

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

The transfiguration of Jesus was a revelation to the disciples and to us. But what did it reveal? As Jesus stood in glory between Moses and Elijah, the disciples saw things they had never seen before. But what did they see? The most frequent answer to this question is that they saw Jesus' heavenly stature, that it was revealed to them that Jesus was divine. True as this answer is, it is not precise enough. Because the words which came to the disciples from the heavenly cloud indicate that what was revealed was not so much who Jesus is, as to whom Jesus is related.



The revelation of the transfiguration does not center on Jesus' being, but on his connectedness to the Father. The words that come from the cloud are, **"This is my beloved Son."** What they reveal is the intimate, unbreakable bond of love that exists between Jesus and the Father. What they proclaim is that Jesus is more than a prophet, more than a teacher. Jesus is God's beloved Son. The words that come next are every bit as important: "Listen to him." Why should we listen to him? What should we listen to? We should listen to him because if Jesus is in fact God's beloved Son, then we who are baptized into Jesus are truly God's beloved daughters and sons as well.

The mystery at the heart of the gospel is that through Christ we participate in the intimate union of love that exists between the Father and the Son. This is the Good News. This is what we must hear and believe in above all else. Why is it so important to hear it, to listen to it? Because the minute we forget our status as beloved daughters and sons of God, the Good News evaporates. The minute that we begin to substitute some other identity in place of our identity as beloved children of God, the Gospel vanishes.

When we ignore our status as beloved daughters and sons and begin to see ourselves primarily as sinners, as victims, as unlovable, as flawed, as unworthy, the power of the gospel is lost to us. Do we sin? Are we flawed? Is there a real sense that we are unworthy of the tremendous love that God showers on us? Of course. But despite all of those flaws, we remain chosen and beloved children of God. It is only by claiming our true identity that we find the power to turn away from sin, the power to heal our hurts, the power to claim the dignity that God has so freely given us.

God never forgets that we are beloved daughters and sons. For all our faults and all our failings, God continues to look at us with love. This is what we must listen to. This is what we must never forget. When you become discouraged, when you find yourselves losing hope because of your faults, because of your inability to be as patient or as generous as you would like, because of your inclination to be judgmental of others, remember God loves you with the same love that God loves Jesus. When things are going wrong, when you cannot find a way out, when you are beginning to think that God is punishing you, remember God is not about punishing you. God is about loving you with a love that never ends. When you become overwhelmed with grief, with sickness, with an emptiness that will not let you go, remember: God's love for you is everlasting.

You are not one among many people. Your dreams and your needs are always before God's face. Jesus himself assures you, "You are God's favored daughter. You are God's beloved son." Listen to him.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Feb. 26th - Daniel 9:3, 4b-10; Luke 6:36-38

Tue. Feb. 27th - Is. 1:10, 16-20, 27-38,31; Mat. 23:1-12

Wed. Feb. 28th - Jeremiah 18:18-20; Mat. 20:17-28

Thurs. Feb. 29th - Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31

Fri. Mar. 1st - Gen. 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28; Mat. 21:33-43, 45-46

Sat. Mar. 2nd - Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sun. Mar. 3rd - 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Cor. 1:18, 22-25; John 2:13-25

**EXTRA LENTEN SERVICES**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS AT 7 PM
FOLLOWED BY MASS. PLEASE JOIN US.**

ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Feb. 28th - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers

Fri. Mar. 1st - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Mar. 2nd - 5:00 PM - A & A Taban, C & C Tang, J.Tuguinay.

Sun. Mar. 3rd - 9AM - Isaiah, Jonah & Norah Chao, S.Cheung,

A.Lee, A & A Chan. **11AM** - K & K Bui

N & N Sanchez, A & A Babas, W.Pham **5PM** C & J Le, C.Akol, J.Roque, J.Paja, D.Dang, J.Cayabyab.



**TAX RECEIPTS for both, your church and Project
Advance, contributions have been mailed. Thank you for
your generosity and support!**

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to all those who supported our last minute fundraiser, for the new piano, last Sunday. With your generosity, we raised \$1,155.00, which we applied directly to the cost of the purchase of the new piano for our church.

C.W. L. NEWS

Membership Drive: this weekend, after all the Masses, at the entrance of the church.



SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** Please join us this Wednesday at 9 am.
- **Student Led Conferences:** will be held March 8th.

ST. JUDE'S PARISH - LENTEN MISSION "God's Healing Love"

March 11, 12 & 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm



Mark your calendars and plan to attend! You will not want to miss Fr. Greg Bramlage, of the Missionaries of the New Evangelization, of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, who will introduce us to a new understanding of God's Mercy and share with us the incredible healing that results when we repent of our sins, forgive those who've hurt us and pray with expectant faith. He will teach us how to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and enter into a more profound relationship with Jesus and God the Father.

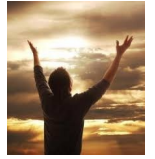
ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has released its Pastoral Letter on the use of social media titled: "Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious." The Pastoral Letter can be accessed and shared via rcav.org/announcements

Stewardship Reflection



"Here I am!" he answered." - Gen. 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "Here I am, Lord," when a neighbor needs our help, or when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

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Fiat Women's Retreat

Discover where God is calling you to be present and available at our Fiat Women's Retreat.

Mary always made herself present and available while nurturing Jesus and accompanying the disciples before her Assumption into heaven. She is "the new beginning" of the vocation of women, exemplifying the richness of femininity. Join us in discovering where you are called to be present and available in your journey of femininity.

Open to all single women aged 18-35. The retreat is on March 8-10 at Carmel Hill in Deroche. Cost is \$200, with financial assistance available. **Registration deadline:**

Fri., March 1. Learn more and register via beholdvancouver.org/events

Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

Join us for a monthly Mass and vigil to pray for respect for all human life, from conception to its natural end. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Vancouver, it takes place on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The Mass is followed by the rosary and other prayers either at a church with Adoration or at a local hospital. All are welcome!

The next Mass and vigil takes place on March 2 at Guardian Angels Parish in Vancouver. Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events

Cenaculo (The Passion of the Christ)

Join us this Lent as we gather to watch The Passion of the Christ, brought to you by the Philippines Historama Society of BC and the Filipino Catholic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Let's come together in reverence and reflection, exploring the profound journey of Jesus who sacrificed His life for us. Don't miss this opportunity for a shared spiritual encounter during this sacred season!

On Sunday, March 17, 2:00 p.m. at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby. Cost is \$20. For tickets and inquiries, please get in touch with Mike at 604-375-2138, or Marilou at 604-828-9856, or Carmelita at 604-551-4883.

