

# The Transfiguration of the Lord

## August 6, 2017

### THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Saint Matthew's Gospel reveals that Jesus' face "shone like the sun" during his transfiguration. The evangelist is using a figure of speech, of course, but we can imagine what beholding the Transfiguration might have been like for Peter, James, and John. The brightness of Jesus' face is compared to the sun. Earth is about ninety-three million miles distant from the sun, yet if we look directly at it, we suffer retinal burns, permanent eye damage, or severe vision loss. The disciples were so close to the Lord during his transfiguration that he could touch them. What is it like to behold the brightness of Jesus? The disciples were terrified. Perhaps looking at Jesus in his glory feels as dangerous as staring at a solar eclipse. Sure enough, the disciples hid their eyes, falling flat on their faces.

### GOD'S MERCY

Although the disciples' experience on the mountain was frightening, our merciful Lord does not want fear to overshadow the miracle they witnessed. Jesus touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." God's words from the cloud overhead were similarly encouraging: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." God lovingly reassures us, confirming Jesus' identity as the Son of Man and inviting us to pay attention to the One who comes to save us.

Saint Peter, an eyewitness to the event, declares that his testimony is "altogether reliable." We can depend on his word. Saint Peter hopes his words act like a "lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." Thanks be to God, we can rely on the life-changing experiences of others to help transform our own lives. We may not ever have intimidating mountaintop revelations like Peter, James, and John, so we listen to them as witnesses of God's majesty. All of our readings today remind us that God gives us the Word to believe and live, and sends us the words of Daniel, Peter, and Matthew to encourage us.

Today's Readings: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

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### EL OJO DEL VIGILANTE

El Evangelio de san Mateo revela que el rostro de Jesús "brillaba como el sol" durante su transfiguración. El evangelista está usando una figura de discurso, desde luego, pero podemos imaginar lo que fue observar la Transfiguración pudo haber sido para Pedro, Santiago y Juan. La brillante del rostro de Jesús se compara con la del sol. El planeta Tierra está a una distancia del sol de noventa y tres millones de millas, aun así, si miramos al sol directamente sufrimos quemaduras en nuestras retinas, o un daño permanente en los ojos o perdida severa de la vista. Los discípulos estaban tan cerca a Jesús durante la Transfiguración que él podía tocarlos. ¿Cómo es ser testigo de la brillantes de Jesús? Los discípulos estaban atemorizados. Quizá ver a Jesús en su gloria se percibe como peligroso como cuando empieza un eclipse solar. Sin lugar a dudas, los discípulos taparon sus ojos, cayendo a tierra cubriéndose sus caras.

### LA MISERICORDIA DE DIOS

Aunque la experiencia de los discípulos en la montaña fue amedrentadora, nuestro Señor misericordioso no quiere que el miedo ensombrezca el milagro del que ellos fueron testigos. Jesús los tocó, diciéndoles: "levántense, no tengan miedo". Las palabras de Dios que provenían de la nube fueron igual de alentadoras: "Este es mi Hijo amado en quien me complazco, escúchenlo". Dios amorosamente nos tranquiliza, confirmando la identidad de Jesús como el Hijo del Hombre e invitándonos a poner atención a aquel que viene a salvarnos.

San Pedro, un testigo de este evento declara que su testimonio es "totalmente confiable". Podemos depender de su palabra. San Pedro espera que sus palabras sean como una "lámpara brillante en un lugar oscuro, hasta que el alba del día y la estrella de la mañana empiece a levantarse en nuestros corazones". Gracias a Dios, podemos confiar en las experiencias transformadoras de vida de las demás personas que nos ayudan a transformar nuestra propia vida. Quizá no tengamos una experiencia tan extrema en lo alto de una montaña como la que tuvieron Pedro, Santiago y Juan; por lo que los escuchamos a ellos como testigos de la majestad de Dios. Todas las lecturas de hoy nos recuerdan que Dios nos da la Palabra para creer y vivir y nos envía las palabras de Daniel, Pedro y Mateo para animarnos.

Lecturas de hoy: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Sal 97 (96):1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pe 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

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### Please Pray for the Sick

#### Prayer List Updates



Elisa Salcido	Ruben Tey	Antonio Aguero
Leticia Hernandez	Terri Lopez	Elvia Diaz
Eddie Villarreal, Sr.	San Juanita Sanchez	M/M Margarito Compean
Manuel Ramon	Jessica Diaz	Roberta Bobbie Garza
Dr. Joseph Luna	Jesse Diaz	Frances Ramirez
Diana Calderon	Paul and Grace Salinas	Alex Tapia
David Ortiz	Baby Alexander Gonzalez	Norma Morgan
Minerva Estrada	Alejandro De Leon	Laura Reyes Gutierrez
Jesse Mario Vega	Jimmie Rodriguez	Mary Garza
Martha L. Vega & Children	Delia Riojas	Jose A. Ponce, Jr.
Maria Treviño	Petra Chavez	Elisa Casanova
Isabella Julianna Vega	Joe & Cecilia Espinosa	Alexander Hernandez
Alfonso Ibarra, Jr.	Pablo Rodriguez	Pedro Caballero
Melissa Rodriguez	Dolores Gonzalez	Eric Nave
Armando Rodriguez	Joe Moreno	Sofia Olivarez
Norma Morgan	Clara Perez	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez
Margaret Perez	Rick Contreras	Rosalinda Rodriguez
Angie Lopez	Brandon Rivas	Connie Cardenas
Maria Zapata	Liz Quintero	

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

### WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION

JULY 29 - 30, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$ 709.00	(083)
8:00 AM	-\$ 785.50	(097)
10:00 AM	-\$1,249.00	(155)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,283.00	(143)
Festival Expenses	-\$ 512.24	Second Collection
2016 Gift of Giving	-\$ 205.80	
Mail In	-\$ 240.00	
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED</b>	<b>-\$4,984.54</b>	

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

### Second Collection

\* August 6, 2017 - Capital Improvements

### 2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions July 29 - 30, 2017	\$ 205.80
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,015.91</b>



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, August 5

5:00 p.m. ACTS Mass

### Sunday, August 6

8:00 a.m. † Homer Mendez - Teresa Mendez  
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño  
 † Josue Hid - Wife Genevieve  
 † Roland Cuellar - Mom & Dad  
 † Micaela Vargas - Hernandez Family  
 10:00 a.m. † Eloy Alvarado - Family  
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family  
 † Deacon Cena - Wife & Family  
 † George Vidal, Alberto, Arturo Ruiz - Sister  
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family  
 12:00 p.m. † Teofilo De Los Santos - Family  
 † Arturo B. Dominguez - Family  
 † Humberto Medina - Margaret Gonzalez  
 † Ana Moreno - Elvia Moreno

### Monday, August 7

12:00 p.m. † Josue Hid - Wife Genevieve  
 † Ana Moreno - Elvia Moreno

### Tuesday, August 8

12:00 p.m. † Isaura T. Rodriguez

### Wednesday, August 9

12:00 p.m. † Jesse J. Guillen

### Thursday, August 10

12:00 p.m. † Lorenzo C. Castro - Family  
 † David Solis - Tom & Olga

### Friday, August 11

12:00 p.m. † Roman Gabriel Garcia - Mom

### Saturday, August 12

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family  
 † Margarita V. Ruiz - Castillo Family

### Sunday, August 13

8:00 a.m. Guadalupana Mass  
 † Ernestina Huerta - Husband & Children  
 † Juan Garcia - Guadalupanas  
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño  
 † Guadalupe Cadena - Grace Salinas  
 10:00 a.m. † Pedro E. Martinez - Family  
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family  
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family  
 Happy Birthday Emilio Semersky III - Family  
 Happy Birthday Rosemary Semersky - Family  
 12:00 p.m. † Teofilo De Los Santos - Family  
 † Arturo B. Dominguez - Family  
 † Humberto Medina - Margaret Gonzalez  
 † Chris Medina - Margaret Gonzalez

## In Loving Memory

We pray for the souls of our dearly departed who have passed from our parish community:

† Annie N. Zamarripa  
 † Martha Cardenas Medrano

## Sanctuary Light

† Arturo B. Dominguez

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

I am very pleased and excited to again announce that a contract has been finalized in obtaining three bands to entertain us for our Fall Festival 2017. The bands will be: Home Town Boys, Los EnVivo Kings, La Tropa F. Please remember that our Festival is two short months away and everyone is requested to sell as many tickets as possible for our Fall Festival which is scheduled on Saturday, September 30th from 12:00 noon until midnight. The success of our festival depends on the participation of each one of us.

The registration of St. John Berchmans Catholic Elementary School for the academic year 2017-2018 is currently in effect. We have made necessary adjustments to equip our school and teachers with the tools required in order to compete and provide the best education to our children. Please extend the news to friends, families and neighboring parishes to register their children.

We are reminded to live up to and maintain our Catholic values during the summer time. Those of you who may be traveling around the country, or overseas, please remember to fulfill your Christian obligation by attending mass on Sunday or days of obligation. We can not take a vacation from God, God loves, protects, and cares for us eternally. Let us continue to share our gift of love with each other. Remember also to mail or bring your weekly offering to the office. Paying the bills never takes a vacation.

I have selected about 20 parishioners to be part of the Parish capital campaign committee. As you may know, Archbishop Gustavo has launched a Capital Campaign which intends to focus on the needs of the Archdiocese of San Antonio in particular our parish community. We agreed at our last meeting, with all the leaders, to focus on building a gymnasium, that will benefit both the church and the school, and address the challenges we face in the 21st century. Your active participation in this campaign will improve our chances of implementing this big project.

We are required to raise \$380,000 with \$152,000 the equivalency being 40%, being returned to the parish. We have the opportunity in achieving a big accomplishment and ultimately in attending to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

We welcome Mrs. Nora Garcia, as interim Principal for the academic school year 2017-2018. Mrs. Garcia is a dedicated, hard working, religious, and intelligent person with an extensive experience in Catholic School Education. She has been a vice principal in our school for over 15 years. We are excited and blessed to have Mrs. Garcia accept the opportunity to lead our school. We wish her a successful ministry in our school.

May God bless you always,



Father Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor  
 fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com

# Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** - I saw one like a Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14).

**Psalm**-The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth (Psa 97).

**Second Reading** - Be attentive to the prophetic message, as to a lamp shining in a dark place (2 Peter 1:16-19).

**Gospel** - Jesus was transfigured, and his clothes became white as light (Matthew 17:1-9). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tue: Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-7, 12-13;  
Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wed: Nm 13:1-2, 25, 14:1, 26-29, 34-35;  
Ps 106:6-7, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28

Thu: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26

Fri: Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-16, 21; Mt 16:24-28

Sat: Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Mt 17:14-20

Sun: 1 Kgs 19:9-13; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

## Events of the Week ~ August 6 - 13, 2017

### Sunday, August 6

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church  
8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church  
10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church  
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church  
2:00 p.m. Guadalupe Bingo - Cafeteria

### Monday, August 7

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel

### Tuesday, August 8

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group- Church

### Wednesday, August 9

9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite  
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel  
7:00 p.m. ACTS Core - Cafeteria

### Thursday, August 10

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel  
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Ultreya English - School

### Friday, August 11

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel

### Saturday, August 12

5:00 p.m. **Mass**- Church

### Sunday, August 13

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church  
8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church  
10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church  
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017**  
**9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

## CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

We are always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, and one does not realize that it takes a lot of work and assistance from many individuals to prepare for Mass. Contact Stella Rico at 464-0207 or join us at 8:00 am in the church foyer on Saturday.

**We thank you for your time and commitment for this very important ministry!**

### Cleaning Schedule of Ministries

Saturday, August 12, 2017 - CYO



**THIS WEEKEEND!!!**  
**GUADALUPANA GIFT BASKET AND CASH BINGO**

Come out and support our Guadalupanas for their Annual Summer Bingo Sunday, August 6, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.00 for 15 regular games and Specials. There will also be delicious food, sweets and refreshments.

## OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN A PLENARY INDULGENCE!

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be solemnly displayed for veneration, in Our Lady's Chapel at St. Paul's Church (St. Cloud and Sutton) on Saturday, August 19th from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The 100th Anniversary of the 4th apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal. Usual ritual conditions apply, including Prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, sacramental Confession, Holy Communion. For additional information contact Phil Trickett at 485-5125.



## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto:osantoyo1104@gmail.com) for final approval by Father Fidele. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



## NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 434-3247 to fill out a registration form. Thank you!

# Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com



## **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

The feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrates the revelation of Christ's divine glory on Mount Tabor in Galilee. After revealing to His disciples that He would be put to death in Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21), Christ, along with Ss. Peter, James, and John, went up the mountain. There, Saint Matthew writes, "he was transfigured before them." Thus, this Light is not a light of the sense, but rather they are changed by the power of the Divine spirit. This shows that what brought forth this blessed sight was prayer, and that the radiance occurred and was manifest by uniting the mind with God, and that it's True beauty, essentially, can be contemplated only with a purified mind. And it was a glimpse of the glories of heaven and of the resurrected body promised to all Christians.

## **THIS MONTHS LITURGY AT A GLANCE**

The readings for the month of August, in Ordinary Time, invite us to think about our daily life, our relationship with others, and in our jobs as an extraordinary opportunity to encounter God in everything that surrounds us. As always, the messages of the gospels invite us to seek God in life and in the simple moments, to embrace everyone as our brothers and sisters, as children of God, and in a true faith that is alive in community.



## **THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST 2017**

Artists - That artist's of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

## **PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS**

We ask that as a church community we pray for the vulnerable people among us - in a very special way we pray for those who are afraid and those who are isolated because of that fear. Protect them with you grace, and help to see and love our neighbor as ourselves, just as you taught us to do. Help us to stand with all people of good will, to seek the wellbeing of all our brothers and sisters in the human race. And we especially pray for the 10 immigrants who recently died tragically while trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. We ask for peace in our time; and help us to seek your wisdom and blessing.



## **QUESTIONS ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE? You're not alone. We are here to help!**

- Need Health Insurance but Open Enrollment is Closed?
- Wondering if you Qualify for an Exemption from the Penalty?
- Confused with proposed changes to the healthcare law?
- Need to Speak with an Assister about our Plan?

Call (210) 977-7997 or visit [www.EnrollSA.com](http://www.EnrollSA.com) and click "Appointment" tab to schedule an appointment. Special Enrollment Period (SEP) Available Year-Round! **Next Open Enrollment: November 1 through December 15, 2017.**

## **HOMILY HELPS**

Each disciple must embrace Christ's passion, our only pathway to the Transfiguration's promise of human nature restored in Christ. Icons show the white of Christ's robe spilling onto the robes of Peter, James, and John, the Master's glory shared with his disciples. But these same disciples accompany him to Gethsemane. Becoming light from and with the Lord requires that the disciples be burned by the purifying, transforming light of the Passion.

In the second reading, Peter gives his eyewitness account of the Transfiguration, together with wisdom gained in the time since he came down from the mountaintop. He reminds us to attend to the Transfiguration's glimpse of glory "as a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. (2 Peter 1:19)

## **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

What peak experience do you hold onto, or what experience holds onto you? How does it help you when it is time to bear your cross and share in Jesus' passion?