

What a Blessing!

Today's readings don't seem Lenten. They are uplifting, not penitential. God makes promises to Abram of extraordinary good fortune, political protection, and international status. The man must have been thrilled. Paul reminds Timothy that the life of holiness and blessing to which we have been called is a gift from God; always available to us, and not a reward for any good works we might have performed. And then we hear of Jesus' transfiguration in the sight of a few disciples. They were so overwhelmed by that spectacular experience they wanted to pitch tents so they wouldn't have to leave the place. How are such wondrous ideas penitential?

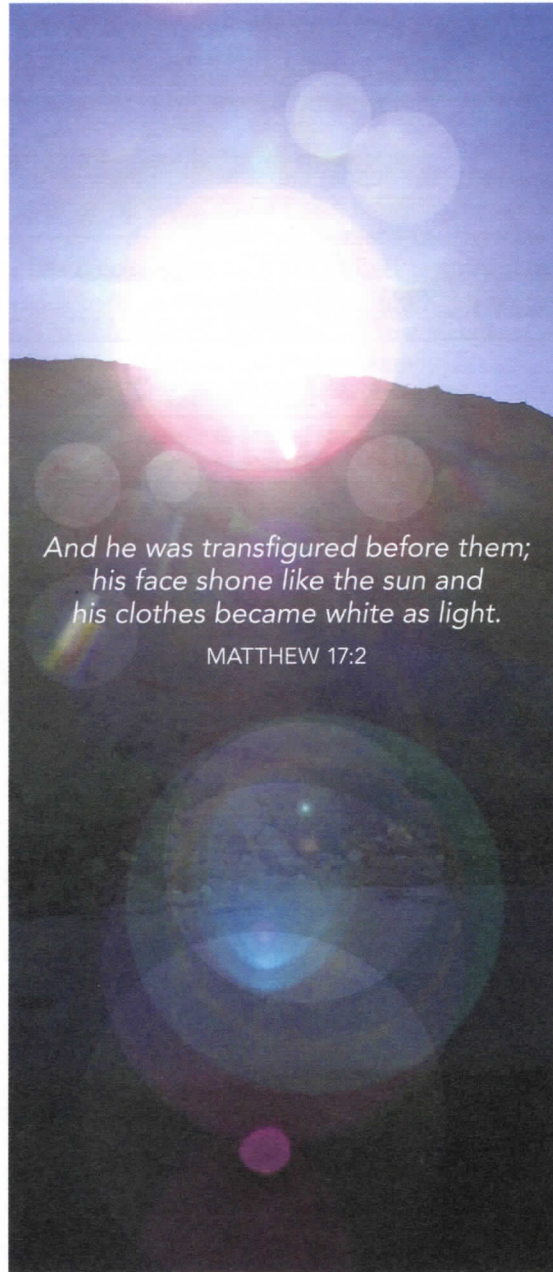
While God's marvelous blessings are free gifts, we are expected to respond to them appropriately, to accept them and use them for the common good. Abram's blessings were not simply for him and his family. "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:3). His blessings would open a door to others—other nations, other ethnic groups, other religious communities. Abram was not simply chosen by God. He was chosen so that others might be blessed through him.

Timothy was instructed to "bear your share of hardship for the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:8). The blessing might be a gift, but it carried the responsibilities of discipleship. The voice from heaven told the disciples: "Listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). Being chosen by God or having seen the glory of Jesus calls for a change of mind and heart. This change isn't easy to accomplish. It is the reason for penance.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *In what ways might you be a blessing for others?*
- ★ *Listen to Jesus. What is he saying to you?*



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

MARCH 8, 2020—SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Today's Gospel portrays Jesus as a new and greater Moses. Moses also took three companions up a mountain and on the seventh day was overshadowed by the shining cloud of God's presence. He too spoke with God and his face and clothing were made radiant in the encounter (see Exodus 24, 34).

But in today's Lenten Liturgy, the Church wants us to look back past Moses. Indeed, we are asked to contemplate what today's Epistle calls God's "design . . . from before time began."

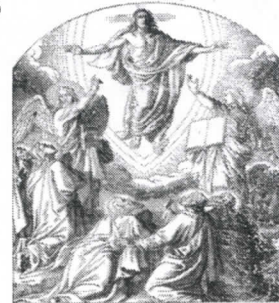
With His promises to Abram in today's First Reading, God formed the people through whom He would reveal himself and bestow His blessings on all humanity.

He later elevated these promises to eternal covenants and changed Abram's name to Abraham, promising that he would be father of a host of nations (see Genesis 17:5). In remembrance of His covenant with Abraham He raised up Moses (see Exodus 2:24; 3:8), and later swore an everlasting kingdom to David's sons (see Jeremiah 33:26).

In Jesus' transfiguration today, He is revealed as the One through whom God fulfills His divine plan from of old. Not only a new Moses, Jesus is also the "beloved son" promised to Abraham and again to David (see Genesis 22:15-18; Psalm 2:7; Matthew 1:1).

Moses foretold a prophet like him to whom Israel would listen (see Deuteronomy 18:15, 18) and Isaiah foretold an anointed servant in whom God would be well-pleased (see Isaiah 42:1). Jesus is this prophet and this servant, as the Voice on the mountain tells us today.

By faith we have been made children of the covenant with Abraham (see Galatians 3:7-9; Acts 3:25). He calls us, too, to a holy life, to follow His Son to the heavenly homeland He has promised. We know, as we sing in today's Psalm, that we who hope in Him will be delivered from death. So like our father in faith, we go forth as the Lord directs us: "Listen to Him!"



3/1 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$2,333.00

3/1: Children's Offering: \$3.00

3/1 Building Fund: \$493.00

3/1 First Offering: \$20.00

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Bulletin Information: **MARAK:** Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for March 15

Rosary: Volunteers

Eucharistic Minister: Merlene Slavik

Offertory: Tommy & Laura Vaculin

Lector: Jeannine Dohnalik

Ushers: George Dohnalik & Johnny Winkler



Altar Servers: Gracie Duskocil, Carter Duskocil, Tessa Vaculin

Sanctuary Light: March 9th-15th: Dakota, Hunter & Landon Marek by Dennis & Monica

Prayer Chain...Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and the following: JoLeen Cayhill. Prayers are powerful!
To be added to the prayer chain, please contact:

Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net

MARAK MASSES—March 8-15, 2020

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 3/8	10:15am	Living Members of Hornung Family by Lynne Hornung + Larry Green by Leroy & Kathy Vansa
3/11—Wednesday—Mass & Stations of the Cross	5:30pm	+ Ethel Moraw by Lynwood Kleypas Family + Martha Hertenberger by Julie Hertenberger
3/15—Sunday	10:15am	+ Ann Morris by Louis & Mary Frances Vansa + Mary Ann Plachy by Richard & Betty Brenek

CYCLONE MASSES— March 8-15, 2020

Date	Time	Intentions
Today — 3/8	8:15am	+ Royella Roessler by Bill & Carol Smetana
3/10—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Jean Driska by Ken & Jeanette Driska
3/12—Thursday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Alice & Ellen Stojanik
3/13—Friday—Stations of the Cross	6:00pm	+ Rosa Pechal by Anon, Carol and Angela Pechal
3/14—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Albina Vrazel by Pat Simecek
3/15—Sunday	8:15am	+ William Schneider by Margaret & Wilbert Mikeska

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Mass and Stations of the Cross will be held every Wednesday at 5:30pm during the Lenten season.
- **SHRIMP & FISH FRY:** Beginning Feb. 28 thru April 3—Westphalia Parish Hall—\$10/plate. See flyer on bulletin board in the church entry.
- **Father Ranjan** is selling his 1999 Toyota Camry. If anyone is interested, please contact Father.
- **MARCH 9:** Parish Social and Pot Luck at Marak Parish Center from 6-9pm.
- **MARCH 17:** KC meeting at Cyclone Parish Hall at 7:30pm.
- **PLACE OF HOPE:** The pregnancy Center in Rockdale will be having its annual fundraiser on April 25th— at the KC Hall in Rockdale—starting at 6pm—Catered dinner—Raffle—Silent & Live Auction—Guest speaker is Julia Jeffress Sadler. See flyer on Bulletin board in the church entrance. If you would like to purchase tickets, contact Patsy Gaines.

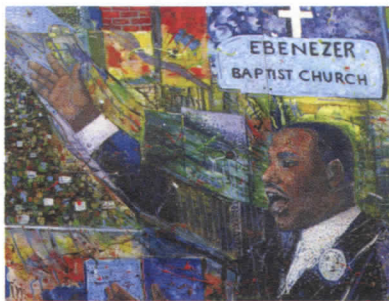
Dear Padre,

Is the new life that Jesus promises available now for the taking, or is he talking about life in heaven? The transfiguration seems to give Jesus new life and spirit immediately.

I remember preparing an ecumenical prayer service to commemorate the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I came across a statement he made on April 3, 1968, the night before he was assassinated. Utilizing the Gospel of Jesus' transfiguration, Dr. King said, "I just want to do God's will. He's allowed me to go up to the mountain....I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Indeed, Jesus went to the mountaintop centuries ago and was transfigured. In the glory of God's voice and vision, Jesus came back down, fearing no one as he faithfully preached God's word, even as he went to another mountaintop, that of Calvary. Only then, in his moment of obedient death, was God's earthly glory fulfilled in him. "It is finished," he proclaimed (John 19:30). Yet even here, there is still more: the wait in hope and expectation of God's ultimate vindication three days later in the resurrection.

So my hope for you, for me, for everyone, is that we also have mountaintop experiences of God's grace and blessing. Such moments of prayer, obedience, and service are there for the taking whenever we receive God's courage to act with integrity, justice, or forgiveness. Still, the culmination of our own bearings of the cross always awaits its ultimate completion beyond the grave in the kingdom of heaven.



FOR TIZIANO/SPLINTERSTOCK

—Fr. James A. Krings

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The event of the Lord's transfiguration offers us a message of hope—thus shall we be, with him. It invites us to encounter Jesus, to be at the service of our brothers and sisters.

—ANGELUS, AUGUST 6, 2017

Calendar

Monday

MARCH 9

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b–10

Lk 6:36–38

Tuesday

MARCH 10

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16–20

Mt 23:1–12

Wednesday

MARCH 11

Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18–20

Mt 20:17–28

Thursday

MARCH 12

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5–10

Lk 16:19–31

Friday

MARCH 13

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a,

17b–28a

Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

Saturday

MARCH 14

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14–15, 18–20

Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

Sunday

MARCH 15

Third Sunday

of Lent

Ex 17:3–7

Rom 5:1–2, 5–8

Jn 4:5–42 or 4:5–15,

19b–26, 39a, 40–42

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