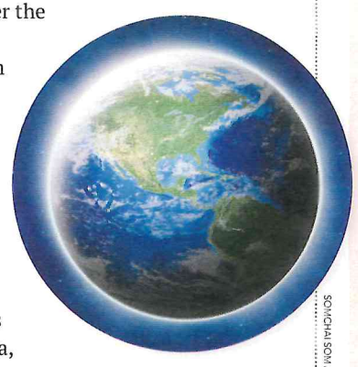
Dear Padre,

What is the rationale for believing in God?

While Scripture tells us in story form how God created heaven, earth, and humanity, science tells how he has really done so: from a Big Bang of unharnessed energy; to the formation of Earth and the universe; to the evolution of life; and finally, to us! Creation's unfolding is like a magnificent symphony formed from nothing by a powerful, omniscient composer. This "musical score" of evolution rises and falls, inexorably leading to its culmination—intelligent beings who can ponder the beauty and awe of God's creation.



SOMCHAI SOM / SHUTTERSTOCK

The odds are totally against an accumulation of "lucky breaks" that make creation possible: our Earth being in a narrow habitable zone, neither too near nor too far from the sun; the appearance of oxygenating plants, allowing us to breathe; a dinosaur-destroying asteroid collision permitting mammals—and eventually us—to evolve. How could all of that be accidental?

Indeed, multitudes have dedicated their lives to God's existence. For more than two millennia, our Church has taught about a loving God in the person of Jesus Christ. Not only do we learn Jesus' teachings regarding God's compassion, forgiveness, and the promises of eternal life, but we see that compassion and forgiveness at work in today's ministry.

A loving relationship with anyone is impossible without trust and faith. So it is with God. We must entrust ourselves to him, opening ourselves to knowing and loving him. For this reason, belief in God is always a grace, a gift freely given from God, which we ask for ourselves.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others.

ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP (*FRATELLI TUTTI*), OCTOBER 3, 2020

Calendar

Monday
MARCH 14
Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b–10
Lk 6:36–38

Tuesday
MARCH 15
Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16–20
Mt 23:1–12

Wednesday
MARCH 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 18:18–20
Mt 20:17–28

Thursday
MARCH 17
Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5–10
Lk 16:19–31

Friday
MARCH 18
Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a
Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

Saturday
MARCH 19
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a or
Lk 2:41–51a

Sunday
MARCH 20
Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 3:1–8a, 13–15
1 Cor 10:1–6, 10–12
Lk 13:1–9

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?
Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.

© 2022 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in USA. *Imprimatur*: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on September 2, 2021, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission." No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible*, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Liguori PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 13, 2022
Second Sunday of Lent (C)
Gn 15:5–12, 17–18
Phil 3:17—4:1 or Phil 3:20—4:1
Lk 9:28b–36

Who Was This Man?

Peter, John, and James must have asked this question themselves. This Jesus was certainly not the man they had come to know. Here he was radiant, and his clothing was dazzling. Furthermore, he was in deep conversation with two of the greatest heroes of the religious tradition: Moses, the agent of the law, and Elijah the prophet. And then there was that voice that identified Jesus as "my chosen Son" and commanded them to "listen to him" (Luke 9:35). What were they to think? What would anyone think? Who was this man?

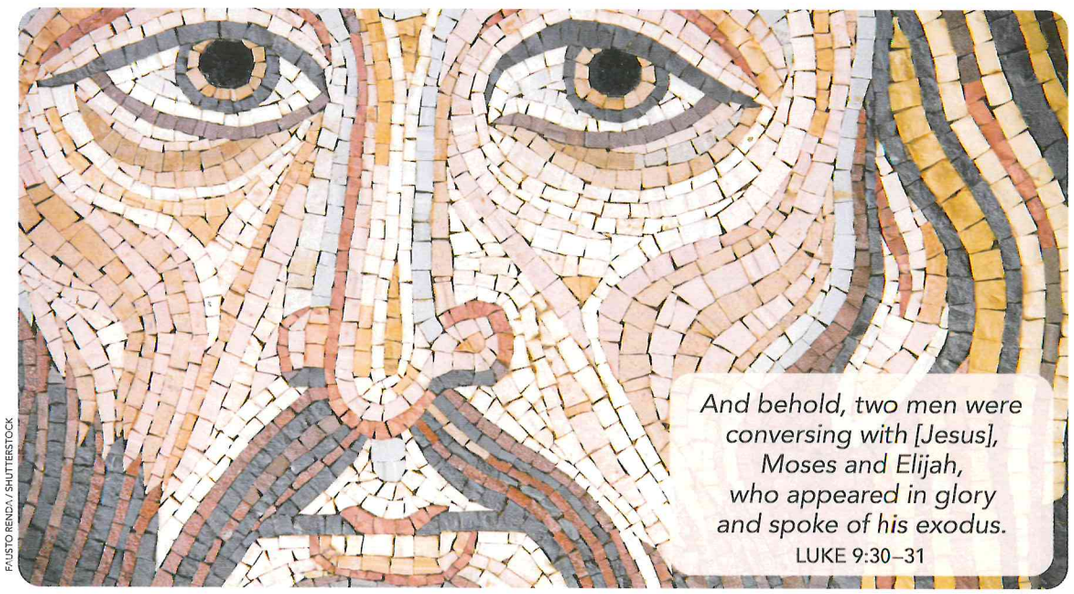
Jesus' own experience was quite different. While he prayed, he was transfigured, and in that transformed state he engaged Moses and Elijah in conversation. They discussed his future death in Jerusalem, his exodus, his deliverance. It is important to note that they maintain that his exodus was to be his own accomplishment—not a deed done to him. Who was this man?

It was the mysterious voice from the cloud that provided an answer to that question: "This is my chosen Son." But what did "my Son" mean? Unlike we who profess faith in the Trinity, it's likely the disciples still had to learn what being God's Son was all about. However, they must have realized that it meant something about Jesus' relationship with God. Every aspect of this mystifying experience told them so. When they came to their senses, the light had disappeared, the ancient men were gone, the voice was silent. And there he was again, the man they had come to know. But who was this man?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ***Give praise and glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.***
- ***What does Jesus mean in your life?***



FAUSTO RENDA / SHUTTERSTOCK

March 13, 2022 – Second Sunday of Lent

ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN
Sunday Mass at 9:30 am.
Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Wednesday
Weekly Wednesday Mass 9:00 am
First Friday Mass 10:00 am - Adoration 9:00 am

Website:	www.stjudeparishgobles.com	Office:	(269) 628-2219
Pastor Phone:	Fr. Alan Jorgensen	Office:	(269) 668-3312
Senior Parochial Vicar:	Fr. Richard Altine	Cell:	(269) 692-5142
Pastoral Administrator:	Deacon Jim Bauer P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 N Gobles, MI 49055	Office: Cell:	(269) 628-2219 (269) 655-6510
	Email:		deaconjimbauer@gmail.com

St. Jude Parish Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8-12 p.m.; Weds. 8-10 a.m.
Office Email: st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper:	Lauren Gilbert	(269) 628-2219
Choir Director-Sacristan:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator:	Jennifer Price	(269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator:	Jennifer Price	(269) 377-6734

Pastoral Emergencies: please contact Fr. Richard Altine on his cell phone.

Mass intention for Weds., March 16 2022 - Larry Wojtowicz by Laura Woods & Family
Mass intention for Weds., March 23, 2022 – The People of the Ukraine by St. Jude Parish

NEXT SUNDAY, March 20, 2022
MASS INTENTION: The People of St. Jude Parish

READER: Jennifer Price
ALTAR AIDE: Marie Keller
ALTAR SERVERS: Karter, Lydia, Isabella

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
March 6, 2022	$1900.00	$1978.00	$78.00	124
Year to Date	$63,400.00	$65,390.20	$1990.20	3635

From the Deacon's Desk:

As you look upon our Lord, hung upon the cross, have you thought to ask Him to help us engage, activate, and purify our spiritual senses? Back in 2014, on the second Sunday of Lent, during Pope Francis pastoral visit to his Roman parish of *Santa Maria Dell'Orazione,* in his homily he encouraged his parishioners, as well as all Catholics, to pray for the grace "to purify the eyes of our spirit, so that we might one day enjoy the vision of glory". In other words, Our Holy Father prayed and urges us to pray for the gift, to activate and engage our spiritual senses.

He further went on to say, "… by His Transfiguration [Jesus] invites us to gaze at Him. And looking at Jesus purifies our eyes and prepares them for eternal life, for the vision of heaven.

Perhaps our eyes are a little sick because we see so many things that are not of Jesus, things that are even against Jesus: worldly things that do not benefit the light of the soul. And in this way, this light is slowly extinguished, and without knowing it, we end up in interior darkness, in spiritual darkness, in a darkened faith: darkness, because we are unaccustomed to looking and imagining the things of Jesus."

In our first reading today from Genesis, God takes Abram outside and asks him to look up at the sky to count the stars, if you can. Those last three words are important. It is not that God is being condescending toward Abram. God is stretching Abram to see with the eyes of faith. In other words, God is activating Abram's spiritual senses so that HE can enter into a relationship with him.

The same is true in the Gospel today! Jesus takes Peter, John, and James up the mountain to pray. While Jesus is praying, His face is changed in appearance and His clothing became dazzling white. Notice that the three fell asleep – perhaps a metaphor for not being spiritually engaged. When they awoke, they saw the glory of Jesus. Their spiritual senses had been activated and engaged and they see Jesus for who He really is – the Messiah, the Savior, the Christ.

As we approach God in prayer, let us ask the Lord to purify our spiritual senses. Let us ask Jesus to help us engage and activate them so we can navigate this world with our eyes continuously fixed on Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Considering the recent devastating destruction and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine Bishop Paul J. Bradley has requested a second collection for USCCB's Churches in Central and Eastern Europe fund the weekend of March 20. Checks should be made out to the parish with "Church in Central and Eastern Europe" written in the reference line. Funds collected will be distributed through the United States Bishops' Church in Central and Eastern Europe to fund the official relief agencies of the Catholic Church, such as Caritas Ukraine. Thank you for helping those most in need of God's healing love and support.

FROM THE DRE

- Our next Confirmation and Reconciliation class is 3/20.
- We will have a Catechists meeting today (3/13) after CCD.
- There will be Family Stations of the Cross for all CCD students and parents on 4/3 after Mass.
- Our MS/HS students are in charge of our next Student Mass on 4/3.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA: Find the answers in this bulletin!

#1- The fleur-de-lis is a symbol for who?
#2- What is the second station of the cross?
#3- Who wiped the face of Jesus on His way to Calvary?
#4- What is the vessel called in which incense is burned?
#5- What do the five crosses on the altar represent?

ST. JUDE'S IS STARTING A YOUTH GROUP! Is your 4th-12th grade child interested? Please let Taylor Price know. You can email her at Taylor.Price0922@yahoo.com or text her at 269-666-3639.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: please keep them in your prayers: Deacon Dean Herman, Deacon Don Bouchard, Sadie Payne, Charles Schneider, Susan Graham, Jack Secondi, Father Tom McNally, Father Robert Johannsen, Father Larry Farrell, Mary Heinz, Donna Murphy, Joan Rumery, Jean Pareda, Lillian B. Wheeler and Frances Parsons.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be on Friday, March 18, at 9:00 a.m. with EXPOSITION, STATIONS, ADORATION and BENEDICTION.

THE PILLARS OF LENT – As we continue our Lenten journey, are you reflecting during prayers, fasting and almsgiving can guide you to a deeper spiritual union with God? As Pope Francis explains, these are "elements which, when lived sincerely, can transform life and provide a sure foundation for dignity and fraternity." How can practicing the Lenten pillars transform your life and the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH: Italian Seasoning, Garlic Powder, Ground Cinnamon, Canned Spinach, Paper Towels, Dried Navy Beans, Tortillas and Cream of Wheat. Visit us on Facebook at: GoblesPantry

The JUBILEE YEAR of the HOLY SPIRIT
2021-22 DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

FROM THE DIOCESE

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set-up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: (844) 324-3374.

DIOCESAN PRIESTS' RETIREMENT COLLECTION - Last weekend, our parish and all parishes and missions throughout our diocese, took up a Special Collection to support our Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund. To date, our parishioners have contributed $856 in the name of our diocesan priests. We thank you for your generous support!

Jubilee Year of the Holy Spirit—Gift of the Month, Reverence. This month, we ask the Holy Spirit to activate and strengthen within us his gift of Reverence (also called Fear of the Lord). In our day and age, we don't like to think of God as fearful. Or maybe deep down, that is exactly how we think of Him. When we think of God as fearful, we think of a scary, out-of-control Supreme Dictator Puppet Master orchestrating every evil in the world and in our lives - out to get us at every turn. Or at least waiting patiently for the end of our lives so that when we show up at His Judgment seat, He can finally say, "GOTCHA!" Jesus, and his Saints through the ages, reveal a different reality about God. Saint Thomas Aquinas defines love as "Seeking the good of the other," a bit sterile perhaps, but on the mark. The Greek word for love ascribed to Jesus is Agape. It is the supreme word of love in the Greek language. It is a sacrificial love that puts the other before ourselves. This is what Jesus did for us by allowing weak, inferior people to humiliate, beat and crucify Him for sins He never committed so that we might be able to share in God's eternal divine joy. THAT is why we reverence God - because when we didn't deserve it (and still don't), He embraces us, always seeking our good first, from what He commands us not to do, to what He commands us to do, in order to perfect us, that we may fulfill the destiny for which the awesome love of God created us for—joining as one with Him in blissful love for all eternity. That is the "GOTCHA!" He desires

THE TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM is a free 10-week program for people dealing with the impact of childhood abuse or neglect, sponsored by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Participants will gain an understanding of why past traumas continue to affect them and what they can do to get better. Almost 500 people in our diocese have reaped the benefits of this program as they heal from their past. Don't delay – sign up today! Virtual TRP group (on Zoom) Monday evenings 6:30-9:00 p.m. Begins March 14 and ends on May 16. Register by calling 269-459-2121 or email at TRA@TraumaRecoveryAssociates.com

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS - Persons with Disabilities are invited to a virtual gathering from 1:00-2:00 p.m. The focus is to build fellowship, have fun, reflect on the Sunday Gospel and pray together. To learn more or to register go to https://www.diokzoo.org/personswithdisabilities or contact Lisa Irwin at 269-381-9800 x 227 or lisairwin@ccdok.org. Zoom link will be sent to those who register. Upcoming dates: today (March 20), May 15, July 17, Sept. 18 and Nov. 20.

A NEW SYNOD SURVEY IS AVAILABLE as part of the synodal process in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The survey is intended for those who have not participated in one of the Synodal Gatherings in person or virtually. The survey will be online now until Easter. Go to: www.diokzoo.org/synod

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEKS CATHOLIC TRIVIA

1. **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
2. **Jesus takes His cross**
3. **Veronica**
4. **Thurible**
5. **The five wounds of Christ**