

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today's gospel brings us a story about the illumination of Jesus on a mountaintop in the presence of his closest disciples, Peter, James, and John. The illumination of Jesus has traditionally been interpreted as a light from heaven to show divine approval of his mission after he has just announced to his disciples that "the Son of Man must suffer greatly" (Mark 8:31). It is far more likely that the light is coming from within Jesus as his face glows in a full awareness of the surprising nature of the mission that his heavenly Father has assigned to him.

Jesus certainly must have wondered about a mission that would result in his becoming a political Messiah, bringing violence and war, as his disciples and the crowds expected. Now he sees clearly that his mission of salvation is through loving and ultimately dying for others. His illumination, therefore, would be an ecstatic moment of discovery. And that is why Moses and Elijah join him there, for they too have experienced God's revelation on a mountaintop! In this moment of mystical experience, Jesus also hears a voice from heaven, which repeats the words heard at baptism but then adds, "Listen to him" (Mark 9:7). This suggests that he is now prepared to share the ultimate wisdom of God, namely, that loving and sacrificing are the only way to conquer sin and death ... and thus to enter into resurrection glory.

When we realize that the words "Listen to him" are directed to each one of us, we must take very seriously the implications of such a command from God. This surely must mean that we too are expected to "visit" this mountain of the Transfiguration, where we can be "illuminated" by the sure knowledge that, when all is said and done, the most important thing that we can do in this life is to "die," as Jesus did, because we love and care for others. We may think that this means nothing but self-denial, but the fact is that those who seek the happiness of others more than their own satisfaction turn out to be the happiest people of all. This doesn't mean becoming a doormat or catering to obsessive dependants, but it does mean that we are sensitive to others and truly committed to their welfare. This daily "dying" leads to ultimate resurrection life. It is also an excellent way to keep the spirit of Lent. **God Bless You!**

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CCD - Catholic Christian Disciples

We celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. This event can strengthen our faith that Jesus is the Son of God. All of us seek affirmation in our lives, words and experiences that help us to know that we are on the right track. In Jesus' Transfiguration we see God's affirmation of Jesus and an affirmation of our faith that Jesus is God's own Son. During Lent, we look for ways to change our lives for the better, in which we can be more faithful to Jesus in our prayer and in our service. Let us each try to identify one thing that God might affirm in our life and continue to be faithful to it.

+Classes: Wednesday - February 28th

- Gilman: Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.
- Grades 6 -11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.
- Sheldon: Grades K-11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

+ **Family Sunday** is next Sunday, March 4th.

+ **Grades 6-11 are needed to serve at the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 4th from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** Serve the community and earn money for the religious education program. We are accepting donations of milk, syrup and cheese. Contact Carolyn Schmitt or Sr. Marianna.

+ **A reminder to Grades 7-11** to have your permission slips returned this week to attend the Youth Rally in Merrill on March 21st. They were sent home in January.

Blessings & Peace ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,483.00
Loose	9 2.00
Total	1,575.00
Total from February 19, 2017	1,385.00
Building Fund	9 0.00
Black & Indian Missions	8 0.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 305.00
Loose	1 25.00
Total	4 30.00
Total from February 19, 2017	6 19.50
Building Fund	5 .00
Energy	1 0.00
Catholic Schools	5 .00
Solemnity of Mary	1 0.00
Black & Indian Missions	3 25.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 777.00
Loose	7 0.00
Total	8 47.00
Total from February 19, 2017	6 80.76
Black & Indian Missions	2 5.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 248.00
Loose	6 2.00
Total	3 10.00
Total from February 19, 2017	2 65.00
Black & Indian Missions	2 5.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

Contributor Status Report as of 1/5/18

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 4,820.00	\$ 6,359.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 4,240.00	\$ 4,481.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,249.00	\$ 2,665.00	\$ 2,584.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 2,270.00	\$ 239.00

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OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

Le Houillier
Interiors, Inc.

- Painting
- Wall Coverings
- Patch Plaster - Drywall
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- Wood Finishing

James Le'Houillier, President
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Knights of Columbus: LENTEN SHRIMP & FISH DINNER at **Holy Rosary** in Medford on **Friday, March 2nd** Carry Outs available - serving from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. \$12 (12yrs. & older); \$5 (ages 5-11); Preschool children are FREE.

PANCAKE SAUSAGE BREAKFAST: Knights of Columbus-**St. Bernard/St. Hedwig** Church Hall in Thorp - **Sunday, March 4th** serving 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Adults \$7 (anyone 13yrs & older); Children \$5 (ages 6-12); Preschool children are FREE. Regular and Potato Pancakes available!