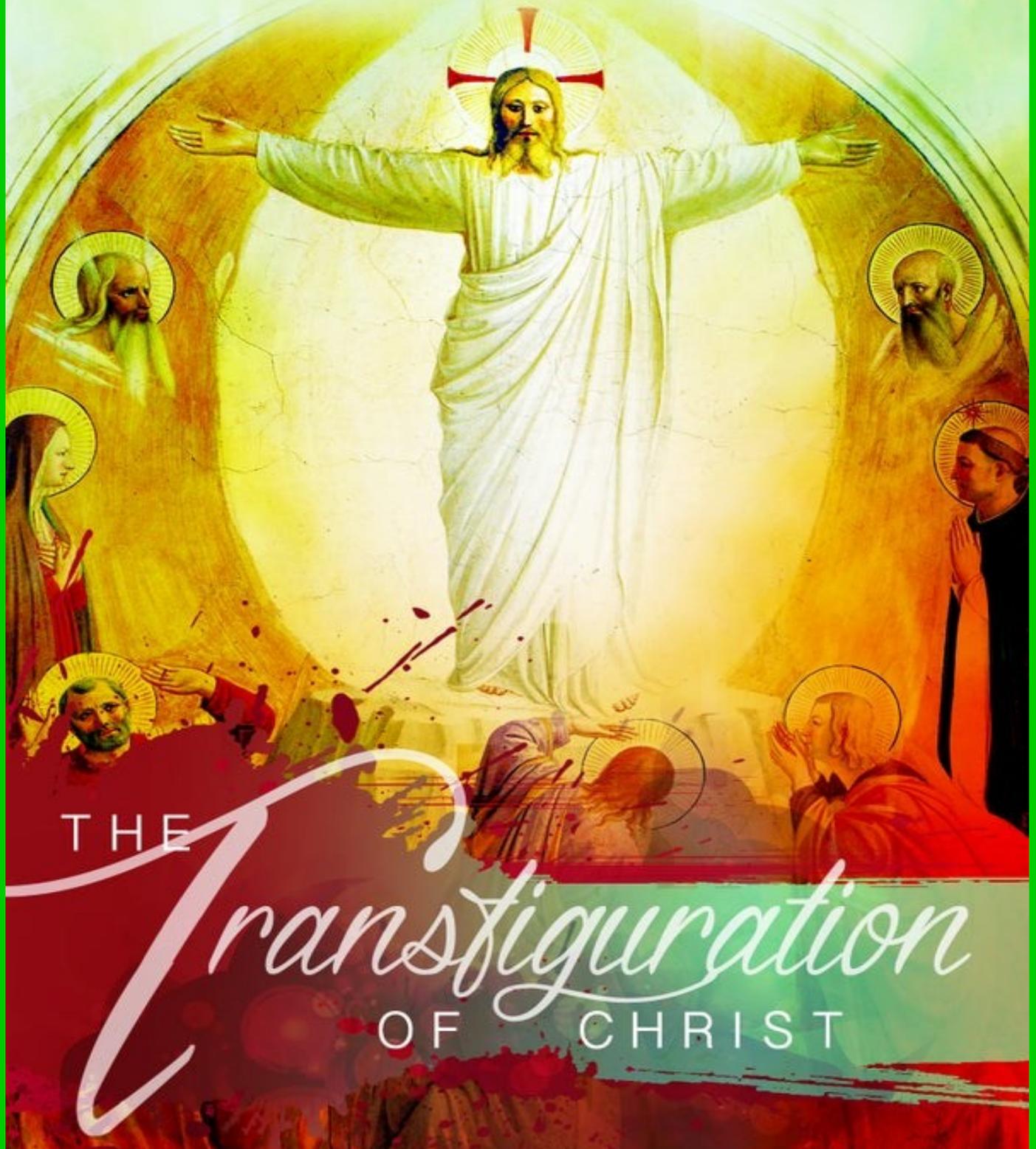


SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



THE

Transfiguration

OF CHRIST

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT | March 1, 2026

St. Elizabeth Church (E)
5700 Bear Creek Blvd
Bear Creek, PA 18602

St. Mark Church (M)
1052 Bear Lake Rd
Thornhurst, PA 18424

Mission Statement

Humbly guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to help people:

~ Through prayer and worship, discover God's desire to be in a relationship with us ~ Discover and develop the gifts and talents God has bestowed on each person ~ Share our faith in Jesus Christ through a welcoming community, beautiful liturgy and ongoing faith formation ~ Be of service to one another, to the communities in which we live and especially to those in need. ~

SERVED BY

Rev. Rawel Toppo
Administrator
rawelt81@gmail.com

Rev. Anthony M. Urban
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. William J. Karle
Pastor Emeritus

PARISH WEBSITE

Churchofstelizabethstmark.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



The Roman Catholic Community
of St Elizabeth of Hungary and
St. Mark



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday-Wednesday, Friday 9:00AM
(E)

First Fridays — Adoration after Mass—
12Noon (E)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00PM (M)

Saturday 6:00PM (E)

Sunday 8:30AM (M)

Sunday 10:30AM (E)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Mark's Church—1/2 hr before all
Masses

St. Elizabeth's Church —1/2 hr before
all Masses

~ or anytime by appointment ~

OFFICE STAFF

Amanda Proch
Business Manager
stelizabethbearcreek@
outlook.com

Mer Rish
Office Secretary
Director of Music & Liturgy
stelimar@ptd.net

OFFICE HOURS / PHONE

Tuesday & Wednesday
9AM—3PM

Phone.....570-472-3061

Fax.....570-472-3503

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Emily Bell
Renee Sipple

Directors of Religious Education
saintelizabethccd@gmail.com

DAILY TV MASS

WARMING FAITHFUL HEARTS

Cathedral of St Peter in Scranton, available on
CTV: Catholic Television of the
Diocese of Scranton.

Weekdays 12:10p.m., 3:30p.m. and 7:00p.m.

Weekends, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m. and
rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

Feb 22, 2026

Weekly \$2938.00

Online \$763.00

\$3701.00

Diocesan -\$50.00

TOTAL \$3651.00

Ash Wednesday \$519.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, February 28, 2026 — Sunday, March 8, 2026

Sat, FEB 8

4:00pm (M) Edward "Skip" Wirtenburg
Rodney & Rosemary Serena

6:00pm (E) Richard Polney
John & Rita Polney

Sun, MAR 1

8:30am (M) Dale Leopaldi
Charles & Elaine Morehead

10:30am (E) Dominick & Bunita Longo
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence

Mon, MAR 2

9:00am (E) Paul Demuth
Joan Steidle & Family

Tues, Mar 3

9:00am (E) Dominick Summa
Thomas Brostoski & Family

Wed, MAR 4

9:00am (E) Clarence Michael
Pat & Dave Johnson

Thurs, MAR 5

9:00am (E) **NO MASS**

Fri, MAR 6 **FIRST FRIDAY**

9:00am (E) Marianne P. Parmese
Michael & Celeste Zinnel

6:00pm (M) **Stations of the Cross**

Sat, MAR 7

4:00pm (M) Richard Broderick
Paul & Lind Lukasiewicz

6:00pm (E) For the Souls in Purgatory

Sun, MAR 8

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Gary Walker
Stan & Jean Swaintek



Station of the Cross

Friday 3/6/2026

6:00PM

St. Mark



This week we pray for our sick, elderly and homebound parishioners and friends, especially...



Noreen Catani Amico,

Ginny Corcoran, Richard Emmert, Lea Furlong, Kevin Gardner, Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson, Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar, Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish, Scott Tiger, John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban, Hank Walker, Loretta Washick, Michelle Welebob

Please notify office when names should be removed. 570-472-3061

YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

**First Friday,
March 6, 2026
immediately
following the
9AM Mass**

All are welcome

"Of all the devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the dearest to God and the one most helpful to us."

Congratulations to the following students who qualified for the Bishop's Youth Award. They will be honored at a Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral Sunday, March 1st at 2:30pm. They met the criteria of being active in their faith and striving to be true disciples of Christ.



**Rowan Cronauer
Taran Lawrence
Annalie Werner**

May God bless them for their Christian Discipleship.

Father Rawel's Corner



"RISE AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

Here in the midst of the darkness during this Lenten season, a light shines to assure our hearts of the promise that is ours.

The Lord's transfiguration is presented to us this day to lead us through all the tribulations of the cross to the resurrection, which is our holy goal.

"Beloved bare your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God", Paul says to his special child Timothy, and so the Lord speaks to us all, reminding us that " He saved us and called us to a holy life." It is "up to a high mountain by themselves" that Jesus leads his principal disciples Peter, James and John to reveal to them the glory to which they are called - thus signifying the cross we must all carry along the rough terrain of this world to reach our place in heaven. In seeing that "His face shone like the sun and His cloths became white as light" and then hearing the voice of the father overshadowing them, they are overawed....but the hand of the Lord touches them, and strengthens them for the road ahead.

Our call is like that of Abraham, the father of all those of faith: " Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to the land I will show you. " We all must leave behind the security this world holds and go according to God's word, to travel in a land foreign to our souls. But his assurance is with us. His blessing is upon us, and so the darkness of the night should not make us afraid.

For " the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, to deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine."

And so however difficult the walk, however steep the climb, our hearts never waver; for we have always at our side our Savior Jesus Christ, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel."

And so brothers and sisters, as we travel through the heart of the sacrifice this Lenten time invites us to share, let it be that "Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield," and let our prayer be as David's: " May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us , who have put our hope in you," for Jesus is before us to lead us to our home.

HAVE A BLESSED LENTEN SEASON!

Stabat Mater Dolorosa Cathedral of St. Peter Scranton, PA March 6, 2026

Stabat Mater Dolorosa attributed to Jacopone da Todi, 1230-1306, in a setting composed by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi in 1736, will be performed in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, on **Friday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m.** Featured soloists in this performance will be soprano **Alissa Swarts** and mezzo **Ellen Rutkowski**. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the beautiful setting of the texts of the meditations of the sorrowful mother of Jesus. This will be the 290th anniversary of its premier performance. It is being presented as a part of **First Friday** Scranton. There will be no charge to attend. A free will offering will be accepted to help defray the costs of this performance.



The Stabat Mater Dolorosa:
One of the Greatest
Catholic Hymns of All Time

CatholicCompany.com Because Faith Matters



St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish

5700 Bear Creek Blvd, Bear Creek Village, PA 18702

Soup Supper

Monday 5 – 7pm

Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Eat In - \$12 All you can Eat Soup & Salad, Dessert
Take Out - \$12 Pint of Soup, Salad, Roll, Dessert
(\$6 per extra Pint of Soup)



PLEASE
NOTE

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers are needed for 4:00PM Mass at St. Mark's Church. Please contact office at 570-472-3061 if interested.



Our first organizational meeting for the church festival will take place on **Wednesday, March 4th, 6 pm** at St. Elizabeth's.

This year's festival will be held on **Saturday, July 11th**, from noon to 7 pm at the Bear Creek Charter School's Pavilion. Please mark your calendars.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, come join us at the meeting, all are welcome!

Nicki Pachucki—Chrissy Nordmark—Annie Rood



St. Elizabeth / St. Mark Parish

5700 Bear Creek Blvd, Bear Creek Village, PA 18702



Corned Beef/Ham & Cabbage Dinner

Sunday 15-Mar-2026 2-4 PM

Eat In / Take Out - \$18

Call **570-851-0213** or e-mail stelizabethbells@outlook.com, please include your name, phone number and the number of people that will be attending



HOLY NAME SOCIETY ANNUAL LENTEN

FOOD SALE: EAT IN or TAKE OUT
ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH HALL

33 MANHATTAN ST ASHLEY

FRIDAYS - Feb. 20 & 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27

Walk-up orders 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.;

pre orders can be picked up 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

Pre orders must be made by **Wednesday**. Call (570) 258-5006 or email lenten.food.sales@gmail.com

Mushroom Soup, Clam Chowder, Pirohy, Haluski, Tuna Hoagie, Homemade Potato Pancakes and a Weekly Special.



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of March 1, 2026

Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Monday:

Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/
Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday:

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and
23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

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

Friday:

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

Saturday:

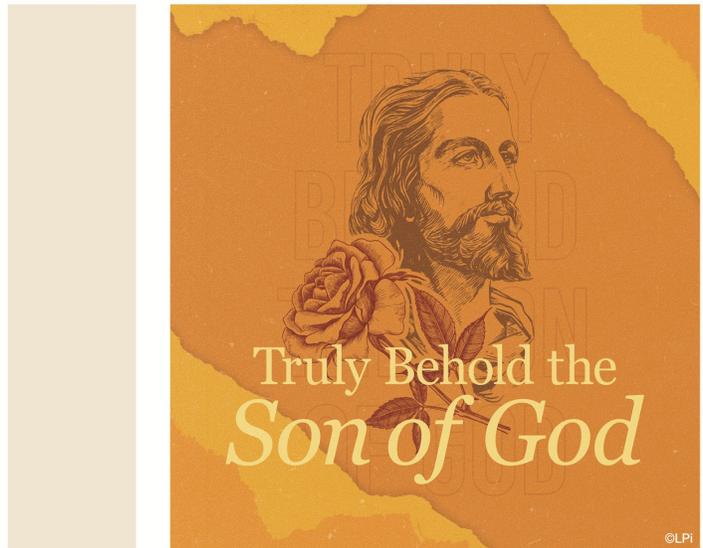
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10,
11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:

Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2,
5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a,
40-42



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the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer.

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, **“his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light” (Matthew 17:2)**. That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.

Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

Lenten Challenge: Identify the “artifact” you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing. (Gn 12:2)

Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33)

Second Reading:

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.
He saved us and called us to a holy life. (2 Tm 1:8-9)

Gospel:

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them;
his face shone like the sun. (Mt 17:1-2)

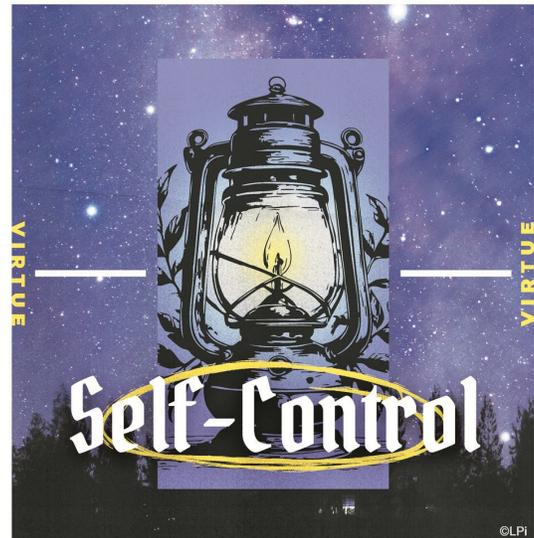
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International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

“Go forth,” God told Abram. We hear that message again in the Transformation: go forth. We cannot always remain where we are comfortable. We cannot always remain where things are simple. We must go forth.

Observances for the week of March 1, 2026

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Lent
Tuesday: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Casimir
Saturday: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent;
Daylight Saving Time begins



Virtues, Explained!

Self-control flows from the cardinal virtue of temperance, and it's really all about boundaries. Through self-control, a gift of the Holy Spirit, we avoid surrendering too much of ourselves to our passions.

Blessing of Hope

In Your goodness Lord, bless us.
Help us to know Your abundance
and Your gifts.
Help us to hear Your voice and
know Your assurance.
Help us remember what You have
done,
and look forward to what You will
do.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It's not our job to bring the world to the Truth. It's our job to bring the Truth into the world. What a tragedy it would be, if Truth only lived on the mountaintop.

Three Tents

You guys, I was *such* a good Catholic at the National Eucharistic Congress.

Mass every day? Check. Rosary every day? Check (and check — we said a lot of rosaries). Deep thoughts and deep conversations about God with total strangers? Check. Hours in adoration reflecting on the state of my soul? Check.

When I went to Indianapolis in the summer of 2024 to cover the NEC for our archdiocesan newspaper, I knew it would be a fun and spiritually rich experience. But I didn't expect that it would make me think differently about my whole life (and afterlife). And when people ask me why — "What happened in Indianapolis that changed you?" — I can only tell them this: I spent time with God.

Of course, I do all these things in my regular life at home, too. I try to be a good Catholic here. But good grief, it's a lot harder. In Indianapolis, I didn't have a calendar full of appointments and to-do lists that filled me with dread. I didn't have the world crowding around me, grasping at my attention and my will.

Indianapolis was the mountain, and if I could have, I would have built three tents.

So I understand Peter's feelings at the Transfiguration. He's thrilled — he sees it all clearly now. Here is the fullness of Truth, revealed in all its glory, and he's ready to start bringing groups of tourists up to see it. He's ready to bring people to Christ. But in the blood-soaked, fear-filled days to come, Peter will realize that it's not his job to bring the world to the Truth. His job is to bring the Truth into the world.

What a tragedy it would be, if Truth only lived on the mountaintop.

So build three tents, strong and durable shelters for the Truth to dwell. But build them in your heart. And then, the Transfiguration won't be just an event, something that happened at a certain time and a certain place. It'll be a reality that lives within us all. And we will bear it with us wherever we go.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the Christian attitude towards violent conflicts?

Answer:

In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches us "Blessed are the peacemakers" and to "love your enemies." All human beings are made in God's image and likeness. We are one human family — brothers and sisters despite what divides us. Christians have the obligation to prioritize peaceful means to resolve conflicts. War wreaks a toll on a nation. Civilians bear a disproportionate burden of this cost during the war itself and as the nation rebuilds. However, those in authority have the obligation to protect the innocent.

During the gradual fall of the Roman Empire, theologians began to theorize that war could be just if it was a defensive measure of last resort. The "Just War Theory" was later expanded by St. Thomas Aquinas, who also included moral obligations during the war itself, including the protection of civilians. Those in public authority have the obligation to carefully examine their motives, agendas, and rationale for violent force. Should a cause be just, those who fight and defend under such circumstances must be valued and honored. They deserve our support both during and after the war.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.
- Mt 17:1-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Trusting in the Lord, Abram is obedient to the directive to leave his land and home. When have others had to place their trust in you?

Second Reading:

Paul instructs Timothy to draw on the strength God gives us when facing hardships. Can you think of a difficult time when you relied on God's strength to help you?

Gospel:

In the transfiguration of Jesus, Peter, James, and John are fearful when they hear God's voice speak from the cloud. As the season of Lent continues, what are some fears you are facing?

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



Gifts of Jerusalem



Jessica Musleh represents Holy Land Artifacts. Her family works directly with Christian artisans in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, supporting families who rely on traditional olive wood craftsmanship as their primary source of income.

Due to ongoing conflict and a severe decline in tourism, many Christian families in the Holy Land are facing extreme economic hardship. Tourism has historically been the main source of income for these communities, and with its collapse, many Christians have been forced to leave the region. The sale of handcrafted olive wood items, including crosses, nativity scenes, and other religious artifacts, play a vital role in preserving the Christian presence in the Holy Land and sustaining these families.

Her local group travels to a different parish each weekend to share these authentic olive wood carvings and to raise awareness of the struggles faced by Christians in the Holy Land.

We are honored to welcome Jessica Musleh and her Holy Land Artifacts to our parish the weekend of

March 14th and 15th.

Items will be displayed at both St. Elizabeth and St. Mark's churches.

Purchasing olive wood from the Holy Land allows one to own a meaningful piece of sacred history while supporting Christian families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Holy Land Artifacts

There will be a display of handmade olive wood religious articles available for purchase after all Masses on the weekend of March 14 & 15 at the parish. Items will include Nativity sets, crucifixes, rosaries, statues, and many other devotional pieces.

Holy Land Artifacts represents more than 100 Christian families in Jerusalem and Bethlehem who rely on the sale of traditional olive wood carvings as their primary source of income. With tourism at historic lows, these faithful families are experiencing significant hardship.

We warmly invite you to stop by to view the display and learn more about these beautiful, prayerfully handcrafted items. By purchasing one of these pieces, you are supporting Christian families in Jerusalem and helping to preserve the Christian presence in the land where our faith was born.

Thank you for your generous support.

Jessica Musleh

