This is the eternal, self-sacrificing love of the Father who wants to save his children from death.

Today’s Gospel tells us that, when the disciples heard the voice of the Father, they were very much afraid. But then Jesus came and touched them, saying, Rise, and do not be afraid. When the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus. If we want to know God the Father, we need only to look at Jesus. He is God’s perfect and final revelation of himself; he is God’s love manifested and dwelling among us.

Therefore, let us not misinterpret the power and love of God. As we receive Jesus in the Eucharist today, let us heed and trust in the Father’s words to us: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



REV. M. J. BERNARD DORÉ, PASTOR
 DEACON FERNANDO BOTELHO, DEACON ASSISTANT
 116A DANIELSON PIKE · FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND 02825
 PHONE (401) 647-3664
 EMAIL: CHURCH@STPAULSFOSTER.ORG
 STPAULSFOSTER.ORG

OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM 7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

ST. PAUL’S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	August 5
8:30 AM	Men’s Coffee & Gospel
5:00 PM	Mass: Richard Boivin (RIP)
Sunday	August 6
8:00 AM	Mass: Dora Stewart Petecki (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Mary Fallon (RIP)
Monday	August 7
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Grandchildren of Mary O’Reilly
Wednesday	August 9
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Living & Deceased Members of Wodziak & Tarsa Families
Friday	August 11
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Mass: Living & Deceased Members of the Boivin & Robillard Families
8:00 AM	Mass: Lorraine Collins (RIP)
10:00 AM	Mass: Lena & Antonio Carchia. Antonio Lena (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
 A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who already shares the promised gift of resurrection in Christ. A Holy Day of Obligation Masses will be at **9AM and 7PM**

Mission Appeal Talk MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is one of the largest U.S. Catholic organizations sending laypeople into global mission who have accompanied people experiencing poverty and marginalization around the world.

Kip Hardgrave graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1967 before joining the US Marine Corps. Kip entered Maryknoll as a seminarian and studied for 4 years then went on to serve as a Maryknoll missionary in El Salvador before leaving the seminarian to marry. In 1983, Kip with his wife and son reentered Maryknoll Lay Missioners and served for 3 years in Bolivia. Upon his return to the US, Kip coordinated the refugee resettlement effort at Catholic Charities for 20 years before going into retirement.

Kip will speak at all masses the weekend of **August 19-20** to share his mission experience as part of the Diocese of Providence's Mission Coop Plan.

The second collection will be taken to support Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Your generous donations will allow MLM to prepare and sustain laypeople in global mission and help build a more just, compassionate and sustainable world.

Knights of Columbus Booth FOHD

Thank you to all those who stopped by to say hello and enjoyed some delicious grilling by Knights of Columbus.

Second Collection - Aug 5/6

This week our diocese will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his most important charitable works. Your gift makes you a pilgrim of charity around the globe.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – July 29/30
\$2,560.00

Thank you for your support!

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

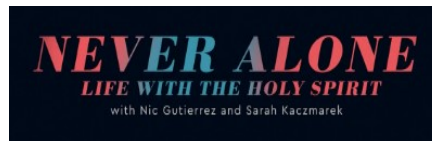
The Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment is hosting the annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration to honor couples of the Diocese of Providence who will be observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and OVER wedding anniversaries in 2023. The celebration will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2023, 1:00PM at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Providence. It will include Mass, renewal of marriage vows, a personalized certificate for each couple and a reception for the couples and their families. Bishop Richard G. Henning will be the main celebrant and homilist. Please let the parish know if you will attend so we can make reservations for you.

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage

Stockbridge, MA
Thursday, August 24, 2023
Sponsored by MAGNIFICAT®
"Our Lady of Divine Providence"
Bus and Donations - \$46 pp
"All are Welcomed"
For more information, Contact
Darlene Walsh 401-374-4057
Br. Leo Mary 401- 644-3699

FORMED

What to Watch



Never Alone: Life with the Holy Spirit

Every Catholic Christian is invited into a living relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is in living life with the Holy Spirit that we find answers to some of teens' deepest longings: Who am I? Where do I belong? How do I know what to do with my life? Is this all there is?

Combining personal testimony with catechesis, this series was created to bring about this sort of fruitful discussion with students who are preparing to be confirmed as well as those whose confirmation day has already come and gone. As with all YDisciple series, it is designed specifically with small groups in mind.

The Wonders of The Mass

Priests—Angels on Earth

If we understand the divine dignity of the priesthood, we shall comprehend more fully the infinite greatness of the Mass.

St. Ignatius Martyr says that the priesthood is the most sublime of all created dignities.

St. Denis calls the priest a divine man and the priesthood a divine dignity.

St. Ephrem says that the gift of the sacerdotal dignity surpasses all understanding.

Hence, **St. John Chrysostom** says that he who honors a priest honors Christ, and he who insults a priest, insults Christ.

St. Ambrose has called the priestly office a divine profession.

St. Francis de Sales, after having given orders to a holy ecclesiastic, perceived that in going out he 34 Priests—Angels on Earth 35 stopped at the door as if to give precedence to another. Being asked by the Saint why he stopped, he replied that God favored him with the visible presence of his Angel Guardian, who before he had received the priesthood always remained on his right and preceded him, but now since the moment of Ordination walked on his left and refused to go before him. It was in a holy contest with the Angel that he stopped at the door.

According to **St. Thomas**, the dignity of the priesthood surpasses even that of the angels.

St. Gregory Nazianzen has said that the angels themselves venerate the priesthood.

All the Angels in Heaven cannot absolve from a single sin. The Angel Guardians procure for the souls committed to their care grace to have recourse to a priest, that he may absolve them.

St. Francis of Assisi used to say: If I saw an angel and a priest, I would bend my knee first to the priest and then to the angel.

St. Augustine says that to pardon a sinner is a greater work than to create Heaven and Earth.

~Father Paul O'Sullivan, O.P.