



# St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**March 5, 2023**

## **Parish Mission**

We are one Church: loving Jesus,  
serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

## **Parish Vision**

We are a vibrant Catholic church  
serving a diverse community in a  
safe and welcoming environment  
where we care for all people  
along their faith journey.

## **Core Values**

Discipleship • Hospitality  
Serving • Worship

## *The Church in Central and Eastern Europe*

Today at all Masses, a second collection will be taken up for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 20 countries that still struggle to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

## **Weekend Masses**

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,  
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

## **Weekday Masses**

Monday 6:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.  
Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.  
Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

## **Confessions**

First Friday of month 12:00 noon  
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
or by appointment

## **CALLING ALL PARENTS WITH KIDS IN 5TH - 12TH GRADES**

Support from parents is vital to Youth Ministry!

Join us to hear about current events, plans,  
and how you can support the youth of our parish!

**Thursday, March 9 @ 6:30 PM  
@ the Old Convent**

To RSVP email Tiff @ [stvcapeyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stvcapeyouth@gmail.com)

If you are unable to attend, but would like to know more info,  
please let Tiff know @ [stvcapeyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stvcapeyouth@gmail.com)

*All the good that is in me is due to Holy Communion.*

*I owe everything to it.*

*I feel this holy fire has transformed me completely*

ST. MARIA FAUSTINA

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701  
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • [www.svcape.com](http://www.svcape.com)  
*Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836*

## • Mass Intentions •

### Monday, March 6

6:30 am Karen Baker ☩

### Tuesday, March 7

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

6:30 am Lucille Murphy ☩

### Wednesday, March 8

St. John of God

6:30 am Edward Koran ☩

5:15 pm Viola Hahn ☩

### Thursday, March 9

St. Frances of Rome

6:30 am Alexander Buchheit (living)

8:00 am Dave Johnson ☩

### Friday, March 10

6:30 am Jerry Uhrhan (living)

8:00 am Living and Deceased Members  
of the Jim and Fay Johnson Family

### Saturday, March 11

6:30 am Harold Werner ☩

5:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family

### Sunday, March 12

Third Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Glen Grojean ☩

9:00 am Walter Westrich ☩

10:45 am Sue Priest ☩

3:00 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory ☩  
(Bilingual)

## • Prayer Requests •

Please remember **Roger Arnzen, Josh Thompson**, the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.



**Congratulations to  
Jeffery and Kassie Cox  
as they celebrate their  
30th Wedding Anniversary!**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation  
will be celebrated each Wednesday  
evening during Lent from 6:30 -  
7:30 p.m. This Wednesday please  
welcome Father Allan Saunders.**

**?????????????  
GUESS WHO!**

Which priest will celebrate his birthday on March 15?

**Answer:** To find the answer, come to Holy Mass next weekend and pick up a bulletin!

*"Bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?*

## March Youth Ministry Memo

**DYC (Fri./Sat., March 24/25)** - (7-12th grades) Registration is open now. Please be aware that parents need to register their teens, this includes teens who are confirmation candidates. (See flyer in bulletin & gathering space.)

**Steubenville** - (8-12th grades) Registration has closed, and we have started a waiting list. If your teen would like to attend, but didn't previously register, please let me know.

**Upcoming Events** - 7 Church Tour on Holy Thursday, (Regional) Faith & Floats @ the end of April, and our next StV Youth Night will likely be in early May. Keep your eyes open for information to come.

**Thank you** to everyone who reached out and volunteered to help with food/snacks at our Youth Nights. If you would like to be on the list, please let me know at the email below. And thank you for the continued prayers for the Youth of our Parish.

Questions? - [stvcapeyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stvcapeyouth@gmail.com)

*Tiff Brey*  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

## Women's Council Meeting

The next St. Vincent de Paul Women's Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, March 6, 2023** in the lower meeting room. The guest speaker at the meeting will be Tiffany Brey, St. Vincent de Paul Youth Ministry Coordinator. She will be explaining the exciting focus of the youth ministry program and how Women's Council members can contribute to its success. Please consider bringing regular sized items for Maxine's Toiletry/Hygiene Drive. Maxine's could also use backpacks and alarm clocks. All women of the parish are invited!

**"PROCLAIM A HOLY FAST! CALL AN ASSEMBLY!  
GATHER THE ELDERS, ALL WHO DWELL IN THE LAND,  
TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, YOUR GOD,  
AND CRY OUT TO THE LORD!" JOEL 1:14**

*Parish Fast*

**EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
PARISH FAST AND PRAYER**

**ROSARY & CHAPLET 6:15 P.M. • ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH**



## May He Rest in Peace

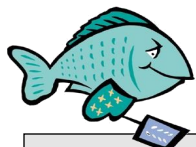
Sympathy is extended to the family of  
**Chuck Robinson**, father of Mark Robinson.

*May he and all the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



## Lenten Fish Fry

The St. Vincent's Men's Association will sponsor a Catfish Dinner each Friday during Lent from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The family friendly meal includes fresh American pond raised catfish, "Todt secret recipe cole slaw," "Koehler famous hush puppies," side dishes, dessert and drink. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children, and ages 7 and under eat free. Carryouts are available.



## Fish Dinner Desserts

Each week during Lent, the Circle Leaders of the Women's Council will contact parishioners to donate desserts for the Friday Fish Dinner. If you have never been called and would like to bring a dessert on Friday, March 10, please contact one of the following: Joan Walter (573-979-3964), Mary Alice Burt (573-334-3455), Ann Yuede (573-579-7635), Dotty Wenciewicz (573-579-7260), Chrisie Rust (573-579-3727), Pat Wells (573-335-2299), or Rita Koeppel (573-837-5106).

## Stations of the Cross - A Beautiful Tradition

The Stations of the Cross are images of stories about the passion and death of Jesus Christ. Most of the stories which make up the Stations were drawn from Scripture, and others, such as Saint Veronica wiping the face of Jesus, were taken from tradition. The route traditionally held to have been taken by Jesus to his death at Calvary (Golgotha) in Jerusalem is called the Via Dolorosa or the Sorrowful Way. The Stations were erected in local churches as a way of bringing this prayerful experience to those who could not travel to Jerusalem.



Stations of the Cross are celebrated in the church every Friday during Lent at 5:00 in Spanish and at 6:15 p.m. in English. Stations are also celebrated by the school children on most Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Please join in this devotional prayer and make it a part of your Lenten journey.

## Holy Hour for Vocations

St. Mary Cathedral will host a Holy Hour for Vocations on **Monday, March 13**, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. This will be a time of quiet prayer for those who are discerning vocations and for an increase in vocations throughout the Church and diocese.

"He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design ..." Do you think God is offering you the grace of a vocation to serve the Lord and others as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious? If so, contact Father Alex Sutachan at 573-335-7667 or email [fatheralex@svparish.com](mailto:fatheralex@svparish.com).

**IS CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD ON YOUR GROCERY LIST?**

## • The Week Ahead •

### Monday, March 6

6:30 pm Women's Council

### Tuesday, March 7

6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
6:30 pm DeSales

### Wednesday, March 8

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry (8:00 - 11:00 am)  
9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study  
9:00 am Mass at Veterans' Home  
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour  
6:00 pm Parish School of Religion  
6:00 pm RCIA  
6:00 pm Reconciliation/Adoration

### Thursday, March 9

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 11:00 am)  
9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study  
9:00 am Campus Planning Meeting  
1:00 pm Thursday Afternoon Bible Study  
5:30 pm Centering Prayer  
6:30 pm Youth Ministry Parent Meeting  
7:00 pm "Presence" Small Group

### Friday, March 10

12:00 pm Reconciliation  
5:00 pm Lenten Fish Fry  
5:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)  
6:15 pm Stations of the Cross (English)  
7:00 pm Reconciliation

### Saturday, March 11

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 12:00 noon)  
3:30 pm Reconciliation

### Sunday, March 12

9:00 am Children's Liturgy  
10:00 am Coffee and Christ



## Readings - March 12, 2023

Exodus 17:3-7 • Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42

## Collection - February 26, 2023

Collection	\$ 11,709.00
E-Tithing	\$ 22,469.10
Total	\$ 34,178.10
Weekly Budget	\$ 33,000.00
Difference (7-1-22 to 2-26-23)	\$ 78,760.26

*Thank you for being good  
stewards of God's gifts!*

## • Contact Information •

### Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

### Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS  
fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools /Diocesan Chancellor  
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau  
rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA  
mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University  
thomas.schumer@semocatholic.org / 573-335-7667

### Tiffany Brey

Youth Ministry Coordinator  
stvcapeyouth@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

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### Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance

coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667



## Notre Dame Booster Club Bulldog Madness

Come to the best watch party in town! Notre Dame Regional High School's Booster Club Bulldog Madness, presented by The Bank of Missouri, is back for the 2023 Men's NCAA Tournament! Watch games on **Friday, March 17**, at Deerfield Lodge from first tip until the last game is over!

The cost is \$30 per person, payable at the door, and you'll get all the cold beverages (courtesy of Kohlfeld Distributing!) and food you can eat including a fish fry at 5:00 p.m. **plus** games like cornhole, squares board, raffles and prizes. March Madness games will be shown on four screens.

This event is for ages 21 and over. Tickets are available at the door. Proceeds benefit the Notre Dame Booster Club. You can read more at <https://www.notredamehighschool.org/march/>.



**SEMO Area Ultreyas** take place the third Saturday of each month. The next one will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson, on **Saturday, March 18**. Morning prayers begin at 9:00 a.m. in the church with grouping, refreshments, and socializing to follow. Come share the joy with fellow Cursillistas. De Colores!

## Deanery 6 Council of Catholic Women

Deanery 6 Council of Catholic Women will have their March Retreat and Business Meeting on **Saturday, March 18, 2023**, at St. Lawrence Church in New Hamburg. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. followed by registration and breakfast at 9:00 a.m. The speaker will be Nicole Allcock, a member of St. Mary's Parish and a Lay Oblate with the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles. A business meeting will follow and end with a rosary at the church grotto. Please contact Carol Glueck (573-225-8473) for more information or for a ride to the meeting.

## Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles

In His Mercy, God has shown the flesh and blood of Jesus through Eucharistic miracles. Come see 126 Vatican authenticated miracles of the world. This impressive walk-through exhibit will be available for viewing at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Perryville, Missouri, on **Saturday, March 18, from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m., Sunday, March 19, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Monday, March 20, from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Contact Sharon Layton at 573-547-8161 or the St. Vincent de Paul Parish office at 573-547-4300 for more information. This exhibit is being made available at no cost to visitors.

## Thanks to Cub Scout Pack 16

Thank you to the members of Cub Scout Pack 16 and their parents for hosting Vincent's Vittles in February. 130 people came by to enjoy a nutritious meal! Many thanks to all who helped including those who dropped off desserts! If you as an individual or group would like to participate in this rewarding ministry, please contact Deacon Mark. Plan to come to the next Vincent's Vittles on **March 25!**



## DYC 2023

ALL 7TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH ARE INVITED!

### Specifics for St. Vincent Parishioners

- 1) To register, grab a parent & scan the code below
- 2) Mark that you are attending with St. Vincent
- 3) Youth Leader = Tiff Brey 573-335-7667
- 4) Click "My youth leader will be paying for the group"
- 5) An Endowment form will be emailed after you register

#### Adults/Parents

We will need Virtus compliant chaperones for the conference. If you are interested in attending, please email Tiff @ stvcapeyouth@gmail.com.

A portion of the fee will be covered by the Parish Youth Endowment for all StV Parishioners leaving the cost at \$10. (\$20 if registered after 3/19/23)

Payments and completed endowment forms need to be dropped off at the Parish Office by 3/23/23.

## CAPE GIRARDEAU

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 24 & 25  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY  
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD- CAPE GIRARDEAU



### Attention: Catholic Men

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri



Wednesday, March 29 • 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
St. Denis • Benton, Missouri

An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion  
To plan for food, please RSVP to [SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com](mailto:SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com),  
or "SEMO Catholic Man Night" on Facebook or text 573-275-5214.



### Baptismal Prep

Parents and godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class before a child is baptized in the Catholic faith. The next class is scheduled for **Sunday, March 19, at 4:30 p.m.** and will be held in the upper meeting room. Please contact the parish office to register and to fill out a baptismal registration form.

### A Lenten Opportunity

## Beatitude Boxes and Bags

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.*

MATTHEW 5:6

During the season of Lent, the parishioners of St. Vincent are invited to collect food and paper items for distribution to the needy. **Beatitude Boxes** will be filled with specific food items and **Beatitude Bags** will be filled with specific paper products.

Tags are posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. Some tags will list all items in the box (approximate cost \$30-\$35) and all items in the bag (approximate cost \$12-\$15). Other tags list some of the items in the box or bag. You are invited to take one or more tags and purchase the requested items. **Return items to the designated location in the gathering area no later than April 7.** Boxes and bags will then be filled and given to the needy in the local community.

— Mark your calendar —

## Lenten Parish Mission

with

*Patty Schneider*

March 27-29, 2023

*Extend mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping.*

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



## Employment Opportunities

### **ELA Position**

St. Augustine Catholic School, Kelso, is currently accepting applications for a Junior High English teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. For an application or questions, please email Katie Hendricks at [khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net](mailto:khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net) or call 573-264-4644. Applications may also be found at [stakelso.org](http://stakelso.org).

### **Part Time Aide Position**

St. Augustine Catholic School, Kelso, is currently accepting applications for two part time teachers' assistants for the infant room for the 2023-2024 school year. For an application or questions, email Katie Hendricks at [khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net](mailto:khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net) or call 573-264-4644. Applications may also be found at [stakelso.org](http://stakelso.org).

### **Classroom Teacher**

St. Denis Catholic School, Benton, has a teaching position open for a combined 3rd/4th grade class for the 2023-2024 school year. Applications are available on our website <https://stdenisbenton.eduk12.net/> (under Forms and Documents), or the diocesan website, [www.dioscg.org](http://www.dioscg.org). They may also be picked up in the school office. All applications are due by March 31, 2023. Interested candidates may email Melinda Heisserer, [melinda@stdenisbenton.eduk12.net](mailto:melinda@stdenisbenton.eduk12.net).

### **Administrative Assistant**

Notre Dame Regional High School is seeking applications for a main office Administrative Assistant. Applicants should have the ability to demonstrate computer proficiency, positive interpersonal skills, detail oriented, ability to multitask and meet deadlines.

Notre Dame is a Roman Catholic school in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, so preference would be given to practicing Catholics. Interested candidates should send their resume, cover letter and list of references to [paulunterreiner@notredamecape.org](mailto:paulunterreiner@notredamecape.org). Application deadline is March 24, 2023. Find a complete job listing online at: [www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings](http://www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings).

If you are looking for a Lenten project, come work with the Ugly Quilt ministry. They meet on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the basement of the DePaul Center. *Come and experience a "Holy Moment!"*

## Notre Dame 2023 Spring Musical

Notre Dame Regional High School presents Disney's The Little Mermaid. Performances will be held on March 30, March 31, April 1, and April 2. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday shows will begin at 7:00 p.m., while the Sunday performance will be a family friendly matinee beginning at 3:00 p.m. Doors will open at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday for face painting. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at [www.notredamehighschool.org/musical](http://www.notredamehighschool.org/musical).



Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's The Little Mermaid will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl," and "Part of Your World."

## Your Help is Needed

Do you know that St. Vincent de Paul Parish is responsible for the spiritual needs of Catholics in five nursing homes in Cape Girardeau, as well as parishioners who are homebound? Each week, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion take the Eucharist to the following care facilities: Auburn Creek, Capetown, Chateau Girardeau, Fountainbleau Lodge, and Heartland Care and Rehab. Additionally, ministers take the Eucharist to several parishioners who are homebound. What a wonderful ministry to bring the very Body of Jesus Christ to those who are not able to join their fellow Catholics at Mass.

More ministers are needed to help with this wonderful ministry. If you are currently an extraordinary minister, would like to be one, or would like to participate in ministry to these care facilities and the homebound, please contact Deacon Mark Kiblinger at [mkiblinger@svparish.com](mailto:mkiblinger@svparish.com). In addition, if you know of someone who is unable to come to Mass and would like to receive the Eucharist, please contact Deacon Mark.



## Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at [contactus@svparish](mailto:contactus@svparish) or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau. ☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.  
☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.  
☐ Please change my address to the one shown above.

## This Week at Home

### Follow the Signposts

**Monday, March 6**

Consider the directions from Jesus in Luke's Gospel today signposts. They are so pivotal that our Church built the entire Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016 on their foundation. Be compassionate. Avoid judgment. Shun condemnation. Offer pardon. Give generously. Write these directions on note cards and place them around your home where you will see them as daily signposts from Jesus. *Today's readings: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36-38.*

### Live with Integrity

**Tuesday, March 7**

At the heart of today's Gospel is the call to live discipleship with integrity. To be a person of integrity means there is congruence between who we say we are and what we do. Speak with transparency. Act with authenticity. Strive for sincerity. Embrace the virtue of integrity as the doorway to holiness. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, and 23; Matthew 23:1-12.*

### Seek to Serve

**Wednesday, March 8**

Contending to be the first to be noticed, the first to be served, the first in line is a familiar human condition. Jesus reminds his apostles, and all of us, to vigorously resist this temptation. Instead he instructs us to cultivate humility through privileging service over prestige. Commit to practicing one act of humble service anonymously today. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalm 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Matthew 20:17-28.*

### Who Sits at Our Doorway?

**Thursday, March 9**

Today's Scriptures provide a striking reminder to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. The contrasting images between those like the rich man who trust in human beings and those who trust in the Lord reveal the consequences of our choices. Take a careful look around to see who sits at our "doorway." Perhaps there is a neighbor who goes regularly without food or feels invisible to our local community. How might we raise the visibility of those at our doorways and reach out with hope in the Lord? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19-31.*

### The Voices We Listen To

**Friday, March 10**

The quickest way to veer off the path of holiness is to bury our conscience. In tuning out the guiding voice of the Holy Spirit we can be easily led to destructive choices. The people around us may influence and even form us in some ways. Think about the primary people in your life and how they impact you. Today's Scriptures invite us to examine our conscience and do a check-in on the primary voices we are listening to in daily life. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46.*

### Lead with Compassion

**Saturday, March 11**

Jesus uses parables to show how much our merciful God desires to be close to us. Today's parable about the forgiving father reminds us that God steadfastly stands waiting for us with open arms and infinite forgiveness. Be alert to the lost in your family and community: a child who feigns disinterest, a teen suffering with mental illness, a troubled, lonely neighbor. Through our warm smiles, kind gestures, and hospitable spirit we can communicate the invitation to return to our compassionate God and reconcile with the community of faith. *Today's readings: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.*

**Sunday, March 5**

### Listen to Him

*Today's readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9.* Every year on the Second Sunday of Lent we remember the transfiguration of Jesus. Placing ourselves in the narrative on that high mountain, new details might be noticed that draw us into deeper layers of meaning.

The readings leave three details for contemplation this week. First, whenever Jesus retreats to a mountain or quiet place in the Scriptures, he seeks prayer time with his Father. Second, this particular time of prayer between Jesus and his Father results in a *theophany*, an intense manifestation of God in visible form recognizable to the human eye. Jesus reveals his full divinity to Peter, James, and John, and subsequently to all of us through the written account. Finally, God boldly breaks into the encounter and speaks words of confirmation to the disciples and to us, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5).

During Lent the Church invites us to be even more intentional about stepping away from our normal activities to meet God in prayer. Our response to this invitation will not disappoint because prayer never leaves us unchanged. When we follow the example of Jesus, make time and space for prayer, and quiet ourselves into a listening posture, we give God the opportunity to speak the words we most need to hear. How does God speak with love to you today through Matthew's portrayal of this pinnacle moment in Jesus' life?



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