

**MARCH 13, 2022**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

***Mass will stream live on Sunday at 10:30 am through [www.caedm.ca](http://www.caedm.ca)***



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**2021 TAX RECEIPTS**

**Will be available for pick up at your  
Parish entrance this weekend.  
Any receipts left over will be mailed out next week.  
Thank you and sorry about the delay.**

**Cemetery Contacts:**

**Our Lady of Victory - Thorsby:** Mark Bendoritis - 780.985.3779 and/or Rod Kuzio - 780.789.2423  
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**Second Sunday of Lent, March 13, 2022**

**Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18;**

**Philippians 3:17-4:1;**

**Luke 9:28b-36**

God's call is personal and at the same time very demanding. It is an invitation to enter into his holiness with an attitude of faith and total trust in the Divine. We encounter a God who speaks to us and we are called upon to listen to him and respond to him. As we enter into the Second Week of Lent, our task is to continue to examine our hearts and change ourselves in order to be worthy of his glorious paschal mystery.

The First Reading of today marks a significant stage in Abraham's journey of faith. Though still struggling with doubt Abraham is led to make sufficient progress to put his faith in the Lord. He had been asked to leave his homeland and to go and live in a strange place. If he did so, he was promised a great future for his family and descendants. Without any further guarantees, Abram sets out. At this time Abraham had no children and he expresses this to the Lord. Although ready to do what God asked of him, Abraham asked for some confirmation. God had assured him of a great dynasty as numerous as the stars of heaven. He shows it to Abraham through the bond or a covenant. God tells him to make an offering of some animals and to cut the animals in half, putting one half on each side. Typically, a covenant partner would walk between the two portions to show his loyalty and building of the new bond. At sunset, as Abram fell into a deep sleep and as the sunset and darkness came on, a blazing furnace and a firebrand indicating God's presence came between the divided offerings. From this experience, Abram knew his trust in God was justified.

In the Second Reading taken from the Letter to the Philippians, we heard Paul telling the new Christians that our citizenship is in Heaven, that is, the goal and destination of our life is to be one with God. There is no other goal available to us. Paul explains to them that from heaven i.e. from God comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

In today's Gospel reading we have the story of the transfiguration of Jesus on the Mountain. Luke explains that just before the transfiguration, Peter, in the name of his fellow disciples, had made the dramatic acknowledgment that Jesus, their teacher, was the Messiah, the Christ, the Saviour King expected by Israel. Having confirmed Peter in his mission as the "rock" and foundation upon which he would build his Church, Jesus begins to instruct them about what it will mean to be companions of the Messiah.

Through the Mystery of his Transfiguration in the presence of Moses and Elijah, Jesus wanted to show his apostles, ahead of time, the Glory of his Resurrection. They would thus be better able to undergo the trial of the Cross and the Passion of their Master. We, too, can receive within us the risen Jesus in order to be better able to carry our daily cross. Jesus was accompanied by Moses and Elijah; two pillars of the Hebrew Testament, representing the Law and the Prophets, the whole Jewish tradition. Luke says they spoke with Jesus of his coming experiences in Jerusalem. What is obviously implied is that Moses and Elijah fully recognized what would happen to Jesus as totally in conformity with the tradition they represented. The disciples, however, do still not fully understand what is happening; they were "heavy with sleep" but just managed to keep awake. As Moses and Elijah seemed to go away, Peter - impetuous as ever - blurted out: "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here! So let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." The Gospel comments that Peter did not know what he was saying.

The entire episode of the Transfiguration is intended to clarify the divine identity of Jesus. He is the Messiah, God's chosen person, and who should be listened to. This is made clear from the voice that emerges from the cloud. Secondly, the transfiguration foreshadows Jesus' exaltation to heaven as recounted by Luke. Finally, the transfiguration story continues teaching the disciples of Jesus about the deeper mystery of who he is and what he is about.

The transfiguration mystery of Jesus defies all explanations. It is what we generally term a mystery. It is an encounter with the divine that is briefly experienced in the context of prayer. The transformation or transfiguration of Jesus that the disciples experienced was not simply something they were to see and experience as happening to him alone. It was also an invitation for them to undergo a transformation and transfiguration of their own. By listening to Jesus, listening to all that he invites us to be and to do, however much it may seem to go against the conventions we were brought upon. It means especially listening to those words of Jesus; it means having total trust in walking his Way; it means a total trust that only his Way brings us into full union with God, the source of all Truth, Love, Happiness, and Peace.