



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Transfiguration was clearly a frightening event for the disciples present. They saw the transfigured Jesus, radiant in glory, a foreshadowing of the risen Jesus in His glorious body after the Resurrection. Today's Gospel tells us that, when the disciples heard the voice of the Father, they were very much afraid. But then Jesus came and touched them, saying, *Rise, and do not be afraid*. When the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus. If we want to know God the Father, we need only to look at Jesus. He is God's perfect and final revelation of himself; he is God's love manifested and dwelling among us.

Jesus has revealed that God is love. Some might misinterpret this with a deficient understanding of love, imagining that the Father is soft, passive, and tolerant of everything that happens in the world. But that sort of interpretation of God turns him into an apathetic Father who pays little attention to his children's lives. This could not be further from the truth. The Transfiguration makes clear that the Father is calling us to listen to Jesus, to follow him, and to gain eternal life through him.

Because God is love, his power is never used to intimidate or scare us into serving him. Our first reading today describes a vision of God's throne that appears awfully intimidating without the context of complete self-giving love that is God. The passage from Daniel reads, *His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A surging stream of fire flowed out from where he sat. Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him*. If we read that description without the knowledge of God as love, it sounds like the Father created us to cower before his power for all eternity.

But God is not an insecure dictator who needs the worship of others in to feel powerful. When Scripture is read within the context of the complete story of salvation, we see that the Father desires all people to turn away from evil and be brought into eternal life through Jesus Christ. This is the eternal, self-sacrificing love of the Father who wants to save his children from death. This is why he sent His Son to live among us and offer Himself on the Cross for our salvation. This is why that same Son makes Himself present to us in the Eucharist to this day.

It is no coincidence that when we visit our Adoration Chapel, we see the scene of the Transfiguration. The two stained glass windows depict Moses and Elijah, on either side of Jesus in the Eucharist at the center. Visiting with Jesus in the Eucharist, we have an opportunity to experience being in the presence of the Risen Christ, to let Him touch us and reassure us in our bewilderment and

fear, and to listen to the Father's beloved Son speaking to us in our prayer.

Pope Saint John Paul II wrote: "The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease." (*Dominicae cenae* #3) Just this week, Pope Francis highlighted the importance and power of Eucharistic Adoration, of praying before Jesus in the tabernacle and lamented how that practice has been absent from many people's spiritual lives. Our ability to follow through with our mission of building up the Kingdom of God on earth, in our community, in our families, depends on our regularly encountering Jesus in the Eucharist and spending time with Him in Eucharistic Adoration: "Only in adoration, only in the presence of the Lord, do we truly rediscover our taste and passion for evangelization. Oddly enough, we have lost the prayer of adoration; and everyone, priests, bishops consecrated men and women, need to recover it, this ability to be quiet in the Lord's presence."

The Church in the United States is in the middle of a Eucharistic Revival that will culminate with a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis next July. One of the best ways for us to participate in this movement is to recover a sense of the wonder and power of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist through regularly visiting Him, in the main tabernacle or in our Adoration Chapel, as well as taking part in our regularly scheduled opportunities for Eucharistic exposition and adoration, on Thursdays after the 5:30 pm Mass, on the first Friday of the month after the 9 am and 5:30 pm Masses, and the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. It is also part of our healing services held about 9 times a year. Children and youth in our faith formation programs (and their parents and others) also have the opportunity for brief period of adoration during class time on the first Sunday and first Tuesday of the month.

If you are not used to contemplative time with Jesus in the Eucharist, it may feel a bit awkward at first, but rest assured that it need not be complicated. One of his parishioners described to St. John Vianney how he prayed before the Eucharistic Jesus: "I look at him and he looks at me." Jesus wants to spend time with you; he wants to offer you his healing touch; he wants to speak with you and give you guidance. He is waiting for you in Eucharist. Come, know like never before the revelation of God dwelling among us.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



August 7 — August 13

Monday	Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/ Mt 14:13-21
9:00 am	Rev. Gerard A. Trancone (D)
Tuesday	Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13/ Mt 14:22-36
5:30 pm	Corrine Geraty (D)
Wednesday	Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35/Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23/Mt 15: 21-28
9:00 am	Cardinal Wilton Gregory (L)
Thursday	2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/ Jn 12:24-26
5:30 pm	Rev. Robert T. Guillan (D)
Friday	Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21/ Mt 16:24-28
9:00 am	Carolina Corpus (D)
Saturday	Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51/ Mt 17:14-20
9:00 am	Pope Francis (L)
4:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners
Sunday	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14/ Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33
8:30 am	Terry Wayne Thompson (D)
11:15 am	Catherine Barry McDowell (D)
1:00 pm	Increase of Priestly Vocations

Events Calendar

August 7 — August 13

Wed: 10 am Bible Study w/ Fr. Taylor
Thurs: 6 pm-7:30 pm IHM Men's Group

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION for the 2023-2024 school year will be available after all Sunday Masses on Sunday, August 27. Both new and returning students must register! This includes Catholic School students in 2nd and 8th grade preparing for 1st Communion or Confirmation.

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER St. Joseph's Women's Group in Pomfret, MD is sponsoring a Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. The play is the "Miracle of Christmas" and the trip takes place on December 6. The cost is \$140 and the bus boards at 7 am from St. Joseph's. Join us for an awe inspiring Christmas show! For details or for details, call or text Georgana Navarro, 301-643-0948.

PARISH COOKBOOK SALES Our 75th Anniversary parish cookbook "Favorite Recipes to Feed the Heart" is here and available at the parish office. Each cookbook is \$20. Payment accepted in cash, check or credit/ACH through cookbook.ihmrcc.org.



To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

CRAFT FAIR AT IHM Immaculate Heart of Mary will be hosting a craft/vendor fair on Saturday, September 30. If you would like to rent a space or have any questions please contact Martha Worrell at craftfair@IHMRCC.org. Sign up and payment is available online at fairvendor.ihmrcc.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Lisa and Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny, Helen Pearson, John Flynn, Linda Miedzinski, Damaritza Ortiz, Michael Briscoe

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Follow us on



TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE— LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL is currently seeking a Middle School Social Studies Teacher and After Care Teacher. If you are interested in either position, please contact Ms. Keeton at ckeeton@littleflowercatholic.org. You can read the full job descriptions at www.schoolspring.com.

TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE—ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL in Bryantown, MD is seeking a Part Time Science Teacher for grades 6-8. This position could be full-time, if needed, by also facilitating STEM classes for grades 3-5. This teacher will follow the Archdiocese of Washington Academic Standards for each grade level. For more information, please contact Catherine Silverstone, Principal, at silverstone@bryantown.org, or 301-932-6883.



RCIA CATECHISTS NEEDED!

We are each called to be Missionary Disciples. You don't have to go on a mission half-way around the world! Grow where you are planted right here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) ministry is in need of team members for various positions:

Catechist for Children age 7-12

Catechist for Teens age 13-17

Catechist For Adults

Prayer Team members

Hospitality

Sponsor/Godparent

Please contact Damaritza Ortiz in the Faith Formation Office at (301) 863-8793 to begin this adventure!

MUSIC MINISTRY NEEDS YOU! Can you read music? Do you have a good singing voice? Do you want to deepen your faith and serve your community? The IHM Adult Choir is the place to be. Practices will begin on Wednesday, August 23 at 7 pm in the Church. Contact Mary at mary@ihmrcc.org or 240-434-8876. If you don't want to commit to every week, we also have a Men's Group and a Women's Group that serve once a month on the 2nd weekend, and practice for the hour before Mass. (The Women's Group also serves on 5th Saturday Masses). Singers in High School and up are welcome!

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

CATECHISTS NEEDED The Faith Formation office is in need of catechists (teachers of the faith) for both the Children's Faith Formation and for the RCIA Teens and Adults. If you have a desire to teach the next generation of Catholics or just want to learn more about this calling, please contact Damaritza Ortiz at 301-863-8793 or cff@ihmrcc.org.

IHM MEN'S GROUP SUMMER SCHEDULE Join us every Thursday evening, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm in the Large Classroom for Fellowship and Spiritual Growth. Each week we preview the scripture readings for the coming weekend and then watch and discuss a video. For more information contact Mark Baysinger (240-925-2677 or nbay9@hotmail.com).

ASSUMPTION MASS TIMES The feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation, is upcoming! The Mass times for this Feast are as follows: 7 pm on Monday, August 14 and 9 am and 5:30 pm Tuesday, August 15. We will also have Mass at St. Nicholas Chapel on base at 11:35 am.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS Back to school is soon! We invite children and youth to bring your backpacks to a weekend Mass on August 26 or 27 for a blessing the backpacks and for the upcoming school year.

PERPETUAL ADORATION Did you know our very own Immaculate Heart of Mary offers you the opportunity to participate in Perpetual Adoration? Some may ask "What is Perpetual Adoration?" Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members unite in the adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament with the goal of adoring The Blessed Sacrament perpetually (24 hours a day). If you are interested, please call our adoration coordinator, Jeff Harmon, at 240-538-5017 or email adoration@ihmrcc.org for more information.



The Maryland Knights of Columbus 54th Annual Incentive Raffle benefit is underway! Monies raised will benefit the state's charity and scholarship programs as well as the charities and programs of IHM's Knights of Columbus Council #9968. Raffle tickets are available in the foyer after Mass until Sunday, September 17.

August 6, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 | 2 Pt 1:16-19 | Mt 17:1-9

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

According to the dictionary definition, to be transfigured is to “transform into something more beautiful or elevated.” This is what we see happening in Matthew’s Gospel today: Jesus takes his closest disciples up the mountain and there he is transformed – he is *transfigured* – before them: “His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.” He is also joined by Moses and Elijah as a sign that he is the fulfillment of God’s promises of old. Jesus completes the old covenant that God made with his people and brings us the new covenant of salvation. The Transfiguration parallels the Baptism of the Lord in that we once again hear God speaking from the heavens to say, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” But during the Transfiguration, God adds the words, “Listen to him.” That’s a command not just for his disciples there on the mountain but for us today as well.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In elementary school, we were often reminded to listen. I remember one teacher who made a point to impress upon our class that listening is different from hearing. It is easy to hear, but to listen, you need to take the time to understand what is being said. In his letter today, Peter is urging us to listen to the prophetic message of Jesus. He says, “You will do well to be attentive to it” and then compares doing so to being “a lamp shining in a dark place.” The world today can be a very dark place, but we don’t have to be content to live in the shadows. By following Jesus’ example and commands, we can bring light – along with hope and joy – to our corner of the world. Sometimes that takes courage, though. It might involve making uncomfortable or unpopular choices, but Peter promises that the “day will dawn.” When that happens, we will undoubtedly see the fruits of our good works in our efforts to build God’s kingdom.

PRAY This week, let us pray in both words and actions as Jesus taught us. If the Lord’s Prayer is not already part of your daily prayer routine, try incorporating it this week. Then, look for ways to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by reaching out to someone who may appreciate a phone call or a visit.