

RECTOR'S THOUGHTS...

TRANSFIGURED AND TRANSFORMED...



The Transfiguration of Christ (6 August) is the event recorded in the three Synoptic Gospels during which Jesus' appears in "raiment white and glistening" (*The Collect, Book of Common Prayer Pages 247-248*). Saint John alludes to it in the Prologue to his Gospel where he writes, "We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son (*St. John 1.14*), which we hear read at the conclusion of every Mass.

We often take the words "transfiguration" and "transformation" to mean the same thing, but there is a difference. We don't often hear the word "transfiguration" used in everyday speech, perhaps because it is considered by some to be too "churchy". We do hear the word "transformation" used, for example, in describing the total and complete change of a caterpillar into a butterfly. You almost have to know the story behind the caterpillar to understand it is the butterfly now so different in appearance.

The Transfiguration is a miracle that happens to Jesus himself and is witnessed by his three closest friends, Peter, James and John. Saint Luke describes the event in the Gospel for The Transfiguration (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 248-249*). While Jesus was praying and the disciples were taking a nap, his face changed in appearance and his clothes became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about the way he would complete his mission in Jerusalem...his death on the cross.

Moses and Elijah are the two most important prophets for the Jewish people and represent the "Law and the Prophets" respectively. In their appearance and talk with Jesus, they recognize him as the promised Messiah who would fulfill the "law and the prophets" through his passion, death and resurrection in Jerusalem.

When Peter, James and John woke up from their nap they recognized Jesus. Jesus' appearance was a "transfiguration" not a "transformation". His friends saw him for who he was both before and after the Transfiguration. Although they didn't completely understand the meaning of what they were witnessing, they saw the fully human and fully divine Jesus in all of his radiant glory. He was the same Jesus they knew and loved.

When Peter sees Jesus in his transfigured glory, he wants to hold on to this special moment. He wants to set up camp for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. He doesn't want to let Jesus go. His plans are interrupted by God's voice heard in the cloud surrounding them, "This is my Son, whom I love--listen to him!" The Gospels also record God calling Jesus "his much loved Son and to listen to him" at his baptism. The Baptism and Transfiguration of Jesus are the bookends of his public ministry.

There is a **transformation** in the lives of Jesus' friends that begins at the Transfiguration. It is the total and complete transformation...the total and complete change...in the heart. Peter didn't want to let go of Jesus. Neither do we. We want to hold on to the experience of seeing Jesus at the Transfiguration. But we have to let him go...to complete the mission his Father tasked him with. It is in the "letting go" that the transformations in our own hearts begin...in seeing him for who he really is...and in letting God's Holy Spirit go to work in our own lives and help us listen to him.

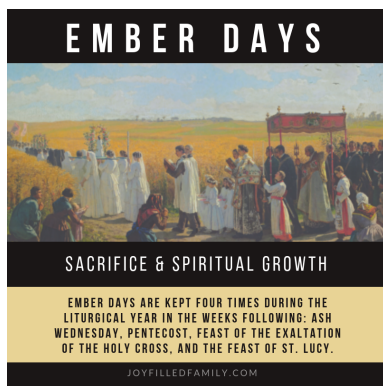
Our own **transfigurations** in "raiment white and glistening" will take place when we are taken up into the clouds to join all of the Saints of God in the air. We will see each other for who we are and as God sees us...and Jesus will be our witness welcoming us home. What an experience that will be!

Father Craig Looney+

SUNDAY MASS

The situation in San Mateo County is very fluid. For now, we are still able to celebrate the 9:00 AM Parish Mass inside our historic church building with mandated safety protocols in places. Coffee Hour and Discussion Group remain suspended until further notice. Please refrain from gathering on the front steps after Mass. Instead, let's wave and give "air hugs" to each other from a distance, and continue to pray for the day we will no longer be bound by these constraints. Please check your e-mail periodically for updates.

FALL EMBER DAYS...



The Fall Ember Days are the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday following the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September). The Ember Days are four sets of three days each occurring roughly at the Four Seasons. A Table of Fasts (*Book of Common Prayer, Page li*) designates the Ember Days as days of “fasting, on which the Church requires such a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion.” The word *Ember* derives from the Latin *Quattuor Tempora*, or “the Four Seasons” and does not have anything to do with embers or ashes in a fireplace. On the Ember Days we direct our prayers to God for the increase for vocations to the ordained ministry of the Church.

CALL PRIMROSE...



CALL Primrose is still not accepting contributions of non-perishable food or other items until further notice. They are, however, accepting financial donations, so they may continue to support community members in need. If you wish to make a financial contribution to CALL Primrose...please send your check directly to them:

CALL Primrose
139 Primrose Rd
Burlingame CA 94010

“CANS FOR GOD” CANCELED...



We are discontinuing our popular “Cans for God” aluminum can (and plastic bottle) recycling program. We thank our parishioners and friends who have supported this worthwhile program. With the closure of San Mateo County recycling centers and the

logistical problem of taking them to a recycling center in another county, the program simply is no longer tenable. We extend our special thanks to Ginger Dahlberg who has managed “Cans for God” for the past several years.

VESTRY MEETING...



The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 13 September. The time and location will be announced.

Prayer and Intercessions

We continue to pray for our men and women serving in the Armed Forces, that they may be brought home safely to their families and loved ones; for police departments throughout the country; for First Responders; for those searching for a vaccine and cure for COVID-19; and for peace in our Country, our State and our City. If you have someone you would like prayed for during the Intercessions at Sunday Mass...please give the name(s) to the Rector in writing.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PARISH LIBRARY BY REBEKAH SHAPIRO...



The Saint Joseph Parish library is open for browsing (one person at a time) and borrowing, which is very unusual for any library these days. Borrowing a book is easy. Just write the title,

your name and the date in the notebook on the bottom shelf. Most of the books have been marked as belonging to the library, but if you select a book that hasn't been marked, please be especially careful to make sure it gets back. (The process of marking books will resume when downstairs meetings resume.)

The library supports the liturgical and educational ministries of the Parish. For example, we have small copies of the *Book of Common Prayer* (1928) you can borrow when you travel, and books on flower arranging for church and the history of vestments. The collection is particularly strong in what might be called "supplemental devotional reading," that is, books of holy thinking beyond the Bible and *Prayer Book*.

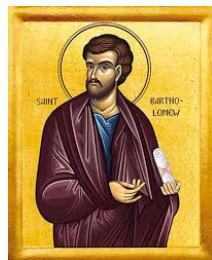
The books are arranged in rough categories marked on the shelves. Fiction and children's books are in a separate bookcase in the back. Because the arrangement of books is approximate, you do not need to worry about putting books back where you found them. In the coming weeks and months, you can look forward to a new section with books about growing the Parish, with an emphasis on things we can begin even before people are again comfortable gathering with strangers.

B I B L E	
EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
When in sorrow.....	John 14
When men fail you.....	Psalms 27
When you have sinned.....	Psalms 51
When you have worry.....	Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger.....	Psalms 91
When God seems far away.....	Psalms 139
When your faith needs stirring.....	Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful.....	Psalms 23
When you grow bitter and critical.....	1 Cor. 13
When you feel down and out.....	Romans 8:31-39
When you want peace and rest.....	Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God.....	Psalms 90
When you want Christian assurance.....	Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel.....	Psalms 121
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish.....	Psalms 67
When you want courage for a task.....	Joshua 1
When you think of investments/returns.....	Mark 10
How to get along with fellowmen.....	Romans 12
For great invention/opportunity.....	Isaiah 55
For Paul's secret to happiness.....	Col. 3:12-17
If you want to be fruitful.....	John 15
If your pocketbook is empty.....	Psalms 37
If your losing confidence in people.....	1Cor. 13
If people seem unkind.....	John 15
If discouraged about your work.....	Psalms 126
If you find the world growing small, and you great.....	Psalms 19
AVAILABLE 24/7 PHONE SERVICE NOT REQUIRED DIRECT PETITIONS HEAVENWARD	

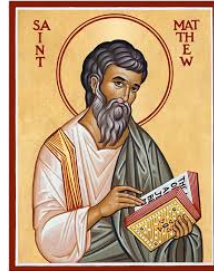
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER HOLY DAYS...

The Transfiguration of Christ (6 August, *Book of Common Prayer, Pages 247-249*)...Please see Rector's Thoughts on Page 1.

Saint Bartholomew the Apostle (24 August, *Book of Common Prayer, Pages 249-250*)...Bartholomew is listed among the Twelve Apostles in the three Synoptic Gospels. Bartholomew is a patronymic meaning 'son of Tolmai' or 'son of the furrows'. Today we might call him 'Plowerson'. He has long been identified with Nathaniel in the Gospel of John. Eusebius of



Caesarea (early 4th Century) and Saint Jerome (late 4th Century) both refer to an earlier tradition about a missionary journey Bartholomew made to India where he left a copy of the Gospel of Matthew. Along with fellow Apostle Jude "Thaddeus", Bartholomew is reputed to have brought Christianity to Armenia. He and Jude are considered the Patron Saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Tradition records both saints were martyred there.



Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (21 September, *Book of Common Prayer, Pages 249-251*)...Virtually everything we know about Matthew is contained within the Gospel appointed for his feast day. Jesus calls him from the "receipt of custom" (*St. Matt. 9.9*). In parallel passages in the Gospels (*St. Mark 2.14* and *St. Luke 5.27*),

Jesus is recorded to have called Levi from his tax collector business. Matthew would have been despised by his own people for collaborating with the Romans in collecting taxes. They had a reputation for engaging in extortion and fraud. After the Ascension he is reported to have gone on an extensive missionary journey. The exact location of his death is debated but two traditions stand out...Ethiopia or Phrygia in modern-day Turkey. He is the Patron Saint of tax collectors, bankers and civil servants.



Saint Michael and All Angels (29 September, *Book of Common Prayer, Pages 251-253*)...Father Massey Shepherd, author of the *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*, points out that of the several "angel" festivals in the medieval Missals, this is the only feast of Angels the Reformers retained. It's importance as a major festival in the English Church dates back to the fifth century, where even today it is often called Michaelmas, and refers to the first term in the academic year. Michael and Gabriel are the only archangels mentioned by name in the Canonical books of Scripture. Raphael and Uriel are mentioned in Old Testament Apocrypha. The word 'angel' literally means 'messenger', and may refer to human or non-human. Father Shepherd notes that neither Jesus nor the disciples questioned the existence of angels. In answer to the question the disciples asked Jesus about who is greatest in God's Kingdom (*St. Matt. 18.1*), he had them bring him a small child and said we must change and be like little children to get to heaven (*St. Matt. 18.2*).

Later he warns against causing these “little ones to lose their faith” (*St. Matt. 18.6*), and not to despise any of these little ones because their angels are always in God’s presence in heaven (*St. Matt. 18.10*). “Little ones” refers to both the care and nurture of children God has blessed us with, and more broadly to all members of the Church, the Body of Christ, especially those who are new to the Faith.

For a powerful meditation on the role of Angels as God’s messengers, see Hymn #123 in the *Hymnal 1940*: Michael is the Peacemaker, driving away hatred and strife and replacing it with peace and prosperity; Gabriel is the Herald of Heaven, announcing important news we want to hear; Raphael is the Healer, who serving God wisely guides us through difficult times into healing and blessing.

IN THE TIME OF COMMON SICKNESS...

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who in thy wrath didst send a plague upon thine own People in the wilderness, for their obstinate rebellion against Moses and Aaron; and also, in the time of King David, didst slay with the plague of pestilence threescore and ten thousand, and yet remembering thy mercy, didst save the rest; Have pity upon us miserable sinners, who now are visited with great sickness and mortality; that like as thou didst then accept of an atonement; and didst command the destroying Angel to cease from punishing; so it may now please thee to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Thanks to Rebekah Shapiro for suggesting the above Prayer from the 1786 Proposed American Book of Common Prayer.)



Prayer...simply put...is having a conversation with God. It is an act of humility when we allow ourselves to speak to God as Jesus did...as Abba...Papa. Prayer can be corporate and formal as in the Celebration of the Eucharist, or in the reading of the Daily Offices. It can be very personal...in our own non-KJV words...telling God out loud what’s on our minds.

When our prayer lives include fasting it takes on a different and enhanced dimension. We often associate fasting with the Penitential seasons of Advent and Lent...and associate fasting with giving up food or drink. The Gospels record Jesus going out into the desert after his baptism to pray and fast (*St. Matt. 4.1-11; St. Luke 4.1-13*). He did this to get closer to God and so do we.

Fasting can mean refraining from something like that wonderful chocolate cake we crave for dessert. But we can include in fasting turning off the TV or computer or cell phone for a short period of time to minimize distractions.

Whatever our prayer and fasting disciplines are...they do not have to be for long periods of time...but they do have to be consistent. This is what Saint Paul means when he writes, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (*1 Thess. 5.16-18 NIV*)

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON

WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.



www.saintjosephparish.net
650 347 4423



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

770 NORTH EL CAMINO REAL

SAN MATEO CA 94401

