

Dear friends in Christ,

This past week our nation became engaged in another armed conflict in the Middle East, this time with Iran. A number of people have asked what I thought about it. To me, the most important thing we can do in these circumstances is to pray. Four prayer intentions came to mind. First of all, war is always a scourge, a terrible thing. It brings death and destruction to the parties engaged in it, and the brunt is often borne by those civilians who live in the region. **So first, we should pray for an end to war and violence in the Middle East, Ukraine and all regions affected by armed conflict.** Second, the Iranian people have suffered under a cruel, murderous regime that has exported terrorism and violence throughout the Middle East and beyond. **We should pray for the liberation of Iran and those threatened by this regime - that they may be freed from such evil and oppression.** Third, many of our fellow citizens are serving our country faithfully in the armed forces. **We ought to pray especially for our service men and women, that they may be kept out of harm's way. Finally, we ought to pray for all world leaders, that they may have wisdom and find a way to bring end to wars and armed conflicts among nations.** We can often feel helpless in the face world events, but we should never doubt, that "Our help is in the name of the Lord," and that prayer is most powerful indeed.

This Lent, Pope Leo has begun once again the ancient papal tradition of visiting parishes throughout the city of Rome. Last week, during his parish visit, he preached on the Transfiguration. His homily speaks to us all of the power of this vision to sustain us through every cross we may bear:

This Sunday presents us with Abraham's journey and the event of Jesus' Transfiguration. Like Abraham, we can all recognize ourselves as being on a journey. Life is a journey that requires trust, it requires reliance on the Word of God who calls us and sometimes asks us to leave everything behind. We may then be tempted to flee from precariousness as though it were a vertigo that overwhelms us, whereas it is precisely from within it that we can appreciate a promise of unexpected greatness. Every day – because that is how the world reasons – we measure everything and strive to have everything under control. But in this way, we miss the opportunity to discover the real treasure, the precious pearl, as the Gospel teaches us, which God has unexpectedly hidden in our field. Abraham's journey begins with a loss: the land and the home that hold the memories of his past. However, it will be completed in a new land and with an immense lineage, in which everything becomes a blessing. We too, if we allow ourselves to be called by faith on a journey, to risk new decisions of life and love, will cease to fear losing something, because we will feel that we are growing in a wealth that no-one can take away from us. Jesus' disciples also happened to face a journey, the one which would take them to Jerusalem. There, in the holy City, the Master fulfilled his mission, giving his life on the cross and becoming a blessing for all and forever. We know how much resistance Peter and all the others put up to following him. But they had to

understand that one can only be a blessing by overcoming the instinct to defend oneself and by accepting what Jesus entrusts to the Eucharistic gesture: the willingness to offer his own body as bread to be eaten, to live and die in order to give life. This is what Sunday is, brothers and sisters: it is the pause along the journey in which we gather around Jesus. Jesus encourages us not to stop and not to change direction. There is no greater promise, no treasure more precious than living in order to give life!

Shortly before the day of the Transfiguration, Jesus had confided in his disciples what the destination of their journey would be, namely, his passion, death and resurrection. You will remember Peter's opposition and Jesus' reaction when he said to him, "You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men" (*Mt 16:23*). And now, six days later, Jesus asks Peter, James and John to accompany him up the mountain. Those difficult words still ring in their ears; the unacceptable image of the Messiah condemned to death is still in their minds. It is this inner darkness of the disciples that Jesus breaks when, on the mountaintop, he shows himself to them transfigured in a dazzling, unimaginable light. And in this glorious vision, Moses and Elijah also appear beside him, witnesses to the fact that in Jesus all the Scriptures are fulfilled (cf. *Mt 17:2-3*).

Once again, Peter becomes the spokesman of our old world and its desperate need to stop things, to control them. Rather like when we do not want a dream that we take refuge in to end. Here, however, it is not a dream, but a new world to enter: the destination of our journey, a place full of light and which has the human and divine contours of Jesus. By pitching the tents, Peter would like to stop this journey, which instead must continue to Jerusalem. The voice that comes out of the clouds is that of the Father, and it seems to be an imploration: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (v. 5). That voice resounds today for us: "Listen to Jesus!". And I, dear friends, in your midst, want to echo that appeal, and to say to you: Please, sisters and brothers, listen to him! He journeys with us, even today, to teach us in this city the logic of unconditional love, of the abandonment of any defense that becomes an offence. Let us listen to him, let us enter into his light so as to become the light of the world, starting with the neighborhood where we live. The whole life of the parish and its groups exists for this reason: it is a service to light, a service to joy. After the Transfiguration on the mount, Jesus' journey does not stop (c. And the Church, too, your parish, receives a mission from this Gospel... Faced with everything that disfigures man and life, we continue to proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel, which transfigures and gives life. **POPE LEO**

Blessings on your week!

Fr Johnson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, March 9

9:00 AM Daily Mass
10:00 AM Women of Faith: Crux

Tuesday, March 10

No Daily Mass
5:30 PM Faith Formation K-6

Wednesday, March 11

8:30 AM Confessions
9:00 AM Daily Mass
7:00 PM House of Prayer: No Greater Love
7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal
(for 11AM Mass)

Thursday, March 12

9:00 AM Daily Mass
12:15 PM Steps to Freedom
1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
(for 9AM Mass)
7:00 PM OCIA

Friday, March 13

9:00 AM Daily Mass
9:30 AM Adoration until 7PM
10:00 AM Guardians & Angels
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross
6:00 PM Confessions
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 14

8:30 AM All Parish Service Day: Gather & Pray
9:00 AM All Parish Service Day: Work Begins!
12:30 PM All Parish Service Day: Pizza Lunch
3:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 15

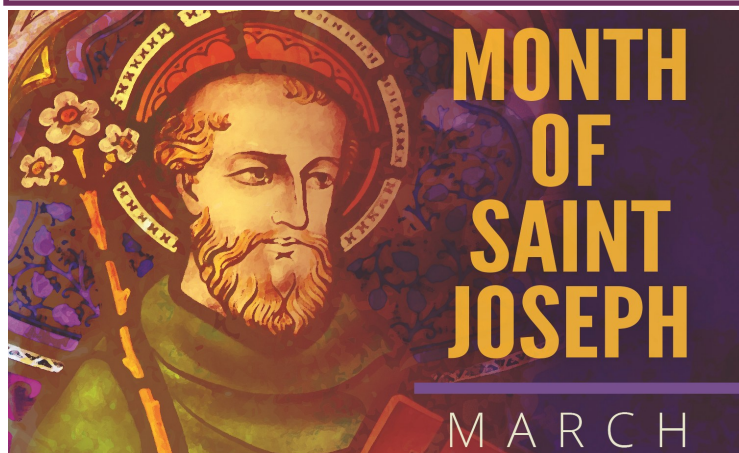
9:00 AM Sunday Mass
11:00 AM Sunday Mass
Coffee & Donuts after both Masses
6:30 PM Teen Group



NEW in the Book Kiosk

Have you visited the book kiosk in the Narthex lately? It has been restocked with a number of new books and CDs, including Lenten resources that can help you prepare your heart for Easter.

You are encouraged to take a peek and perhaps find fruitful spiritual reading for this Lent! All items have posted suggested donation amounts and are offered with joy for our parish community.



IF TODAY
YOU HEAR
his voice,
HARDEN
NOT YOUR
hearts.

Psalm 95



Marriage Banns

FERNANDO SILVA MARINEZ
AND
ANN CHRISTINA GOMEZ GUTIERREZ

Are to be married at Parroquia del Senor de Buen Despacho in Mexico City

All the faithful are obliged to reveal any impediments they know about, if any, to the pastor or local ordinary before the celebration of the marriage. (canon 1069)

Published Feb 11, 2026 – March 8, 2026



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

St Jude | Holy Innocents
Mission Church of St. Anthony