



AUGUST 2, 2020

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD AUGUST 6

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus is told to us by Matthew (17:1-18), Mark (9:2-8); and Luke (9:28-36).

They describe the glory of Christ illuminated in a spectacular scene.

According to scripture, as they were half asleep, apostles Peter, James, and John are startled by not only radiant light, but also by the intensity of what they saw. Before them Jesus truly changed. He transfigured, wearing all white garments, and his face was illuminated like the light of the sun. He was joined by Moses and Elijah and the three talked about His "exodus" or departure through His Passion, death, and Resurrection.

Then God tells Peter, James, and John, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him."

We can see that in this Transfiguration story the entire Trinity was present – God the Father in voice, God the Son before them, and God the Holy Spirit in the magnificent light.

It all takes place high on a mountain, which in those days was considered a place to sincerely reflect and hope for great revelation.

Just days before this magnificent event Jesus told the apostles, who were convinced he was the Messiah, that he was going to go to Jerusalem, the city of Kings. Contrary to what the apostles believed He was not going there to gain material blessings or earthly riches. He described he would go into the city and face a horrific death (Matthew 16:16-23). Jesus taught them

that through his suffering and death would come the glory of freedom from sin, and the grace of everlasting life.

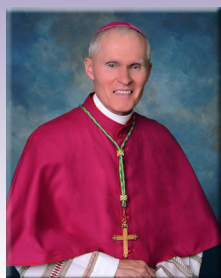
Later after the Transfiguration it is the same three apostles – Peter, James, and John – who witness Jesus' agony in the garden of Gethsemane. It could not have been more opposite of what they saw on the mountain. Jesus was overwhelmed in his sorrow and distress. It was visible on his face covered with sweat like blood for He knew the fate haunting him. He was going to be betrayed, arrested, and then crucified (Matthew 26:36-46).

Let the Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus rattle us to the point we ask ourselves; do we really listen to God? Do we do what is difficult in order to honor Him?

God invites us to do what is hard and difficult every day in the events that unfold in our daily lives.

Lord, help us to drop what we are doing to help one another. Help us to complete something that we know is for the greater good and not keep putting off. God gives us the grace to handle all challenges and difficulties. May we use our free will wisely. Let our prayers bring to us awareness of Christ's unconditional love for us.

For a reflection on the Transfiguration story check out All Things Catholic podcast with Dr. Edward Sri available online at: [MEDIA.ASCENSIONPRESS.COM/PODCAST/THE-HIDDEN-MESSAGE-OF-THE-TRANSFIGURATION/](https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/the-hidden-message-of-the-transfiguration/)



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARK BRENNAN

Earlier this week Most Rev. Mark Brennan shared a letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston regarding the former bishop, the pandemic, and social unrest. It can be read by clicking [HERE](#).

Bishop Mark also shared a video to compliment the letter. It can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

Both also appear on diocese website at WWW.DWC.ORG

I WILL SHOW YOU HEAVEN! LIFE WITH SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

Editor's note: On August 4th we honor the Memorial of St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests. The following is an excerpt of an article by Father Michael K. Gurnick, which appears on the Diocese of Cleveland's Catholic Priesthood-Seminary Vocation Office website: clepriesthood.org. The link to the entire piece is included at the end of the text.

The significance and the beauty of Saint John Vianney, the parish priest who spent 41 years serving the people of Ars, France, is not because he left us an abundant collection of brilliant theological writings. Nor is he noted for founding a religious order or being the visionary behind some great spiritual movement in the life of the Church. The significance and beauty of his life is to be found in his simple witness of being a faithful, zealous, and loving parish priest.

From the time a young shepherd boy named Anthony Givre directed the young Father Vianney how to get to Ars in 1818 until the priest's last earthly breath on August 4, 1859, God had every intention of using this saintly man as an instrument of grace and as an inspiration for priests throughout the world. But his story is not only for priests. It is a story of a soul who fell in love with God and the fruit of that love, to this very day, impacts the lives of other souls. His story is what God desires for each of us – to love always, to pray without ceasing, and to bring others to Him.

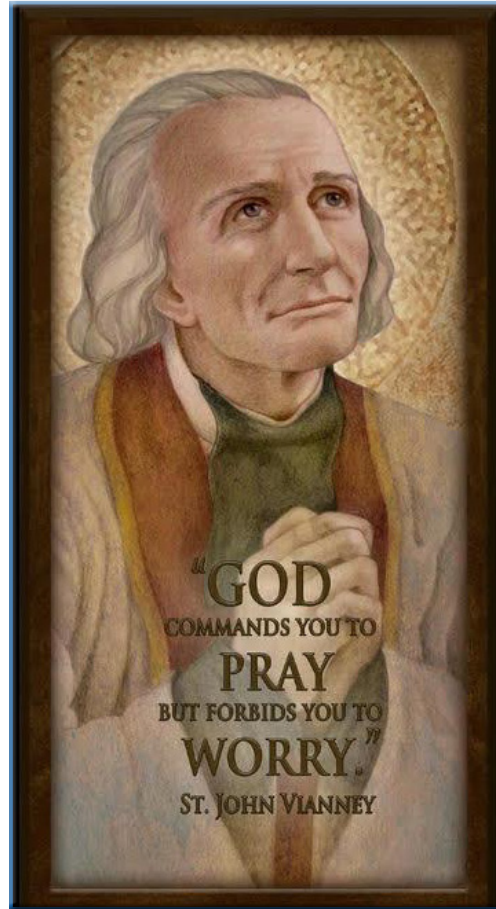
HIS EARLY YEARS

Born on May 8, 1786, in the small town of Dardilly, near Lyons, France, to Matthew and Marie, John Vianney was the fourth of six children. His family owned a modest farm and with no evidence of luxuries of any kind. However, their simple life and deep Catholic faith brought great joy to all of them.

In 1789, although too young to realize the

immediate impact, little John Vianney and his family experienced firsthand the effects of the French Revolution (1789-1799).

The French Revolution's primary objective was to abolish the French monarchy which was closely linked to the Catholic Church. The revolutionists envisioned a more egalitarian system of government. For a number of reasons, practicing Catholics



were considered counter revolutionary. This political view forced priests into exile and churches to be closed by 1792. Those who were caught practicing the Catholic faith were persecuted and, in many instances, even murdered. The atmosphere was tumultuous and violent, but this would not stop many priests from finding ways to celebrate the sacraments – especially the Holy Mass – with their people. In barns, in cellars, at night, or covertly during the day, the people would continue living their faith.

For the young Vianney boy, this era of persecution provided the visits of many priests to the family home as neighbors conspired to participate in Mass and to have their confessions heard. He loved the clergy's company and, even in his youth, appreciated the sacrifice they made to bring Our Lord to the people. John also enjoyed gathering the other children on Sunday afternoons to conduct little processions to honor Jesus, or the Blessed Mother and saints. A featured object in his processions was a small statue of Mary given to him by his mother. During this era of persecution, the displaying of religious articles was outlawed, so he found a hollowed tree in the field to serve as a haven for this statue and other sacred objects. In many ways, that tree became a special treasure chest. While tending to the sheep and other animals, he would often reach into that special hollow tree and remove the statue and sing hymns. At other times, he would bring out a rosary to pray with his sister, Margaret. No one could deny that the soul of this boy was open to the mystery of God's grace at such a young age and must have surely served as a foundation for what he would become.

At age 11, in his family's living room, John Vianney made his first confession and in 1799, at the age of 13, he made his First Holy Communion in a neighbor's kitchen as persecution of Catholics intensified. His first reception of the Holy Eucharist provided a moment of contemplation as he reflected, "What a joy to lose oneself in God, like a drop in the water."

Read the entire reflection on St. John Vianney's life at:

[HTTPS://CLEPRIESTHOOD.ORG/WHAT-IS-THE-CATHOLIC-PRIESTHOOD/LIFE-WITH-SAINT-JOHN-VIANNEY/](https://clepriesthood.org/what-is-the-catholic-priesthood/life-with-saint-john-vianney/)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES PROVIDES STABILITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In the July 31 issue of The Catholic Spirit, Catholic Charities West Virginia Eastern Region Director Trina Bartlett shares the story of Eugene. He has been a case management client at the Catholic Charities West Virginia Martinsburg office since May 2019. He was referred by his high school special education teacher, who had been helping him for years. She was concerned because he had recently been evicted and was experiencing homelessness. At the time, he was working as a dishwasher at a local restaurant.

Initially, our Catholic Charities case manager, Kat Hagedorn, helped him get situated at the Union Rescue Mission. While Eugene worked with Kat on his finances, she also worked with other



Wearing personal protective equipment, Eugene met with a Catholic Charities case manager to receive help in completing the online application for unemployment.

organizations to identify additional resources.

Eugene got a second job as a dishwasher at another restaurant, and in November 2019 he moved into his own apartment. Eugene was so proud of the fact that he could pay his rent himself, make his insurance payment and continue his car payments.

In March of 2020, Eugene was laid off from both of his jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic. In the past, the loss of his job would have meant a downward spiral for Eugene. But this time he knew he could call Catholic Charities.

Read Eugene's full story in The Catholic Spirit weekly edition free by e-mail. Join the e-mail list by sending a request to CROWAN@DWC.ORG.

For more news and information from The Catholic Spirit visit THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG or follow on Facebook at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECATHOLICSPIRITWV

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!

You are invited to join our new e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. To be added to the e-list, send an e-mail to Colleen Rowan, CROWAN@DWC.ORG, with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please let us know your preference saying: "E-mail only, and remove me from print mailing list" or "I would like both print and e-mail versions."

By joining the e-mail list, you will receive an e-mail on each issue date of The Catholic Spirit with a link to the full issue.

The Catholic Spirit will now be available under "Downloadable Spirit" at

THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG.

SISTER JENNIFER BERRIDGE PROFESSES VOWS



Sister Jennifer Berridge (at right) proudly poses at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling with her mother Kathy Doberstyn prior to the Mass when she professed her vows.

Surrounded by her extended family, friends, fellow Sisters, and parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, in Wheeling, Sr. Jennifer Berridge professed her first vows for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Typically this extra special event would have taken place at the Wheeling CSJ Center at Mount Saint Joseph, but due to the pandemic and wanting to keep the elder Sisters living in residence there safe it was moved to a parish setting.

Read more about Sr. Jennifer's call to religious life at FAITHINWV.ORG.

To learn more about becoming a religious sister visit the Sisters

of St. Joseph website at CSJOSEPH.ORG. To support the West Virginia congregation through your monetary gifts, mail them to Mount St. Joseph, 137 Mount St. Joseph Road, Wheeling, WV. 26003-1762.



Several of the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph pause for a snapshot with their new Sister. From left to right are Sr. Marguerite O'Brien, Sr. Kathleen Durkin, Sr. Chris Schenk, Berridge, Sr. Jackie Goodin, Sr. Christine Riley, and Sr. Mary Ann Rosebaum.

MASS READINGS FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading ISAIAH 55:1-3

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

Responsorial PSALM 145: 8-9, 15-18

R. (cf. 16) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Second Reading ROMANS 8:35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters:

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly

through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia (CF) MATTHEW 4:4B

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MATTHEW 14:13-21

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over— twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

That Christians everywhere may proclaim and live the parables of Jesus, we pray . . .

That nations together may bring an end to war, oppression, violence and hatred, we pray . . .

That all the sick, especially those affected by the Coronavirus, may experience the Resurrection even in the cross of their suffering, we pray . . .

That teachers and educators may be given patience and understanding as they work to provide quality education during this time of uncertainty, we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

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 wvcatholicschools.org

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LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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EBREVIARY.COM [LITURGY OF THE HOURS](#)



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A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm:
[HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday:
[HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)