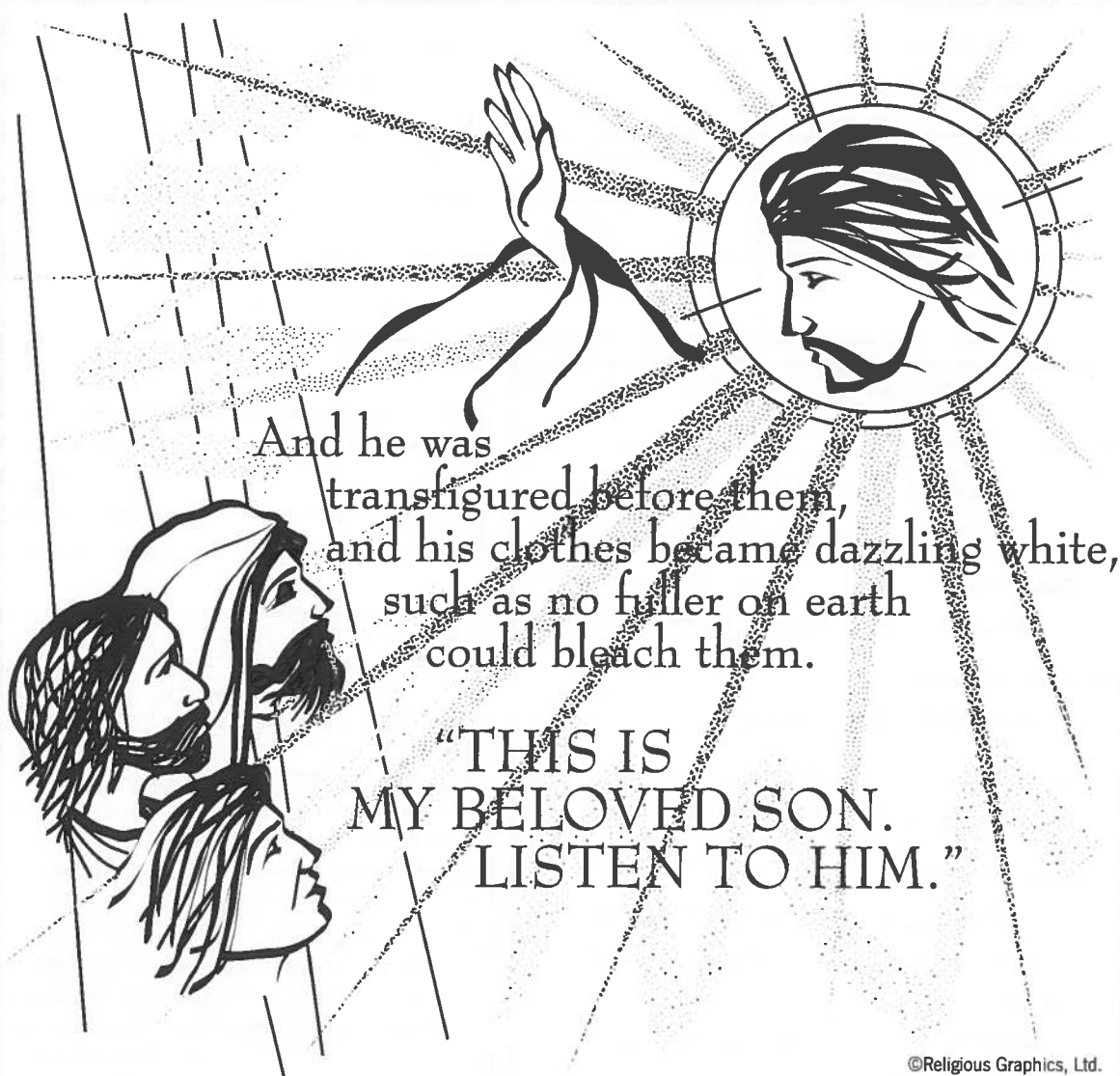


The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

AUGUST 5-6, 2023



And he was  
transfigured before them,  
and his clothes became dazzling white,  
such as no fuller on earth  
could bleach them.

“THIS IS  
MY BELOVED SON.  
LISTEN TO HIM.”

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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "Spiritual rose bushes are not like natural rose bushes. With these latter the thorns remain but the roses pass; with the former the thorns pass and the roses remain." ~St. Francis De Sales

**August 12-13 2023**

**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 12 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, August 13 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, August 13 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 13 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Todd Datweiler Gery Wright Gary Nelson Dan Hoffman	James Mallaney Dennis Pankey	Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff	Corinn Wheeler Erik Wheeler Kim Smicker Corey Eich
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Emling	Darlene Cipcich	Jeff O'Connor	Julie Splear
<b>Servers</b>				Bella Eich
<b>Greeters</b>			<b>Greeter—</b> Donna Bernicky <b>Leader—</b> Karen Miller	Stacy Powers

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, August 7 (SMM)**

8:00 am +John Andrzejewski (Dennis/Janice Schneider)

**Tuesday, August 8 (SH)**

8:00 am +Dick Fitch (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

**Wednesday, August 9 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Gerald Bernicky (Suzette Fritz)

**Friday, August 11 (SJ) First Friday**

8:00 am +Jim Jepsen & Denise Blake (The Family)

**Saturday, August 12 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Richard Wagner (MaryAnn Wagner)  
+Michael McCain (Earl/Lynda Datweiler)

**Sunday, August 13**

7:30 am +John Sullivan, Timmy Fitch, Willard Denault (The Family)  
9:00 am (SJ) +Fred Gohlke (Larry/Janice O'Connor)  
+ Rhea Surprenant (Mr/Mrs Todd)

10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

**A Look Ahead**

**FAugust 5/6—**K of C Food for Family food drive

**Wed., August 9—** SMM parish council meeting 7PM

**Monday, August 14—**Holy Day Vigil Mass at SJ 7 pm

**Tuesday, August 15—** The Assumption of the Blessed



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is August 5-6 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food...  
"Matthew 25:35

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)

Like us on Facebook [triparishcatholiccommunities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

**Religious Education** –

St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

St. James – Carolyn Levyclevystjames@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line**– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [Jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

**Questions of the week:**

Which self-interest of mine will I promise to put aside and what cross will I pledge to carry, transfiguring my life and my little part of the world?

## Collections Week of July 29-30, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,713  
 St. James—\$2,112  
 Sacred Heart—\$1,447

Thank you for your generosity!

### Gospel Shorts

### Taste and See

Our worship together is our spiritual feeding. We gather at the dinner table to feed our bodies, and we gather around the communion table to feed our spirits. To come into this place, in the presence of God, is to enrich our spiritual lives. If we stop taking meals we will suffer malnutrition and even die. To stop feeding our spirit will have the same spiritual effect. God has called us to this place. God has given us each other. God is here with us. This is the nourishment of our souls.

The same held true back in Jesus' day through His miraculous feeding of the 5,000. The crowds sought Jesus out that day for spiritual nourishment, and he came through for them. Though his feeding, they were strengthened and encouraged. Their lives would never be the same.

Welcome into the faith to  
**Ellie Wenzelman**  
 daughter of Claire and Ben Wenzelman  
 who was baptized at St. James  
 on July 30, 2023



Welcome into the faith to  
**Dahlia Abigail Hodgin**  
 daughter of Rhianna and Travis Hodgin  
 who was baptized at St. James  
 on July 29, 2023



### Parish News:

#### St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Parish Council Wednesday, August 9 at 7 pm

#### St. James—

#### Sacred Heart—

- ◆ Time is flying by and soon, our CCW will again be sending "Boxes of Joy" to children who will not receive any Christmas gifts. Last year we were able to send 46 boxes. We will have a list of items that you can place in the boxes in the church, along with those that can not be sent (liquids, candles, gun toys, etc.). The boxes will be available at a later date.
- ◆ Sacred Heart C.C.W. is having their meeting Tues. Aug. 8 at 7 p.m. in the **CHURCH RECTORY**. Hostesses for the evening are Shirley Ferris and Rita West.

#### All Parishes—

- ◆ **A huge thank you to Pete and Diane Denault for volunteering to make the Labor Day Float.**
- ◆ **Adult Education**—I have been asked to move our adult ed program to Wednesday nights so this fall, we will offer the classes on Wednesdays. They will begin in September. If you plan on attending our adult Ed classes, please call the office (426-2550) by August 21 so we can order supplies.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Elaine Joyce**

sister of Diane Whalen

May she and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

## A Stewardship Moment Weekend of August 5/6, 2023 Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, and in today's Gospel reading we hear it proclaimed that on Mount Tabor, Peter, James, and John caught a glimpse of Jesus' divinity strong enough to strike fear into their hearts. The event took place shortly after Peter's confession of faith that Jesus was, indeed, the Messiah. In today's second reading from Peter, we hear his personal testimony. This comes from a man who spent more than three years with Jesus. Peter witnessed his humanity. He saw Jesus hungry, tired, and finally, rejected and crucified. But he also saw Jesus feed the 5,000, walk on water, heal the sick, and raise the dead. He saw Jesus in his glory when he was transfigured. He saw Jesus risen from the dead and ascend into heaven with the promise that he is coming again in power and glory. How strong is the stewardship of our own faith? Do we accept Peter's apostolic witness to Jesus as Christ? Does this testimony help us acknowledge and trust Christ Jesus as our Lord and savior?

### Reflection

### Your Name

You got it from your father; it was all he had to give, so it's yours to use and cherish as long as you may live.

If you lose the watch he gave you, it can always be replaced; but a black mark on your name, son, can never be erased.

It was clean the day you took it, and a worthy name to bear; when he got it from his father, there was no dishonor there.

So make sure you guard it wisely, after all is said and done, you'll be glad the name is spotless, when you give it to your son.

The heavens proclaim  
 his justice, and all  
 peoples see his glory





**Saint of the week: St. Dominic (Aug. 8)** was born of wealthy Spanish nobility, the son of Blessed Joan of Aza. Joan had difficulty conceiving, and prayed at the shrine of Saint Dominic of Silos who had a tradition of patronage of that problem; when she became pregnant she named the child *Dominic* in honor of the Saint. While pregnant, Blessed Joan had a vision that her unborn child was a dog who would set the world on fire with a torch it carried in its mouth; a dog with a torch in its mouth became a symbol for the Order which he founded, the Dominicans. At Dominic's baptism, Blessed Joan saw a star shining from his chest, which became another of his symbols in art, and led to his patronage of astronomy.

Dominic studied philosophy and theology at the University of Palencia. He was a canon of the cathedral of Osma, Spain. He worked for clerical reform, had a lifelong apostolate among heretics, especially Albigensians. Dominic worked with Blessed Peter of Castelnau. He founded the *Order of Friars*

*Preachers (Dominicans)* in 1215, a group who live a simple, austere life, and an order of nuns dedicated to the care of young girls. He was a friend of Saint Amata of Assisi.

At one point Dominic became discouraged at the progress of his mission; no matter how much he worked, the heresies remained. But he received a vision from Our Lady who showed him a wreath of roses, representing the rosary. She told him to say the rosary daily, teach it to all who would listen, and eventually the true faith would win out. Dominic is often credited with the invention of the rosary; it actually pre-dates him, but he certainly spread devotion to it, and used it to strengthen his own spiritual life.

He was a reported miracle worker who brought four people back from the dead. Legend says that Dominic received a vision of a beggar who, like Dominic, would do great things for the Faith. Dominic met the beggar the next day. He embraced him and said, "You are my companion and must walk with me. If we hold together, no earthly power can withstand us." The beggar was Saint Francis of Assisi.

**Obscure saints of the week: St. Bonifacia Rodriguez Castro (Aug. 8)** was one of six children born to the pious family of Joseph Rodríguez Gutiérrez, a tailor, and María Natalia Jiménez Castro. She was baptized at the age for 4 days. At age 15 she began work in a rope factory, rough work for little money. A pious young woman, she attended daily Mass and developed a devotion to Mary Immaculate and Saint Joseph. She attracted a number of like-minded friends who met in her home for devotions, and they founded the Association of the Immaculate and Saint Joseph, more commonly called the Josephine Congregation. On January 10, 1874, she co-founded the Congregation of the Servants of Saint Joseph; their mission was to prevent poor women from falling into lives of crime or abuse, using as their model the simple home where Jesus, Mary and Joseph earned their livelihood through work.



### Weddings at the Tri-Parish Community

Weddings are regulated by Church Law (Canon Law) and diocesan policy. According to Canon Law a priest can only marry registered parishioners in his own parish. If a couple wants to get married at one of the Tri-Parish churches and they are not parishioners then their pastor has to give me a letter of delegation granting us permission and the faculty to conduct the marriage.

We prefer advanced notice of one year before setting a date for your wedding. Weddings are held on Saturdays at 2:00 or earlier due to the weekend Mass schedule. For weddings where both parties are Catholic we recommend the wedding take place within a Mass. For weddings that are "mixed" (one Catholic party and the other Protestant) we recommend the wedding take place in a ceremony (no Communion). For a Catholic marrying a non-baptized person I must get the permission of the bishop. And for Catholics who want their marriage to take place in a non-Catholic church (dispensation from form) I need to get the permission of the bishop.

Marriages that take place within a Mass are conducted by Father, and marriages that take place in a ceremony are presided over by deacon. Marriage preparation is required to be completed before the wedding. For parishioners marriage preparation is conducted by deacon and his wife. For non-parishioners you are required to attend marriage preparation at your church.

Use of the hall for the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception must be arranged through the office. You will also be responsible for fees to the church, organist, vocalist, altar server, and the presider. No decorations can be nailed or taped to the pews but floral wire is acceptable. All decorations must be removed after the wedding ceremony. Due to insurance regulations rice and bird seed cannot be thrown at the end of the wedding.

## Questions Catholics Ask "What is Purgatory?"

We've talked about Purgatory before, but with All Saints and All Souls Days coming up, here's another take on the subject.

The Christian imagination has traditionally depicted Purgatory as a kind of "Hell-lite": fires and torment but with an end-date at which time souls, having paid for their sins with suffering, get promoted to Heaven. Vivid though these images are, they tend to make Purgatory into a place that exists in time, and really it's neither. After the death of the body, the soul enters eternity, which is a spiritual realm beyond our sense of place and, by definition, beyond time.

So what is Purgatory? Every Christian life is a pilgrimage that begins when someone enters earthly life and is baptized into the Body of Christ and reaches its fulfillment in communion with God and all the angels and saints in Heaven.

Death of course is a major step in that journey, but it's a big leap to go from human life with all its limitations to perfect unity with God. Even those who die with the full benefits of the sacraments of the church—in a "state of grace"—still carry with them the aftereffects of sin. Purgatory supplies the necessary transition into eternal life: It's a state in which a soul is purified or "purged" of all that still might separate it from God.

It's the last "stop" on the journey toward communion with God and all the angels and saints that began when someone entered earthly life and was baptized into the Body of Christ. If there is suffering in Purgatory, it's the pain of the soul's awareness that it is still separated in some way from God, and that this separation is the consequence of sinful actions in earthly life.

Catholic doctrine says that God's judgment of each soul occurs at death. For those who led lives of faith and repentance, the way to Heaven is before them, though the remaining obstacles to eternal glory need to be cleared away (and for those who lived and died in deliberate estrangement from God, the possibility exists for that separation to become permanent, which would literally be Hell).

God, however, does not want anyone to be condemned and wishes that all will be saved and enjoy life with God forever. Some theologians today, moreover, think that the state of Purgatory may be as instantaneous after death as is personal judgment.

Whether that's true or not, Purgatory is not only about what happens after death. It also has a lot to do with life in the present. For one thing, those on earth and those "in" Purgatory can pray for another, and thus Purgatory is an expression of intercessory prayer and the communion of saints between this world and the next. What's at stake in praying for the souls in Purgatory is not a matter of holding them up lest they slip into Hell; the souls in Purgatory are already promised the Heavenly state. Those prayers, though—as well as anything else you offer for them, like an act of charity or a work of mercy—can help move them along the path towards full and complete life with God.

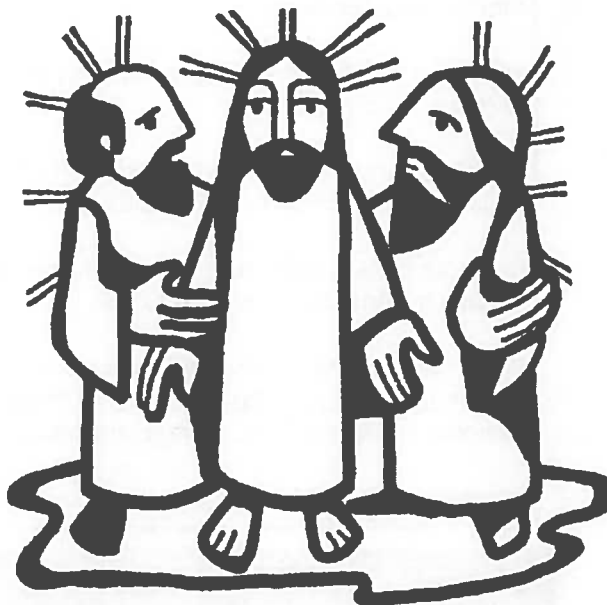
Purgatory is also a powerful reminder that the decisions you make in your relationships with God and neighbor today make a big difference both now and in the end.

## The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light. Then they realized that Moses and Elijah were also there in deep conversation with him.

Peter broke in, "Master, this is a great moment! What would you think if we built three memorials here on the mountain—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah?" While he was going on like this, babbling, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and sounding from deep in the cloud a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him."

When the disciples heard it, they fell flat on their faces, scared to death. But Jesus came over and touched them. "Don't be afraid." When they opened their eyes and looked around all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus. Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't breathe a word of what of you've seen. After the Son of Man is raised from the dead, you are free to talk".  
*(from Matthew 17).*



*He was transfigured  
before their eyes*

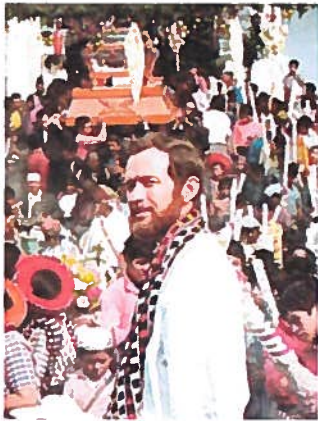
Who is the first US born martyr?

From small town Oklahoma to war torn Guatemala, Blessed Stanley Rother exemplified self-sacrificing love. On July 28, forty-one years ago, the first martyr from the United States, gave his life for his faith.

Although Fr. Rother lost his life in Guatemala, he was born in the small town of Okarche, Oklahoma. He grew up on his family farm, played on his school's sports teams, and served at his local parish as an altar server. It was an ordinary American childhood.

However, his vocational calling was anything but ordinary.

After high school graduation, while his friends set off to college or to their careers, Stanley entered the seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 25th, 1963. Fr. Rother returned back home to Oklahoma where he served as an associate pastor for five years.



Blessed Stanley Francis Rother,  
Image Credit: Julito Menchu

But he wasn't home for long before he felt the Lord calling him elsewhere, somewhere far from the Oklahoma farmland he was so familiar with. Fr. Rother sought and received permission to join the staff at his diocese's mission in Guatemala.

Without knowing the language or the culture, Fr. Rother obediently followed the Lord's calling to a small impoverished community in Santiago Atitlan. Surprisingly to Fr. Rother, who struggled with Latin throughout seminary, Spanish came easily to him and he was quickly immersed in the community, serving wholeheartedly and with deep love for his new flock.

He regularly ministered to his parishioners in their homes, eating with them, visiting the sick, and aiding them with medical issues. This Oklahoma boy even put his farming skills to use and helped in the fields, diversifying the crops and building an irrigation system.

In the midst of Fr. Rother's service, a civil war broke out in Guatemala between several guerrilla groups and Guatemala's militarized government. This war impacted everyone in Santiago Atitlan but it especially affected local Catholics, who were dangerously in the center of this bloody conflict.

Thousands of Guatemalan Catholics were tragically killed. The Church, despite constant threats, courageously continued to educate and catechize. Eventually, Fr. Rother's name appeared on a list of targeted individuals. For his safety, he was asked to return home to Oklahoma.

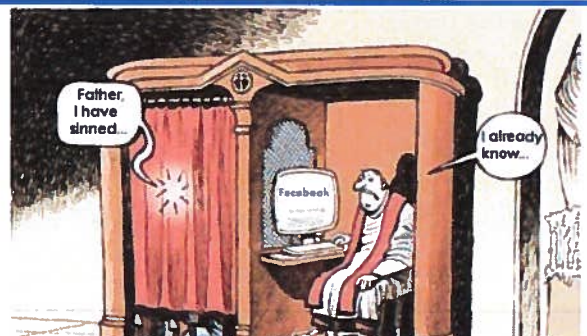
Yet, facing the life-threatening reality of his situation, Fr. Rother insisted that "the shepherd cannot run" and was determined to return to his parishioners.

Merely a few months into his brave return to Guatemala, Fr. Rother's rectory was invaded. He was threatened and executed for his faith and service on July 28th, 1981.

On December 1st, 2016, Pope Francis officially recognized Fr. Rother as a martyr, making him the first U.S.-born martyr. He also became the first U.S.-born priest to hold the title of "Blessed" when he was beatified on September 23rd, 2017.

We need Blessed Stanley Rother's courage more than ever as we witness to Christ in this world. Read more about his incredible story in *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run: Fr. Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma*. You'll be inspired and invigorated by his tremendous example of faith, courage, and totally self-donating love.

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Transfiguration of Jesus by Carl Bloch, CCO

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.

Sunday, Aug 06, 2023

### Improve your vision

Much of the time, we keep our heads down. We focus on the day ahead or the task at hand. We worry about personal relationships gone awry or the pricey cost of living. Transfigured seeing invites us to lift our gaze higher or to grasp truths under the surface of things. The broader, deeper vision reveals to us how to respond effectively to what we see. Saints in every generation have exercised this prophetic vision, recognizing a social problem and then creatively proposing a response. Pray the daily news—and ask for the guidance of a clarifying vision.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9 (614). *"As the visions during the night continued, I saw: One like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven."*

Monday, Aug 07, 2023

### May your faith ripen sweetly

It's about this time of year that grapes in many parts of the world begin a crucial transformation process the French have named *veraison*. It's when grapes start to ripen and change from green to purple—not always at the same time in the same cluster, making for some beautiful color combinations. Mostly likely because of the timing of his feast day, Pope Sixtus II is the patron saint of grape prosperity. Where are you in the midst of your own *veraison* as a Christian? Pray for cause to celebrate your faith bearing ripe fruit.

MEMORIAL OF SIXTUS II, POPE, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21 (407).

*"They all ate and were satisfied."*

Tuesday, Aug 08, 2023

### For want of a better word

When Dominic founded the Order of Preachers in 1216, he'd been appalled by the rise of the Albigensian heresy, denying the goodness of God's creation. Even more appalling was the lack of informed preaching to inoculate the congregation against it. Dominic threw himself into the kind of witness modeled by the Acts of the Apostles, his new religious community adopting the motto "to praise, to bless, to preach." Not surprisingly, the Dominicans have given us eloquent saints, including Catherine of Siena and Thomas Aquinas—even captivating the world in 1963 with a chart-topping pop song, "Dominique." To quote another Dominican, Saint Martin de Porres: "Everything, even sweeping ... could be a prayer, if it were offered to God."

MEMORIAL OF DOMINIC, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14 (408). *"Throughout my house he bears my trust: face to face I speak to him; plainly and not in riddles."*

Wednesday, Aug 09, 2023

### The awful truth

The bombing of Nagasaki, which occurred on this day in 1945, was truly awful in all senses of the word. Splitting the atom to unleash its enormous power put the genius and depravity of humanity on full, awe-inspiring display. Though we have many positive uses for atomic energy, its initial use to increase our

capacity to kill on a massive scale is a moral failure that we have yet to overcome. The war machine rages on. What role will you play in helping humanity move toward the good?

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28 (409). *"We have sinned, we and our fathers; we have committed crimes; we have done wrong."*

Thursday, Aug 10, 2023

### Where's your treasure?

During the persecution of the Early Church, Saint Lawrence was under a death threat from Emperor Valerian. But his persecutor offered a deal. Lawrence could live if he turned over the treasures of the church. In one of history's most audacious rebukes, Lawrence is said to have gathered the poor and sick and told Valerian: Here is our treasure. For his act of resistance and faith, Lawrence was burned to death. How do you resist injustice? Saint Lawrence, give us courage.

FEAST OF LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26 (618).

*"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."*

Friday, Aug 11, 2023

### Love takes its toll

Inspired by her mentor Saint Francis, Saint Clare and the women who eventually joined her to form the Poor Clares had a "radical commitment to corporate poverty." The women lived simply and spent most of their day in prayer and chores. It was a hard life, but one filled with joy for those who chose it—and continue to choose it. Spend time today pondering this pearl of wisdom from Clare: "Love that does not know of suffering is not worthy of the name."

MEMORIAL OF CLARE, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Matthew 16:24-28 (411).

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."*

Saturday, Aug 12, 2023

### Youthful endeavors

According to the United Nations website, half the people on Planet Earth are under 30 years of age. Yet only 2.6 percent of government lawmakers worldwide are under 30. International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12, is designated by the United Nations to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. Pope Francis teaches in *Laudato Si'*: "What kind of world do we want to leave ... to children who are now growing up?" (#160). International Youth Day recognizes everyone's responsibility to hand on a sustainable, free, and secure Earth to the next generation. What's going on in your community to accomplish this goal?

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20 (412). *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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