

**FATHER MARK SCHULTE**  
**HOMILY**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**  
**MARCH 1, 2026**

**“Transfigured with Christ”**

My Brothers and Sisters, in today’s Gospel, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain where He is transfigured momentarily into His glory. He allows His three disciples to witness this event. Somehow the Apostles recognize the Old Testament figures of Moses, who represents the law, and Elijah, who represents the prophets standing with Jesus (Mt 17:1-9) (CCC 554).

Obviously Jesus does not do or say anything by accident or for no good reason. In just a short period of time Jesus will enter into His passion, a passion that Peter expressly refused to accept and a passion that is not understood by either himself or the rest of the Apostles. Jesus knows that the faith of His Apostles is going to be greatly tested by the severity of His passion and death. Therefore He wants Peter, James, and John to witness a foretaste of their own future glory which can only be experienced after a period of suffering here on earth.

The Trinity was revealed for the first time at Our Lord’s Baptism with the presence of Jesus the Son of God, the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending upon Jesus and the voice of the Father was heard by all present (Mk 1:9-11). Now the Trinity is presenting Himself for the second time on the mountain. Jesus is now transfigured into His glory, the Holy Spirit is in the all-encompassing cloud, and the voice of the Father saying, “This is my beloved son on whom my favor rests, listen to Him”.

Later while descending down the mountain Jesus instructs His disciples to be silent about what they just experienced until He has risen from the dead. Jesus knows that the faith of His disciples will be rocked by His excruciating passion and death. They will be deeply discouraged and fearful to the point of denying Him and then abandoning Him in His most painful hour. The Transfiguration event will give them something to look back upon with hope. Over time they will be able to grasp its full meaning and be able to share it with future believers.

Paul tells Timothy that he must accept his share of hardship that comes from believing the Gospel and following Jesus Christ (2 Tm 1:8-10). We must accept suffering in the same way that Jesus accepted the will of His Father and underwent His own passion and death for our sake. The Transfiguration event gives us hope and courage as well because the Transfigured Jesus is a sign of our own future glory, a glory that will be given to us at the Resurrection. The Apostle Paul reminds us of this. The glorified transfigured Jesus has destroyed death “and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel!”

Every believer has moments of doubt when experiencing difficult times. We may ask ourselves if Jesus is really here to help us. What is it in our own lives that causes us to struggle with our own faith? Is it a society that seems to be morally lost? Is it a Church that seems to be rocked at times by confusing messages? Is it troubles in our own communities? Is it the loss of a loved one? Are we dealing with health issues of some kind?

Jesus understands our struggles in the same way that he knew that His disciples would struggle with His passion and death and the struggles they would encounter as they took the Gospel out into the world. Therefore, He gave His Apostles and you and I a glimpse into our own future glory and transfiguration by allowing us to see His own on the mountain.

We know that Jesus said that unless we pick up our cross and follow Him, we cannot be His disciple (Lk 14:27). But now we also know what the reward will be for faithfully picking up that cross. It will be a glorified life with Jesus eternally in Heaven. And so the next time you feel your faith flagging a little bit because of some struggle that you are experiencing, envision being present with Peter, James and John on that mountain witnessing the beauty of the glorified Christ, the bright cloud of the Holy Spirit enveloping you like a warm blanket, and the gentle voice of the Father telling you that everything will be alright. All we need to do is put our trust in Him.

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church