

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

—MATTHEW 17:2-3



St. James the Greater
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle
Sandyston, New Jersey



The Transfiguration:

What Happened and Why

About a week after Jesus plainly told His disciples that He would suffer, be killed, and then be raised to life again (Luke 9: 22), He took Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. While praying, His personal appearance changed into a glorified form, and His clothes became dazzlingly white. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about His death that would soon take place. Peter, not knowing what he was saying, and being very fearful, offered to put up three shelters for them. This is undoubtedly a reference to the booths that were used to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, when the Israelites dwelt in tents for seven days (Lev. 23: 34—42). Peter was expressing a wish to stay in that place and to keep the experience going. Then a cloud enveloped them, and a voice said, *“This is My Son, whom I have chosen, who I love; listen to Him !”* The cloud lifted, Moses and Elijah had disappeared, and Jesus was alone with His disciples, who were still very much afraid. Jesus warned them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after His resurrection. So important was this event that three accounts are found in the Gospels: Matthew 17: 1—8; Mark 9: 2—8; and Luke 9: 28—36.

Undoubtedly, the purpose of the Transfiguration of Christ was so that the “inner circle” of His disciples could gain a greater understanding of who Jesus was. Jesus underwent this dramatic change in appearance in order that those disciples could behold Him in His true, heavenly glory. The disciples, who had only known Him in His human body, now had a greater realization of the divinity of Christ, though they could not fully comprehend it. But it gave them the reassurance they needed, after hearing the shocking news of His coming death.

Symbolically, the appearance of Moses represented the Law, and Elijah represented the Prophets. But God’s voice from heaven—*“Listen to Him !”*—clearly showed that the Law and the Prophets must give way to Jesus. The One who is the new and living Way is replacing the old—He is the fulfillment of the Law and the countless prophecies of the Old Testament. Also, in His glorified form, they saw a preview of His coming glorification and enthronement as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The disciples never forgot what happened that day on the mountain, and no doubt this was intended. John later wrote in His Gospel: *“We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only”* (John 1: 14). Peter also wrote of it: *We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of His majesty. For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the heavens saying, ‘This is my Son whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain”* (2 Peter 1: 16—18). Those who witnessed the transfiguration bore witness to it to the other disciples, and have continued to do so, to countless millions down through the centuries.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
August 6, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Father Gerald Lewis at the
Request of Our Parishes

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Father James Gacquin at the
Request of Our Parishes

SATURDAY, August 12

8:00AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by her Family

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 13

8:00AM – Walter Manning
req. by Norma Lange

11:30AM – Leonie Flaskamp
req. by her Family

MONDAY, August 7

9:00AM – Mary Luteran
req. by Eileen & Ed Campbell

TUESDAY, August 8

9:00AM – Cheryl Steeger
req. by Gerry Mahon

WEDNESDAY, August 9

9:00AM – Eileen Mondzak and Elizabeth O'Connor
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, August 10

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 11

9:00AM – Mavis Kaufman
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, August 12

4:30PM – Patty Augenstein
req. by Linda Cole

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 13

9:30AM – Tara Boesch
req. by Gerry Mahon and Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER
\$ 848.00 – Regular Collection – July 30, 2023
\$ 581.00 – Online Giving
\$1,035.00 – Regular Collection – July 31, 2022
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:
saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving Link.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,617.00 – Regular Collection – July 30, 2023
\$1,140.00 – Online Giving
\$2,650.00 – Regular Collection – July 31, 2022
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:
saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving link.

St. James Altar & Floral Society If any ladies in the parish are interested in joining, please call Joan Henn at 973-293-3690 or Linda Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue/Legion of Mary

This beautifully adorned statue is a visible reminder of the love God has shown in the Blessed Mother. Placing such a beautiful image in your home turns hearts to prayer and brings grace to those who open their hearts to any image of God's love. If you would like to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in your home, or need any further information about the Legion of Mary in our parishes, please contact the parish office. *Pray the Family Rosary*

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

T.J. Albert, Agnes Ciesielski, Phyllis Coneys, John Conrad, Sr., Melissa Cunningham, Geraldine Dayko, Audrey DeMarco, Terri Eaton, Marge Erickson, Gerry Gacquin, Peggy Gray, Patricia Harrington, Tracy Harriott, Patricia Hassan, Erin Hockenberry, Diane Hoos, Charles Jensen, Jonathan Kim, L. Lawson, Fred & Pat Leute, Nancy Lodema, Gerry Mahon, Teresa Mantani, Gen Miller, Richard Nowicki, Kim Osonitsch, Andy Puccio, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Frances Sangiorgi, Joan Sangiorgi, Brian Scarpone, Kathleen Sibbio, Cecelia Smith, Yvonne Summers, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Richard Vergona, Walter Winkler, Ricky Wunder



We ask your continued prayers for the following men and women of our parish who are serving our country in the Armed Forces: George Abboud, Saige Bruzard, Brandon Heimall, Mikey Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Ryan Kowal, Colton Lawrence, Joseph Mannion, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Marissa Snook, Peter Spinks and James Orr



The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary for both St. Thomas and St. James parishes meets on Tuesday mornings at St. Thomas the Apostle Church after the 9 AM daily Mass in the Father Lewis Center. The Legion of Mary is a world-wide organization of the lay apostolate in which Catholic men, women and youth sanctify themselves through prayer and apostolic work in union with Our Lady under the guidance of a priest.



Registrations for 2023/2024 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children and teens for the upcoming catechetical year were mailed out and **were due back by Friday, August 4, 2023. Please return your registration ASAP!**

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish or children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 to register.

To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.

Listen Up – It's the Bible

August 6 – “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” (Matthew 17:5)

What do we hear when we listen to Jesus?

Celebrate August

The most important part of our worship is the Eucharist, where Jesus is truly present. We can really meet him with our senses! Many of the saints we celebrate this month had a special love for the Eucharist. Set aside time this month to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays at St. Thomas the Apostle Church following the 9:00am Mass until noon.

August 6 ~ The Transfiguration of the Lord ~

This feast recalls and celebrates Jesus' revelation of his divinity to three of his friends – Peter, James and John on a high point of Mount Tabor. According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus took the three disciples onto the mountain to pray. While they were praying, his appearance was changed by a brilliance that radiated from him and his clothing. Moses and Elijah, the greatest prophets of the Old Testament, appeared with Jesus, and a voice came from heaven saying “This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.”

The account of the Transfiguration points backwards to the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, foreshadowed in the revelation of Jesus' divine glory.

August 7 ~ St. Sixtus II and Companions;

St. Cajetan

August 8 ~ St. Dominic

August 9 ~ St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

August 10 ~ St. Lawrence, Deacon

August 11 ~ St. Clare

August 12 ~ St. Jane Frances deChantal

This is a week full of feast days of saints! Choose one or two or even all of them and find more about them!

All you holy men and women, pray for us!



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

The Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6, 2023

Jesus took Peter, James and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them ... And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, ‘Lord it is good that we are here.’

In the gospel we become a fourth person to ascend the mountain, we witness the raising of a little girl, we enter the garden of Gethsemani as Jesus prays to His Father. They were the special trio, and we join them. Lord, it is good that we are here to witness and bolster our faith. Moses representing the law, and Elijah the prophets of the old testament, find Jesus as the lawgiver of the law of love and the fulfillment of the promises.

May Peter's words reflect our attitude as we prepare for, come to, and celebrate the Eucharist every week. Jesus revealed His divinity and power, and our presence with Him, allows that power and grace to fill our lives. We don't just go to mass, but we listen attentively to the word of God, are graced with the gift of the Eucharist, and have the unique opportunity to grow in holiness.

This Week in Our Parishes

STC – St. Thomas Church or Fr. Lewis Center

SJC – St. James Church or Church Hall

REC – Fr. Gacquin Religious Ed Center

Sunday, August 6, 2023
Transfiguration of the Lord

Monday, Aug. 7

Tuesday, Aug. 8

10:00a.m. STC Bikers' Gang

1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Thursday, Aug. 10

Friday, Aug. 11

9:45 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, Aug. 12

Sunday, August 13, 2023
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Missionary Co-op Week-end

8:30 a.m. STC Car pool to Blue Army Shrine,
Washington, N. J.

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 19th Ord.

1st Reading: *1 Kings 19: 9a, 11–13a*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 85*

2nd Reading: *Romans 9: 1--5*

Gospel: *Matthew 14:22--33*

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FORMED.org Simply go to our parish website:
saintjamesthomas.org. At the home page, scroll down
to the FORMED banner to register (first time) or login
(each time after).

Suggestions from FORMED:

Watch: "*The Way of Saint James*"

The lovely "Camino de Santiago," the Way of St. James, is an ancient route leading from the Pyrenees to the famous and ancient shrine of Santiago de Compostela. This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims united only by a mysterious attraction towards the same spiritual destination. Now you can take this ancient journey through this beautifully produced film.

Mission Co-Op Program. Next week-end we welcome **Fr. Mathieu Mboudou of the Archdiocese of Yaounde, Cameroon** during our annual Missionary Appeal Week-end. Father Mathieu will give us an idea of the Church in his diocese and also about life among his people. A mission collection will be taken up for his Diocese. We ask you to please be generous towards our brothers and sisters in another part of the world.

A masterpiece hand-crafted Icebox Wine Cabinet is being raffled off at our parishes. It is the latest furniture creation of master craftsman Doug Sandberg. It is 4 ft. tall, of solid oak construction, with golden oak finish and authentic polished brass hardware. **Valued at \$ 1500. Raffle will be drawn at St. James Church on Columbus Day, Mon. Oct. 9th.** Tickets are \$ 10 each or 3 for \$ 25. Tickets are available after Mass at both churches and at the Parish Office. Cabinet is **on display at St. Thomas**. Stop in at Mass times or during office hours.

Pilgrimage to Washington. Our Diocese is arranging for its bi-annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The date is **Saturday, October 14th.** Bishop Sweeney will offer Mass at the Basilica for Paterson pilgrims. Buses will depart from strategic locations, to be determined. Thousands are expected. For more information or to register, please call Chris Higgins, Pilgrimage Co-ordinator, at 201-738-9968.

Blue Army Shrine. Parishioners will be visiting this Shrine, also known as the **Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima**, located in Washington, N. J. A special Mass is offered each month on the 13th. **Next Sunday, Aug. 13th,** the Mass will be celebrated by our Bishop Sweeney. Parishioners can **meet at St. Thomas parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and travel by car-pool, or follow each other.** (1hr 15 min.)

The **schedule for the day** includes:

10:30 a.m. Confessions available

12 Noon Rosary, Procession with Pilgrim Statue

12:30 p.m. Speaker

1:15 p.m. Mass with Bishop Sweeney; then: Eucharistic Procession, Benediction; Divine Mercy Chaplet; Blessing of religious articles; Enrollment prayers for Brown Scapular

For more info, call Mandi Sousa at 973-632-5536.

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