



Embrace the Darkness

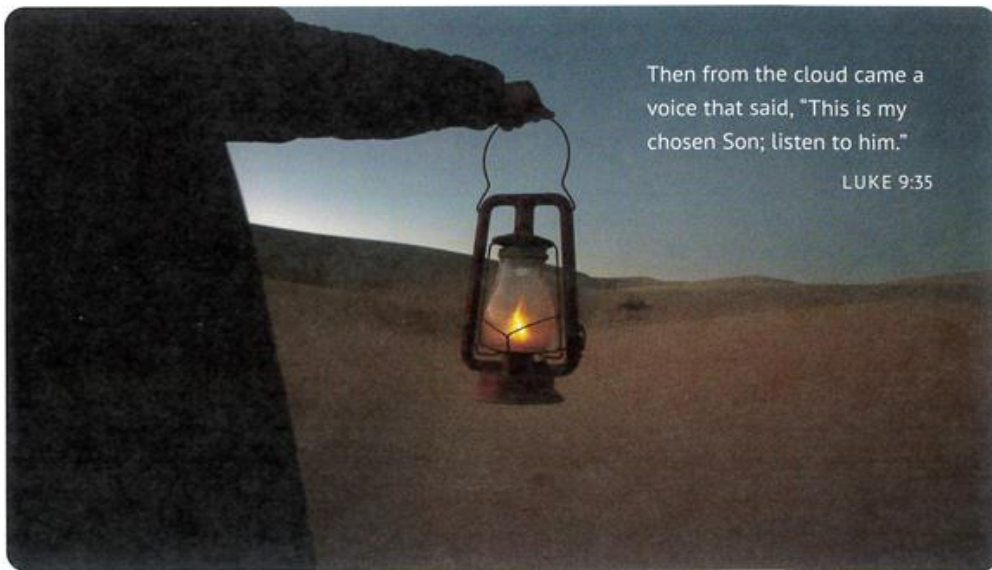
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The darkness can be unsettling. As a child, my nightly bedtime ritual included checking beneath my bed as well as in the dark hall closet. One could never know what denizens of harm might be lurking there, hidden in the shadows. As adults, the darkness we fear is no longer what lies hidden about our home. Rather, the darkness we attempt to escape is the unknown forces that have the power to overturn our lives. It is the death of someone we love that plunges us into fear and loss, forcing us to somehow make our way, alone and unsure. It is the frightening medical diagnosis that has the ability to dismantle our planned future. It is the financial security that dissolves before our very eyes. In such darkness, we grope blindly to find our way.

The Book of Genesis notes that a trance came upon Abram, a terrifying darkness that enveloped him. The gospel relays how Peter, James, and John became frightened atop Mt. Tabor when they found themselves in a cloud that obscured their sight. Yet, the darkness became for each of them a place in which they came to know their God in a totally new way; it set them on a new path of faith. It is then that we, too, are forced to surrender trust in our own wisdom. Unable to see clearly what is in store for us, we can only rely on a new path, trusting that we will be accompanied by our God. ●

Reflect

When has life's darkness brought me to a new and deeper faith in God?



St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Second Sunday in Lent (C) March 16, 2025

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion, and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this 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.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of March 17, 2025


Mon.	Mar 17	7:00	AM	SJ	Wayne & Sony Frey
Tues.	Mar 18	7:00	AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Mar 19	5:30	PM	SA	Deborah Breuer †
Thurs.	Mar 20	7:00	AM	SJ	Janell Woracek †
Fri.	Mar 21	6:30	PM	SB	John & Dorothy Stiverst
Fri.	Mar 21	7:00 PM to 11	to 3/23	11:00 AM	SB Adoration
Sun.	Mar 23	8:00	AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	Mar 23	9:30	AM	SA	Doris L. Bowers
Sun.	Mar 23	11:00	AM	SB	Edith Hatton †



Rylee Trumbull March 18th
Olivia Doggett March 19th
Emily Pandorf March 20th
Angela Ortiz March 20th
Julie Bailar March 22nd
Emma Stallbaumer March 22nd
Magdalene Brogan March 23rd

Ministry Schedule

Date: Mar 23	St. Agnes	St. Boniface	St. John's
Time	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Julie B.	Chancy & Roni B.	Todd & Lyndi W.
Lector	Mary A.	Caden P. & Rod B.	Jenny J.
Server		Emmett P. & Quinton B.	Avery B. & Gregory W.
EMHC	Charles F. & Con P.	David P. & Diane P.	Jon & Molly W.
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		David P.	Music: Robin G.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Agnes</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church March 5 & 9, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$2092.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$2345 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 5 of 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thrift Store Open Mar 21st from 9AM to 4PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-CCD Class March 19th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coffee & Rolls March 16th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fish Fry March 28th starting at 5PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Boniface</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church March 5 & 9, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1947.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = 7307 of \$7306 Donor Goal: 15 of 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-CCD Class March 19th Stations at 6:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OCIA: March 17th at 7 PM Topic: Penance & Anointing of Sick</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fish Fry March 21st starting at 5PM at The Community Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">40 Hours Adoration March 21st starting with Mass at 6:30 PM. Adoration 7 PM through 11 AM on March 23rd</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. John's</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church March 5 & 9, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$600.80</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal=\$5500 of \$5001 Donor Goal: 11 of 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-CCD Class Mar 19 Supper: Layher</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coffee & Rolls March 16th</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <p>Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Pandorf March 22nd</p> </div>
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Join us for the annual Catholics at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in downtown Lincoln! This is an opportunity to live out your faith in action by advocating for policies that protect life, uphold family values, and promote justice for the common good. Wear red to show Catholic unity! Tickets are just \$15, covering breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. Register by April 2nd at necatholic.org.

GI Diocesans, if you are interested in traveling to Rome during the Jubilee year and attending the Noah's Deaconate Ordination, please send Fr. Matthew Nash a message at mnash@gidiocese.org. Additional info will be sent directly to you. Some details: Traveling from 09/29 - 10/07, with flights out of Denver. Land and air cost is \$4,495. We will be visiting/participating in: the Major Basilicas (with the Holy Doors), some noteworthy Roman Churches, the Holy Father's General Audience, the Angelus, Nettuno, Montecassino, Noah's Mass of Thanksgiving, the Holy Stairs, and more. There is a lot of walking involved, but it is a pilgrimage after all.

Dear Padre,

Does the Church teach how we should dress to go to Mass? Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but the way some people dress seems very disrespectful.

Church teaching, dogmas, doctrines, and creedal formulations are not the specific resources to consult in order to answer this question. It is properly a matter of discipline and practice, although the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does direct that "bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey respect" (1387). There are many commentaries on what exactly "respect" might mean.

It would be very difficult to establish a universal dress code. The many different cultures, climates, and particular circumstances of a specific Catholic community make a dress code unmanageable. It seems that you judge the local practice not up to your standards. Your judgment may be correct, or you may have unreasonable expectations. There was a time when "Sunday best" was the established norm. In other communities, the expectation would be "business casual" as a bare minimum. Now, it seems standards and practices are very fluid and flexible. All of this being said, it is ultimately a pastoral concern, not doctrinal or dogmatic. Try not to allow how other people dress distract you from your purpose at Mass. While they may not look like you imagine they should, their prayer might be genuine and heartfelt. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

After the labors of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God.... Wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 13, 2022



UNSPASH

Monday

March 17

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10

Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

March 18

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a,

12-14a, 16

Rom 4:13, 16-18,

22

Mt 1:16, 18-21,

24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday

March 20

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10

Lk 16:19-31

Friday

March 21

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-

13a, 17b-28a

Mt 21:33-43,

45-46

Saturday

March 22

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

March 23

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15

1 Cor 10:1-6,

10-12

Lk 13:1-9

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.