

Pastor's Note

by Fr John Sullivan, SJ

There are a few occasions every year when I attend a fancy banquet. As I sit down I then nervously look at my table setting. There are big and small plates, soup and salad bowls, innumerable pieces of cutlery and a water glass placed in the perfect spot to make me uncertain whose glass it is. My nervousness is a result of my anxiety - I want to appear as if I know the proper etiquette and rules to such fancy eating. And so, I wait until someone else dives in and then I just do what they do. We are often concerned about doing what everyone expects. We follow the rules of proper decorum in an effort not to stand out, not to have fingers pointed in our direction. We want to appear as if fit in, as if we know the "secret handshake." In this Sunday's Gospel, we are presented with just such a situation, of what we think is proper in our relationship with God, and how the Lord reconfigures it through his Transfiguration.

Jesus was transfigured before three of the Apostles, namely, Peter, James and John. In his Transfiguration, the Lord revealed to them his full person, that is, perfectly human and perfectly divine. He showed them that he is not merely a carpenter, not merely a wise teacher but he is God. As the fulfillment of the law and Prophets, Moses and Elijah appear with him. We know that Peter offers to build three dwellings, one for Christ and two for Moses and Elijah. In mid-sentence, however, a cloud descended and overshadowed them. From within the cloud, they heard the voice of God the Father proclaim, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" At this, they were overcome by fear and "fell to the ground." The Lord then touched them and said, "Get up and do not be afraid."

The reaction of the three Apostles was correct, it was proper decorum. The presence of the cloud is meant to show that God is present. And when God is present in God's power and majesty, it is not business as usual. God told Moses to remove Moses' shoes when in his presence. The Shepherds were terrified when God was present in the plain outside Bethlehem. As creatures, it seems that we must not look upon the Creator, that we must retain a necessary and respectful distance, and that we must only pay homage and offer worship. The result of our proper decorum, of doing what we think is

expected, is that, if you will, God remains there and we remain here. The Lord, however, touches the Apostles, and tells them to stand up and not to be afraid.

When he touches the Apostles, and tells them to stand up and not to be afraid, the Lord reconfigures our relationship with him, that is, with God. We want to show that we fit in, that we know what we're supposed to do. We retain a distance between ourselves and God. It seems only "fitting and proper." And yet, it isn't God's priority, it isn't God's will or desire. The Lord touched the Apostles, and told them to stand and not to be afraid. He has shown us God's will and desire – not that we keep our distance, but rather that we open ourselves up to him, that we simply allow ourselves to be loved by God. We are overwhelmed by the anxiety of fitting in, gnawed by the doubt of its impossibility. God, however, is overwhelmed by love of his children, of us. In the Transfiguration, God is showing us that we fit in because God has made it so. God has made us his beloved children in whom God delights. Indeed, as Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

God Bless and Take Care!

Fr. John

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Schedule

Way of the Cross | Fridays throughout Lent, 7pm

Lenten Penance Service | Wed, March 18 at 7pm

Lenten Parish Mission with Michael Swan | *Theme: Written on My Heart* | March 23, 24, and 25 at 7pm

April 9, 2020 – **Holy Thursday** – 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until Midnight

April 10, 2020 – **Good Friday**

9:30am - Way of the Cross

11:00am - Children's Service

3:00pm - Lord's Passion

April 11, 2020 – **Easter Vigil** – 8:00pm Solemn Easter Vigil followed by Easter Bread Party

April 12, 2020 – **Easter Sunday** – Masses at 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am, 1pm, 5pm (Tamil), 7pm

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 9

8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Pillai + [Alfred]
 12:10pm Thanksgiving [Glen & Wilma]
 5:15 pm Our Lady of Lourdes [Lucy Cardoso & Family]

Tuesday, March 10

8:00 am YASMIN KONE + [Kone Family]
 12:10 pm MILDRED JEFFREY + [Eileen Casey]
 5:15 pm Vincenzo Scalamogna + [Family]

Wednesday, March 11

8:00 am Andy Diaz for Healing [Casildus Manuel]
 12:10pm Special Intention [Anonymous]
 5:15 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]

Thursday, March 12

8:00 am LIBERTY PITELE – Speed Recovery [R O B Team]
 12:10pm REMEDIOS OLIVER + [Oliver Family]
 5:15 pm Thanks to Virgin Mary, Holy Cross & Trinity
 [Moreno-Lee Family]

Friday, March 13

8:00 am Jacqueline Van Betlehem's Recovery [Yvonne Parnell]
 12:10pm NANCY KU's Intention [Nancy]
 5:15 pm Thanksgiving – FELY & Family [Fely Mawirat]

Saturday, March 14

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10pm Thanksgiving – Torrente Family [Eva]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

*Lucille Gonzalez, Donald Williamson
 Esperanza Mae Umali, Dulce Laurio Camara
 Sara Sexton, Jason Magno, Jorge Pawlak
 Belen Valdearella, Simeona Naynes-Ocado
 Marites Lopez*

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on Sunday, March 8th with clocks moving forward one hour.

Volunteer Tax Clinic | Sat, March 14, 10am-3pm | Please call the Parish Office at 416-924-6257 for an appointment. A drop-off service is also available for the homebound – please contact the office.

Development & Peace Way of the Cross | Monday, March 16, at **6:30pm** in the Church | A Way of the Cross evening in solidarity with the defenders of the Amazon people and lands, organized by the Parish's chapter of Development & Peace. All are welcome.

ShareLife Pancake Breakfast | In partnership with our Catholic Women's League, we invite you to join our Annual ShareLife Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 22 from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Cost: \$5.00

All-Inclusive Ministries Book Club | Meets on the Third Friday of every month at Bernadette Hall, 6:45pm-8:45pm. Visit www.allinclusiveministries.org for more details.

Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On Tuesday, March 3rd, the Archdiocese of Toronto issued a memo to all parishes regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

As of the time this bulletin is being sent for print (Thursday), the Archdiocese is neither requiring nor recommending any liturgical changes, based on the guidance of City of Toronto Public Health, with whom they are working closely with the goal of acting responsibly based on credible information from reliable sources.

Parishioners are encouraged to practice healthy hygiene, such as frequent hand-washing, avoiding touching eyes/nose/mouth, and sneezing/coughing into your sleeve. We also recommend staying home if you are sick; illness is a valid reason for missing Mass. More information is available from the provincial website (Ontario.ca/COVID-19) and the Archdiocese at <https://www.archtoronto.org/media-centre/news-archive/chancery-news/update-on-coronavirus>

However, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish wishes to encourage all parishioners to prayerfully consider, for the common good during this time:

- Receiving communion in the hand instead of on the tongue; and
- Exchanging the sign of peace during Mass without physical contact.

Also, as a precautionary measure we will be leaving empty the holy water fonts at the entrances of the church.

Please continue to pray for all those impacted by the coronavirus. We will continue to keep you updated.

Beauty from Our Faith

“Know that if you wish to possess Jesus Christ and to dwell in His Sacred Heart, you must have no other desire and be content with Him alone.”

~ St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Corrections/updates? Email bulletin@lourdes.to