



March 12, 2017

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Gn 12:1-4a

2 Tm 1:8b-10

Mt 17:1-9

The Glory We Are Called To

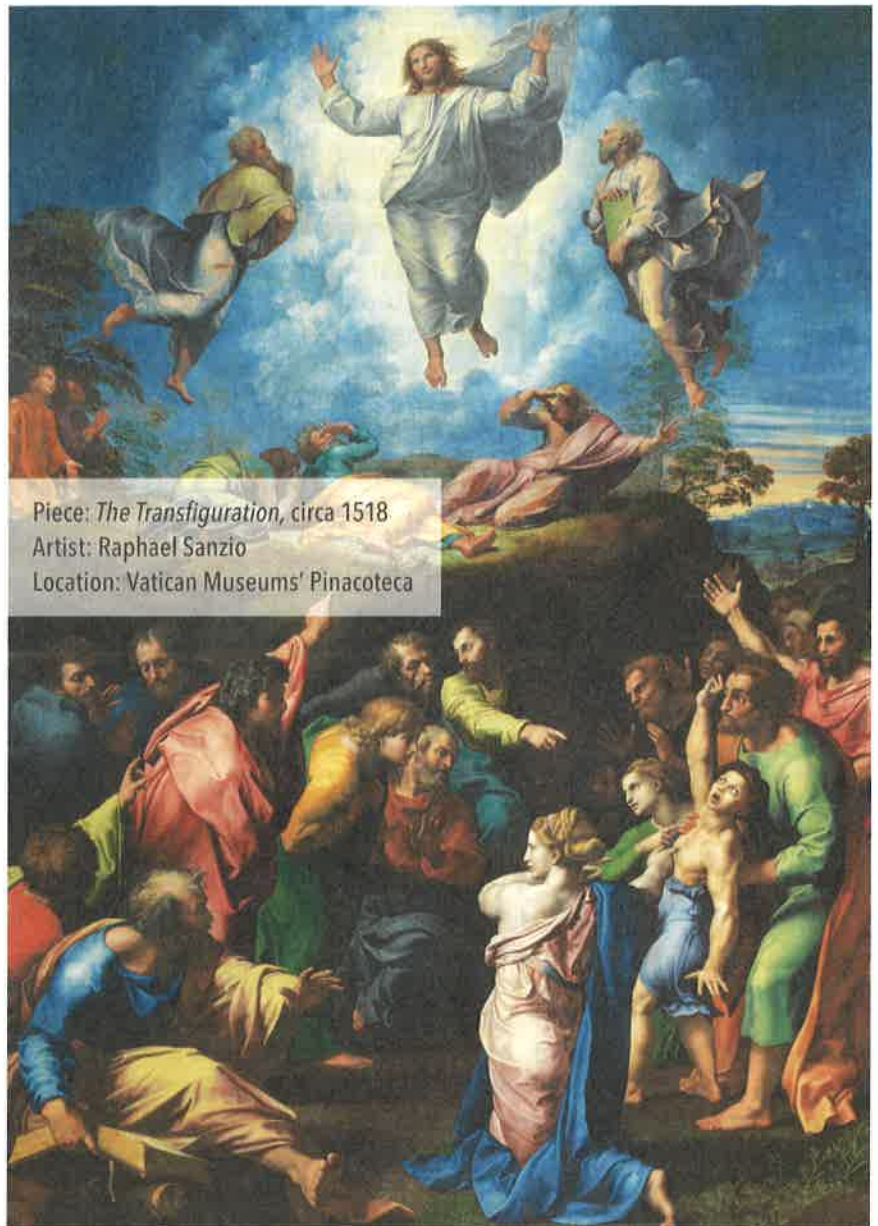
Raphael's greatest painting, perhaps the greatest painting of all the Renaissance, depicts today's Gospel account of the transfiguration. Raphael loved this painting so much he never sold it. He hung the painting over his bed, and at his death he turned to look at it.

The transfiguration of the Lord reminds us of the glory we are all called to even when that glory is hidden. When God called Abraham, it was to make of him a great nation and to give him glory. But Abraham had to leave what he had and enter into the unknown to receive what was promised. We, too, need to set out and leave our expectations if we ever hope to enter the mysteries of faith and discover the reward we are searching for. Setting out and leaving behind are like little "deaths" that prepare us for the glory of salvation.

The Father revealed Jesus' glory to his three closest apostles so their faith would survive the cross. God didn't want them to become disillusioned or frightened by his suffering and death. A voice came down from heaven and confirmed Jesus as the Son to assure the apostles that even if he didn't seem like the Messiah in his human nature, he most certainly was.

It was this image of the glorified Jesus that Raphael reflected on and labored over for years. He needed to see this transfiguration during his life and at the hour of his death to keep the faith. So do we.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *The Transfiguration*, circa 1518
Artist: Raphaël Sanzio
Location: Vatican Museums' Pinacoteca

For Reflection

What images and objects around my house or workplace remind me of my faith? How can I be a sign of the glory to which we are called?

"He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began" (2 Timothy 1:9).

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann Pastor
 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi,
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano
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 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
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 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC
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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 12, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Gus Fredriksen

☆☆ MASS INTENTIONS ☆☆

SAT 5:15 PM Dec'd Members of the Mammarella Family
 SUN 7:30 AM Gus Fredriksen – 35th Anniversary
 9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
 11:00 AM Carole Keaveney
 MON 7:30 AM Thomas Grace, Sr.
 TUES 7:00 PM Anthony Pugliese – 3rd Anniversary
 WED 7:30 AM Greg & George White

THURS 7:00 PM Leon Doney
 FRI 7:30 AM Cynthia Swisher Schickram
 9:00 AM ICA Mass – Beth Morelli
 SAT 5:15 PM John Iezzi
 SUN 7:30 AM Mike Kilareski
 9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
 11:00 AM Sarah Alice Noone

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Dowling 5:15pm Pisarek 7:30am Kasperowicz 9:00am Carvalho 11:00am Citrano

DAY	MASS	LECTOR	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15 PM	Jennifer Stuart	Kevin Creamer	Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho
SUN	7:30 AM	Toni Kaucher	Jim Kaucher	Kathryn Krueger, Amanda Marley, V. McClelland
	9:00 AM	Isabelita Santos	Tim Stewart	Avery Lang, Ally and Jacob Santos
	11:00 AM	Becky Shemanski	Steve Lukes	Ethan and Leonard Cline, Vinny Ferrara

Second collection next week is for Debt Reduction

Immaculate Conception Academy **Early Education Program News!**

Immaculate Conception Early Education Program is now enrolling for its new **Pre-Kindergarten Program**, which will now feature an option to attend **five full days or five half days or a combination as needed from 8:30am – 2:45pm or 8:30am to Noon.**

This program will prepare students to enter our full day Kindergarten both academically and socially. The curriculum will include weekly art, music and library visits, as well as age appropriate physical education experiences. Before Care options are available for all students and After Care options are available for full day students.

For more information please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Dan Casciano, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Steve Mammarella, Joseph Kolenda, Kenneth Barth, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Arlene Shirley, Robert Thomas, Madison Rhoads, Rita Dougherty, Norma Nanni, Becky Shemanski, Lou Franco, Joe Nanni, Lucille Schiel, Helen McDonald, Rita Bernas, Alice Smyk, John Fritz, Lucy Doney and TJ Doyle

Congratulate the newly baptized: Lily Susan Dougherty, Greyson Charles Gaudi

Welcome our new parishioner: Ms. Kristine Cahill

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS: Monsignor McCann, Deacon Hiryak, Deacon Bardi and Deacon Giordano visit our parishioners who are hospitalized, in nursing homes or homebound regularly. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon	03/13	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	03/14	7:30pm Bereavement Support Group
Wed	03/15	6:30pm Women's Society Meeting 7-9pm Eucharistic Adoration
Fri	03/17	1:45pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Stations of the Cross
Sat	03/18	4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AS HE CARRIED THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION. STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK ON FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH AT 1:45PM WITH THE CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY AND AT 7:00PM.

Women's Society - Community Table Meal March 14th - Location: Friendship Fire Co Hall at 214 West 1st St, Birdsboro. Please provide your dish in a foil (sterno) pan, already hot (if appropriate) and drop off 4-5pm. Make a meat, vegetable, casserole, dessert or donate drinks. We serve about 160 people. Please help serve and/or clean up if you can. Call Marsha at 610-385-6319 and let her know you will donate a dish/drinks and for more info about how you can help.

The Women's Society will gather in the social hall at 6:30pm on March 15th for our "Agape" service. All women of the parish are invited to join us in sharing bread and wine together.

Easter Candy Sale orders due March 12th - Prepay and place orders in the collection basket, mail it to 905 Chestnut St, Douglassville, 19518, or drop at school or church offices. Make checks payable to ICC Women's Society. **Candy will be distributed March 18/19** before and after all Masses. We will meet March 18th in the social hall at 9am to box the finished candy. We need help packing the candy orders. A light lunch will be offered for our volunteers.

ICA HSO Coach Bag Bingo - March 25th - Social Hall Doors Open 5pm/Games Begin 6pm

\$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Tickets include 16 regular games and a door prize. Bingo cards for our 4 special games and the Grand Prize will be sold at the event. We will also have Basket Raffles, a 50/50 raffle and a Wine Pull. Contact Kira at 610-301-8942 or ICABINGO@gmail.com. Checks should be made payable to ICA HSO. Online payments can be made through PayPal www.ICAHSO.org. BYOB- Adult Only Event.

RESORTS Casino AC - March 20th - LEAVE the Church promptly at 9:30am - Package Deal: Pay \$32 get \$25 Back - Call Carol J. if interested at 610-775-4447

Bereavement Support Group - March 14th, 7:30-8:30pm in the Church Office, lower level. Please enter from the rear across from the playground. Our group offers an opportunity to come together to work through the grieving process with the help and support of others who have experienced this difficult journey. Info, call Pat at 610-775-1892 or Toni at 610-404-1389.

EASTER EGG HUNT for our parish children age 12 and younger on April 15th at 11am in the social hall. We are collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and cash. A donation box will be in the narthex of the church. Thanks for your support!

Friday, March 17, 2017 is the Feast of Saint Patrick. In observance of this festive day, the Lenten obligation to abstain from meat is abrogated. It is recommended, however, that some other form of penance be substituted that day. Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Annual Lenten Food Drive benefits the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House, and Catholic Charities of Reading. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex. Food will be collected through Palm Sunday. Questions contact Deacon Jim at 610-385-3666.

A Lenten Endeavor: Operation Rice Bowl - Fast and pray with your family and make a sacrificial offering to Operation Rice Bowl so as to help those who live with hunger and poverty both at home and abroad. The Rice Bowl is located in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

Immaculate Conception is participating with local churches in meeting the needs of the Food Pantry, called "Community Table" at the Birdsboro Community Center. We are collecting **Cleaning Products** such as bathroom, window and kitchen cleaners; laundry soap items and paper towel/wipes. The Collection Bin is in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please email Deacon Chuck at catgio@comcast.net.

Eucharistic Adoration: During the forty days of Lent our church will be open every Wednesday, 7-9pm for Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the monstrance on the altar. You are welcome to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord Jesus. You may bring your own prayer books, use any of the books in our parish library, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, or just sit and relax and enjoy the peace that comes from simply being in the presence of God. You may feel that you can't pray well. Don't let that discourage you. The mere fact that you have carved out a period of time to be with Jesus is a great act of faith. When you come, bring to the Lord your hopes and desires, your dreams and aspirations, your fears and anxieties and entrust all them all to God.

The students of Immaculate Conception Academy cordially invite you to come pray with us as we proudly present **The Way of the Cross**. The Presentation of The Living Stations will be April 7th at 10am and April 9th at 4pm in the Church. All are welcome to celebrate our Lenten gift to you.

Don't Give Up Chocolate For Lent! Join Dynamic Catholic for *Best Lent Ever*, a FREE email program designed to help you have a life changing Lent. This program is based on Matthew Kelly's "Resisting Happiness". This book leads readers to the realization that they cannot get to where they want to go without God. It was specifically written to re-engage disengaged Catholics and inspire individuals to grow in their spiritual lives. Visit BestLentEver.com to sign up and receive daily emails with practical tips, short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly, and personal reflections from Dynamic Catholic team members. Discover how to open your hearts to God and do more than just give up chocolate for Lent...leading to your best Lent ever.

ICCYO Spring Registrations for Boy's Baseball (Boys: 6th-8th) and for Track "tentative based on coach"(Boys and Girls: 6th-8th) are available on our website: www.ICCYO.com

Calendar

Monday

March 13

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10

Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

March 14

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

March 15

Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18-20

Mt 20:17-28

Thursday

March 16

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10

Lk 16:19-31

Friday

March 17

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a,
17b-28a

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

March 18

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

March 19

Third Sunday
of Lent

Ex 17:3-7

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Jn 4:5-42

Dear Padre,

Are Jesus and God the same person? The Church teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one being, but in the Bible Jesus and God talk to each other. Also, some of our prayers address Jesus, while others address the Father or the Spirit. Explain this, please.

Trinitarian theology is never simple to explain. Since the time of Christ, we've wrestled with the interrelation of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. With time and the Spirit's guidance, the Church has discovered language we believe reflects some of the mystery we call God, and we've accepted the authority of that language.

When we pray the Creed together every week, we speak of our belief in one God in three persons. However, even as we say these words, we know we have more to discover about the life of the Godhead and the unity and relationships among Father, Son, and Spirit, each of whom we have encountered throughout salvation history.

In believing that the Trinity is one God, we have the freedom to confidently pray to any one or more of the three divine persons. However, when we pray at Mass, you'll notice the most typical formula for prayers is to offer them to the Father, through the Son, and in (or with) the Spirit.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word From Pope Francis

"By [Jesus'] Transfiguration he invites us to gaze at him. And looking at Jesus purifies our eyes and prepares them for eternal life, for the vision of heaven."

—Homily, Santa Maria Dell'Orazione, Rome, March 16, 2014