



OBEDIENCE, TRUST, AND HOPE

LET THE GOSPEL STRENGTHEN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

On the second Sunday of Lent every year we hear the story of the Transfiguration. There are so many take aways from this story, but let this moment feed our hope as we complete the first leg of our Lenten journey.

Mark 9:2-10 illustrates for us Christ in all his glory talking to Moses and Elijah. Jesus wasn't alone with Moses (the image of Jewish law) and Elijah (the great prophet), his closest companions were with him.

Jesus had 12 apostles and countless disciples and followers, but Peter, James, and John were often pulled aside by Christ in pivotal moments. They were his best friends on earth. While on the mountain at the Transfiguration they had fallen asleep, but the radiant light from the heavens illuminating Elijah, Moses, and Jesus woke them. They overheard them talking to Christ about His Passion, death, and Resurrection. As Peter, James, and John got their wits about them and began to speak, Moses and Elijah's images faded away and a great cloud rolled in. The apostles were silenced as God's voice said, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Christ told them not to mention what they had seen or heard until "The Son of Man had risen from the dead." Although confused at Jesus' words, they obeyed.

When reflecting on this story and how it fits in our lives consider the trust, loyalty, hope, obedience, and love that each character exudes, and pray we too nurture those same qualities in our faith during this Lenten journey and beyond. God chose us to be on this earth at this very moment.

Christ chose Peter, James, and John to be at his side and experience miraculous moments like we hear about today - hair glistening and face as bright as the sun; and also at the moment of stark contrast we will hear in less than five weeks- the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus is so distraught he is sweating blood, knowing of the unimaginable human suffering that is to come, but accepts for our salvation.

Just as our best friends see us through our greatest times and our worst, we can imagine that Peter, James, and John

shared and understood Christ's greatest concerns, joys, and hopes better than the rest. John would be the only apostle present at the crucifixion and then guardian of Mary; Peter would become the first pope, and James the first apostle to be martyred.

Through times of joy, heartache, contentment, doubt, and restlessness, choose to be faithful friends of God.

As we reflect on the Transfiguration story, let it amaze us, and meditate on the entire Trinity being present - God the Father in voice, God the Son before them, and God the Holy Spirit in the magnificent light.



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Lord, strengthen our trust and loyalty to the Church Jesus gave us and Peter built for the greater good, continue to shower us with the courage and grace to handle all challenges and difficulties, silence us when we want to throw stones, give us a voice to speak hope and mercy, and open our eyes to see how to use our free will wisely. Let our actions be an example of Your unconditional love. Amen.

Editor's note: The art accompanying this article is by Behold Yahweh, Christian artists based in California. Prints are available for purchase at: www.etsy.com/shop/BeholdYahweh.

YOU ARE INVITED!

SIGN UP BEFORE MARCH 15TH
TO JOIN THE WV DELEGATION.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Pilgrimage**

Don't procrastinate, this is your nudge get registered now as part of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's delegation at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis from July 17-21. There are 109 seats left on the bus – grab and reserve yours by March 15.

Booking the trip through Corporate Travel is the only way to claim your free five-day event pass to the Congress, saving you \$360 thanks to Bishop Mark Brennan and the Catholic Sharing Appeal! For details and to register go to: DWC.ORG/YEAR-OF-THE-EUCHARIST

Securing your travel package with the diocese “is well worth eliminating the hassle of having to worry about transportation and accommodations,” said Bernadette Kime, PhD., D. Min, director of the Office of Worship and Sacraments for the diocese. “Let Corporate Travel do the work for you!”

Corporate Travel, a Catholic pilgrimage company, will help make sure our WV delegation can travel together, enjoy convenient hotel accommodations as a group, no worries about parking (or downtown event parking fees) and stress-free access the free shuttle service only available to pilgrims that are part of the Corporate Travel group (the USCCB and NEC will not be providing any shuttles or busing).

As Bishop Mark has said repeatedly, parishes need to find ways to help their representatives with the cost of this pilgrimage. Perhaps something as simple as having a second collection, splitting the proceeds of an event like one Lenten Fish Fry, and asking parish groups (K of C or Ladies Guild) to give a donation – investing in the life of the Church, as all those attending will return to share the Revival energy - Christ's True Presence and how we can heal our nation starting in our local churches.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS CUSTOMIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

After signing up for the diocese's travel package you will be given a code to register at the NEC event page, where you will be able to customize your experience.

To enrich this event for attendees at different life stages and vocational paths, the National Eucharistic Congress team has organized morning experiences into impact sessions tailored to different audiences. This way, you can choose the experience that will have the greatest impact on you in your current state in life and be most relevant to your unique mission. Evening revival sessions will be a gathering of the entire Congress in Lucas Oil Stadium, but morning impact sessions will allow attendees to spread out and enjoy the session of their choice. Options include five tracks for the faithful:

ENCOUNTER IMPACT SESSIONS - for everyone who desires a deeper renewal of their faith, a richer understanding of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and clarity on what the next step in their faith journey will be after the National Eucharistic Congress. Hear from Katie Prejean McGrady, Sr. Mary Grace Langrell, Dr. Mary Healy, Dr. Edward Sri, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, and more.

EMPOWER IMPACT SESSIONS - for anyone who wants practical tools to become a “Eucharistic Missionary,” evangelizing their community and taking on a deeper role in spreading the Gospel to those around them. You'll hear from Deacon Larry and Andi Oney, Fr. John Burns, Chika Anyanwu, Bishop Joseph Espaillat, Meg Hunter-Kilmer, Paul Albert, and more. For those who are drawn toward smaller, more intimate sessions, participate in the EMPOWER morning impact sessions! These are for anyone who wants practical tools to become a “Eucharistic Missionary” and to take on a deeper role in spreading the Gospel to those around them.

continue...

RENEWAL IMPACT SESSIONS - for anyone who serves in a parish, diocesan, or other ministry role, whether you are paid, volunteer, part-time, or full-time. We hope you will join us! Come, and be renewed. Emceed by Mari Pablo, these morning impact sessions include some of the most respected names in ministry, such as Damon Owens, Sarah Kaczmarek, Julianne Stanz, and Curtis Martin. Attendees can expect plenty of time for discussion, Q&A, and moments of prayer with peers. If you would like to connect with others who share your mission and challenges, then this is a fantastic way for you to participate at the Congress.

CULTIVATE IMPACT SESSIONS - for parents or caregivers to attend together with children. You and your family are welcome! Each morning of the Congress, an impact session will be offered and tailored specifically for families. Hear from presenters such as Fr. Leo Patalinghug, Cana and Ennie Hickman, and Steve Angrisano! In the afternoon, there will also be breakout sessions for families - come as you are! There will be a kid-friendly area in the exhibit hall, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be running atriums at the Congress, and you'll have the opportunity to explore the CatholicHOM experience!

AWAKEN IMPACT SESSIONS - for high school youth—incoming freshmen through just-graduated seniors. Please note that teens cannot attend alone and must participate with a youth group or be accompanied by a parent. Each morning of the Congress, will be an impact session hosted by the Steubenville Youth Conference team at Franciscan University, including presenters like Brian Greenfield, Jackie Francois Angel, and Oscar Rivera. Prayer will be central to each of these sessions, and powerful worship music by Andrew Laubacher and Ricky Vazquez. In the afternoon, breakout sessions will be hosted by apostolates specializing in youth ministry, including Life Teen, NET, and the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement.

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SPEAK TO GOD FROM “THE DEPTHS OF THE HEART”

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ~ FEBRUARY 27

On Feb. 27, we honor the memorial of St. Gregory of Narek, an Armenian monk, poet, philosopher, and composer. He is known throughout the world as “the watchful angel in human form.”

This 10th-century mystical writer was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015. He described the saint that is honored by the Catholic Church and Armenian Apostolic Church as “an extraordinary interpreter of the human soul, offers words which are prophetic for us.”



His book of prayers, *The Book of Lamentations* (aka *The Book of Narek*), is described by him as “an encyclopedia of prayer for all nations.” It contains 95 prayers, each beginning with, “Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart.”

Saint Gregory was born in 951 in the Kingdom of Armenia, now Turkey. His mother died when he was young. His father was a ruling prince Armenian bishop, and scholar.

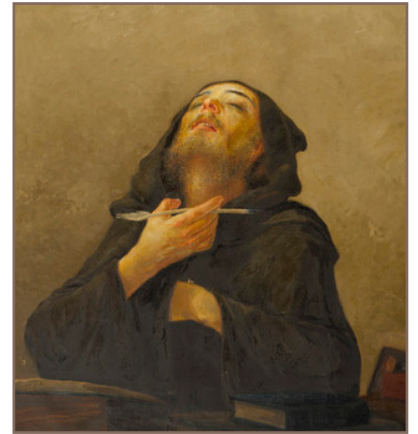
After his mother died, Gregory was sent to live at a monastery where his maternal great-uncle Anania was the abbot and monastery’s founder. By the age of 26, Gregory was ordained a priest. He remained at the monastery the rest of his life, teaching theology in its school.

Losing his mother as a boy influenced St. Gregory’s deep devotion to our Blessed Mother. He wrote, “This spiritual, heavenly mother of light cared for me as a son more than an earthly, breathing, physical mother could (included in his book as part of *Prayer 75*).”

Saint Gregory wrote many letters, chants, and several

books including the *Song of Songs* and a commentary on the *Book of Job*.

It was Gregory’s father from the time Gregory could speak who taught him to talk to God all the time and be mindful of His divine presence.



Theologians compare St. Gregory’s prayers as similar to Saint Augustine’s *Confessions*.

As St. Gregory states his prayers were written “by the finger of God” (*Prayer 34*) and he saw God, “with my own eyes” (*Prayer 27f*).

Before he died, St. Gregory penned the importance he wanted his book to have on other faithful, “although I shall die in the way of all mortals, may I be deemed to live through the continued existence of this book...This book will cry out in my place, with my voice, as if it were me” (*Prayer 88b; c*).

Saint Gregory of Narek, pray for us, and let us always choose good just as you wrote as part of your prayer to God:

Almighty God, “You alone are great and generous in everything.
You are the definition of abundant goodness,
Who pours forth constantly, without measure,
more than we ask or expect,
as Paul said in gratitude.
“For You commanded that we should do good,
from dawn to dusk, in the same day,
nine times fifty, plus four times ten.
Always attentive,
forgiving with an unfettered heart,
something more
than the expectation of men’s prayers.”

Editor’s notes: The portrait of Gregory of Narek (Grigor Narekatsi) is by Arshak Fetvadjian (1863-1947).

The image of the book is actually an 1173 copy of St. Gregory’s Book of Lamentations.

FAITHFUL OF WV INVITED TO SUMMERSVILLE FOR LENTEN MISSION CENTERED AROUND ST. JUDE

Traveling Apostle Relic of St. Jude will be featured as part of a special event at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville March 4-6.

Father Michail Ford, OP, director of the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus in Chicago, Illinois, will lead the Lenten mission event for the faithful of WV.

Father Mike travels the country, sharing this relic of St. Jude's arm, spreading a spirit of faith, hope, and devotion.

The mission will include presentations on March 4 and 5, and will culminate on March 6 with a St. Jude Mass (see schedule below). Each evening, Fr. Mike will conduct St. Jude oil blessings and provide time for veneration of the relic.

Under the theme "Preparing a Fantastic Holy Day Menu for Easter," the mission aims to impart spiritual guidance and inspire joy and celebration. Fr. Mike will encourage attendees to embrace the Lenten and Easter seasons with a focus on preparing a holy and joyous menu.

EVENT DETAILS:

Mission Dates: March 4-6, 2024

Place: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

1704 W Webster Rd, Summersville, West Virginia 26651

Blessings and Veneration: March 4 and 5, at 7:00 p.m.

St. Jude Mass: March 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Father Mike is the director of the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus. The Shrine, a worldwide ministry located at St. Pius V Church in Chicago, Illinois, has united faithful believers in prayer since 1929. St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of desperate causes, holds widespread popular devotion among Catholics. Shrine ministries include masses and an internet prayer ministry, providing an opportunity for the homebound and those in distant places to join in prayer during times of need. The Shrine features the cherished arm relic of St. Jude. For more information go to: THE-SHRINE.ORG

3 Day St. Jude Mission:

St. John the Evangelist Parish

St. John's invites you to our Mission:

**"Preparing A Fantastic Holyday Menu for
Easter"**

March 4th - 6th, 2024

March 4th & 5th - 7 PM - Mission Preaching

March 6th - 7 PM - St Jude Mass

**St Jude Oil Blessings and Veneration of the
Arm Relic of St. Jude Each Evening**

**1704 W. Webster Road
Summersville, WV 26651**

For information call Fr. Rene - (304) 618-9165

**Presented by Fr. Mike Ford, O.P.
Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus, Chicago
www.The-Shrine.org**



The Diocese requests the honor of your presence!

The Synod on Synodality Continues

Towards October 2024

The Interim Stage

For a Synodal Church: Community, Participation, Mission

After three years of the Universal Church's journey of Synodality, we *still* must ask ourselves...

Do we yet know how to be a synodal Church in mission?

We must identify the paths to follow and the tools to adopt to empower all of **the baptized** to contribute to the Church's one...

MISSION: To Proclaim the Risen Lord and His Gospel to the World Today

Let us remember what Pope Francis has taught, regarding this Synod:

"The important thing is *how* the reflection is done, that is, in a synodal way."

Diocesan-Wide Listening Sessions

The Bishops are asking us to hold more listening sessions – at the Diocesan level – to deepen our reflection.

Therefore, we will be conducting six (6) listening sessions, one in each vicariate, starting at 6:30 PM. They are:

- Wednesday, February 21st: St. John XXIII P.C., Charleston
- Thursday, February 22nd: St. Leo, Inwood
- Tuesday, February 27th: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley
- Wednesday, February 28th: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg
- Thursday, February 29th: St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg
- Thursday, March 7th: St. Michael, Wheeling

The Nature of This Year's Sessions

More than just *listening* sessions, these gatherings are to be "**Conversations in the Spirit**" to **discern** the Will of God for our Church, by listening both to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit, within, and the contributions of one another.

Two Guiding Questions

The Bishops have provided us with two (2) guiding questions that we are going to discern responses to, together.

1. Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?
2. How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

Preparing Yourself for These Sessions

We need to prayerfully and spiritually prepare for these sessions, by personally reflecting upon synodality.

We ask that you read and reflect upon some Scripture, in preparation for the listening session:

John 14, Romans 12, and Isaiah 61.

Entrust yourself to the Father, converse with the Lord Jesus, & listen to the Holy Spirit, about these questions.

“FOR GOD IS NOT UNJUST SO AS TO OVERLOOK
YOUR WORK AND THE LOVE YOU HAVE
DEMONSTRATED FOR HIS NAME BY HAVING SERVED
AND CONTINUING TO SERVE THE HOLY ONES.”

-HEBREW 6:10



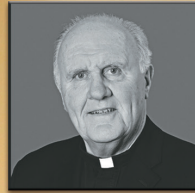
Msgr. Frederick P. Annie



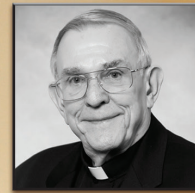
Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer



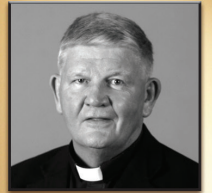
Msgr. Lawrence J. Luciana



Msgr. Jeremiah F. McSweeney



Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski



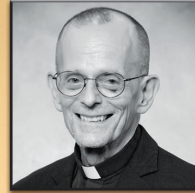
Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus



Rev. William A. Anderson



Rev. Mario R. Claro



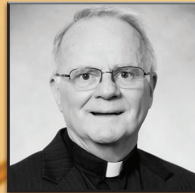
Rev. Harry N. Cramer



Rev. Thomas W. Dagle



Rev. John V. Di Bacco, Jr.



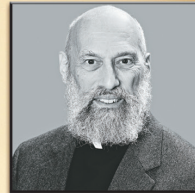
Rev. Larry W. Dorsch



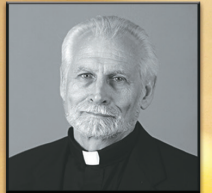
Rev. D. Kent Durig



Rev. John H. Finnell



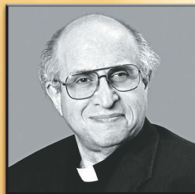
Rev. Patsy J. Iaquina



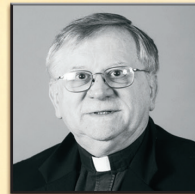
Rev. Giles LeVasseur



Rev. George Manjadi



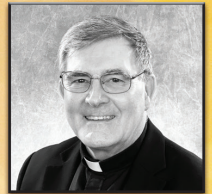
Rev. Robert A. Perriello



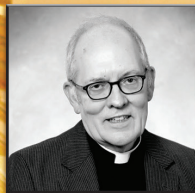
Rev. William Petro



Rev. Joseph Daniel Pisano



Rev. Ronald Prechtl



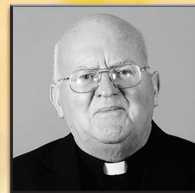
Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh



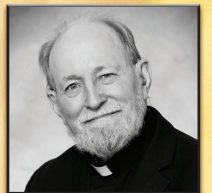
Rev. David J. Schmitt



Rev. Douglas B. Sutton



Rev. Laurence Wrenn



Rev. Paul D. Yuenger



RETIREMENT FUND
FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

COLLECTION DATE: March 3, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Abraham's trust in God is put to the ultimate test – the willingness to sacrifice what he cherished on earth – a true gift from God – Abraham's own son. His actions backed his words, "Here I am Lord" I've come to do your will. God's messengers stopped Abraham, so his son remained unharmed, and God blessed Abraham and his descendants with countless heavenly blessings.

Responsorial: Psalm 116

"I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living."

Second Reading: Romans:31b-34

Today we hear the popular St. Paul quote: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" God our Father sent Jesus, who died, rose from the dead, and intercedes for us. Fear no one. Trust in God. He provides us with all we need. Let nothing come between us.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

The Transfiguration – Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to Jesus, whose robes became dazzling white. This was all in the sight of Peter, James, and John. When the images of the Law and Prophet were gone, Christ told the three apostles to not tell anyone what they had seen until "the Son of Man had risen from the dead." So, they told no one, but to each other wondered what Jesus meant by "rising from the dead".

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

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PRAYER INTENTIONS

That the Church remain focused on being a greater witness to God's glory, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may all pray for an end to injustice and racism, and violence and aggression; and also work to be peacemakers and doers, taking responsibility to do our part, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all preparing for the Easter sacraments, that they may continue to listen to the voice of the Lord in their lives, let us pray to the Lord. . .

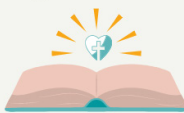
For all the faithful, that we take responsibility and choose to be doers and peacemakers - not pessimists, so we can be the loving Church and all God wants from us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.