



**ST IGNATIUS**  
**& ST LUKE'S**  
2 August 2020

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

*The account of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain is full of mysterious detail, and raises many questions. One question we might consider is Why was it Moses and Elijah that appeared in glory with Jesus?*

*The most common explanation is that Moses and Elijah represent the two principal components of the Old Testament: the Law and the Prophets. Moses was the giver of the Law, and Elijah was considered the greatest of the prophets.*

*But why not Abraham, our father in faith, or Isaiah, one of the greatest of the prophets, who foretold Christ's suffering and death?*

*As we approach this Thursday's feast, let us contemplate the thoughts of the great 20th century priest and scholar, Fr. Romano Guardini—*

From *The Lord* (in the chapter *Moses and Elias*):

When we read the Synoptic accounts of the Transfiguration, we usually concentrate our attention on what happens to the Lord and on its relation to the Resurrection. All too easily we overlook the appearance of the two men who are seen conversing with him. What are they doing here, Moses and Elias? One the lawgiver of the old covenant, the other the prophet who, according to the first Book of Kings, did not die, but was spirited away in to heaven. [...] Why Moses and not Abraham? Why Elias and not Isaias or one of the other prophets? [...]

[Moses] has well been called the most plagued of men. The story of the forty years' wandering through the desert is the story of a never-ending struggle, not only with the hardships of nature and the assaults of hostile tribes, but also with the apathy and stubbornness of those he was leading. At first the people are enthusiastic, but soon discouraged. They bind themselves with sacred vows, only to forget everything when it comes to the test. They start everything well, but see nothing through, and the moment they meet with difficulties, the experience of God's great and terrible signs is completely forgotten. [...] The record of the march to the Promised Land is the story of the desperately heavy struggle of a powerful, God-fearing will with the crushing burden of humanity. Moses had to carry the entire nation on his shoulders. He was, necessarily, the most patient of men. [...]

This then the man who appeared to Christ, to him who was to carry the cross of his people to the bitter end; Moses too they had failed to follow, in the flesh, into the new land of free divine dominion. Yet another leader had to die 'on the mountaintop' (this one for our sins, not his own) before the promised Country could become reality. [...]

And Elias? It is not too much to call him the mightiest

of the prophets. Not as a speaker; there is no record of exalted or path-blazing word from his lips. He left no book; hardly a sentence that in itself is anything out of the ordinary. Nor did he have any remarkable visions or revelations. Yet no other prophet looms as huge against the bottomless depths of divine mystery as Elias; nowhere in the whole history of prophecy do we find an existence of such huge proportions. [...]

During Achab's reign darkness covered the land, the darkness of hell. It was against this dark that Elias had been sent. He never was able to proclaim the tidings of the coming kingdom; he had to fight to the end against a wall of blackness, hardened disbelief; against the violence, blasphemy and bloodthirstiness that stalked through the land, Elias' life is one titanic struggle against the powers of evil. The spirit of the Lord seethes in him, lifting him high above the human plane, spanning his strength far beyond the human breaking point. [...]

Moses who had known the hopelessness of all efforts to rip his people out of the captivity of their own hearts; Elias, who with both sword and spirit had charged the satanic dark. It is as though the weight of one and a half millennia of sacred history had been bundled together and laid upon the shoulders of the Lord. All the enmity against God, heritage of a thousand years of intractability and blindness he must now bear to an end.



No wonder we are shocked when Peter, seeing the radiance, says to Christ: "Master, it is good for us to be here. And let us set up three tents, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias, ..." (Luke 9:33). The Evangelist does well to add, "not knowing what he said." It is the comprehension of a child, who, witnessing something terrible and ignorant of what it is, thinks it beautiful because it shines.

## **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Jacqueline Chancio, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

*Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list.*

***Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.***

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CLEARING THE PLAYGROUND**

Last Sunday, volunteers started clearing out and sprucing up the playground after the 11 am Mass. They made great headway but there is more work to be done. Watch this space for details of the next workday, and email the office if you would like to get email notice of details of how you can help.

### **BIBLE STUDY HAS RESUMED**

St. Ignatius Bible Study has resumed. Interested in learning more about your faith? Looking for a way to deepen your knowledge of Scripture? Join the group in the downstairs meeting room of the parish house, Wednesdays following the 9 am Mass in the chapel.

### **PEW PROJECT**

We expect the refinished sample pew back any day now. And we are starting to take pledges and contributions for the refinishing of all the pews. Donation forms are available in the back of the church and in the auditorium entrance.

We have finished stripping the beadboard in the east wall of of the church, and are now working our way up the west wall. If you are interested in assisting in this work, usually on Monday each week, send an email to the office, and we will let you know when our workdays are scheduled.

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **Saturday, 1 August**

*Anticipated Mass for Sunday*

4:30 pm special intention [S. White]

### **Sunday, 2 August**

*The Eighth Sunday after Trinity*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am the forgotten souls in our graveyard +

11 am Lucy Guinivan

### **Monday, 3 August**

*Feria*

9 am no public mass

### **Tuesday, 4 August**

*John Mary Vianney, Priest*

9 am Maria Cacas + [anniversary commemoration]

### **Wednesday, 5 August**

*Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major*

9 am Julia Donovan [Jane Slattery]

### **Thursday, 6 August**

*The Transfiguration of the Lord*

9 am those who have died in Covid pandemic +

### **Friday, 7 August**

*Sixtus II, Pope and Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs  
Cajetan, Priest*

9 am Madeline's intentions [George F. Hickey, Jr.]

### **Saturday, 8 August**

*Anticipated Mass for Sunday*

4:30 pm Susana Mercado + [Susie Martinez]

### **Sunday, 9 August**

*The Ninth Sunday after Trinity*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Ellen Donovan [Jane Slattery]

11 am Edward Guinivan and companions

#### St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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*historic*  
**ST IGNATIUS**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

### **Rev. John Vidal**

Administrator, St. Ignatius  
Pastor, St. Luke's

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Susan White - *ex officio*

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David Lewis • Franco Madan

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