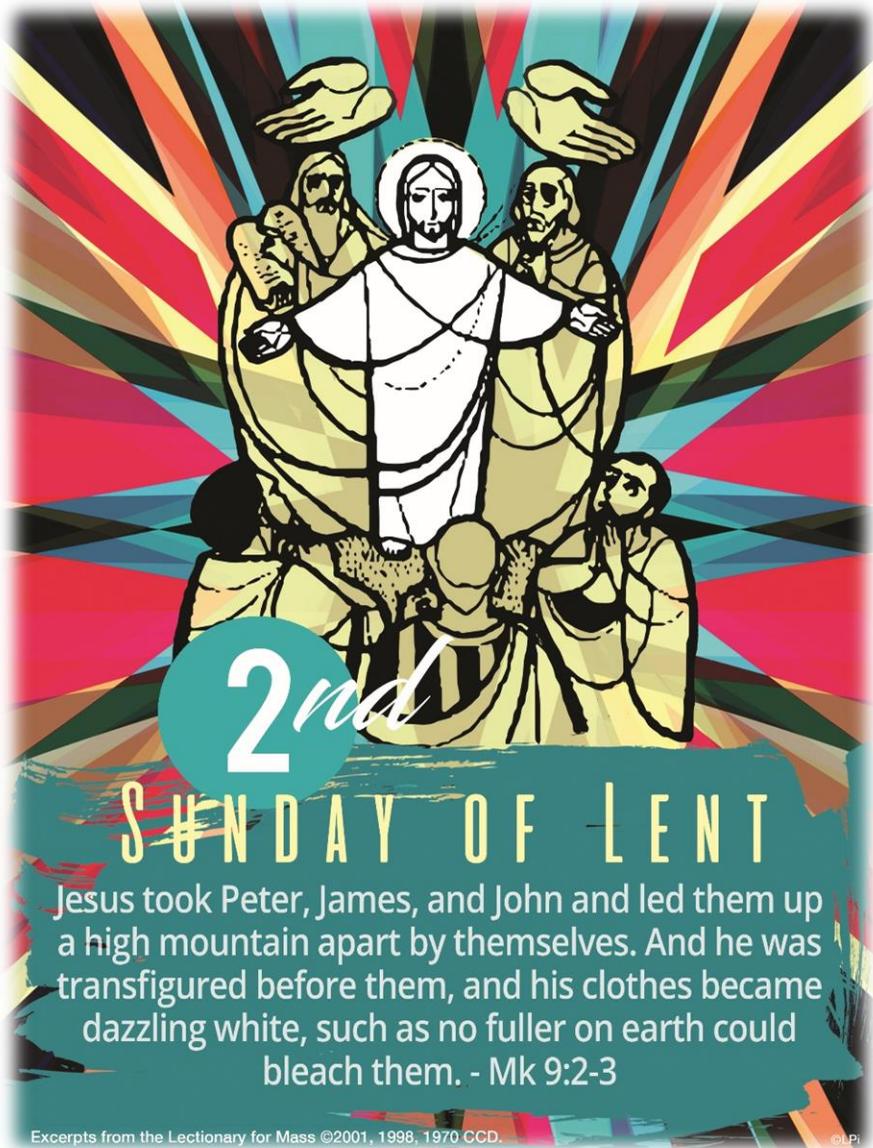


Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032
www.assumptiondc.org



Rev. Gregory Shaffer, Pastor

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am
Daily Mass: Monday thru Saturday 12:10 pm
Eucharistic Adoration: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm, Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 noon
or anytime by appointment

Address: 3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Pastor: Father Greg Shaffer
202-561-4178 Cell 240-463-9960

Email: frgreg@assumptiondc.org

Secretary: Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin-Williams

Phone: 202-561-4178 Fax 202-561-0336

Email: info@assumptiondc.org

**Pope Francis
Outreach Center :** Food Pantry and Clothing Room
Director: Ms. Mildred Brown
Assistant Director Ms. Brenda Hare
Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Phone: 202-561-5941 Fax 202-561-4024
Email outreach@assumptiondc.org



**Second Sunday of Lent
February 25, 2018**

“He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified”

– Mk 9:2-10

Have you ever had an experience with the Lord that terrified you? We normally don't use the word “terrified” in our faith because it implies fear (the opposite of faith). Other Catholic translations of today's Gospel referring to Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration use the words “frightened” and “exceedingly afraid”. We might use words like “in awe” or “overwhelmed”. I like the translation of “terrified” because it connotes both faith and fear on the part of the Apostles. It was unlike anything they had ever seen or experienced, so they didn't know what to think initially. They were probably in shock! They were being introduced to a whole new supernatural realm. It took some getting used, I'm sure. Rest assured, it was all good, just new.

I will use the word “terrified” to describe some experiences friends have had with the Lord. One lady was terrified with a vision recently on a retreat. It occurred during Eucharistic Adoration and healing prayers. As the priest prayed over her, she had a vision of the Blessed Mother. And, she saw her mother and grandmother on either side of Mary! She began to cry uncontrollably. It was all good, but overwhelming. The vision brought her much peace, and likewise her family when she told them about it.

Last year, a buddy of mine visited our rectory. He had a lot of stress in his life, and it was really getting to him. After hanging out some, we went into the rectory chapel and I exposed the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance on the altar. I left him alone with the Lord for a while. He told me later the Lord spoke to him very clearly (and he's not mentally ill, Ms. Joy Behar): “can you let me take over for a while?” The Lord's voice asking to take control of his life was clear as day, and he began to sob. The experience was terrifying in its power, but also ultimately brought him great healing.

Three years ago, a married couple began taking the miraculous powder of Our Lady of Milk in hopes of conceiving a child for the first time (after trying for four years). They also had Rosa Mystica (a statue of our Lady with its own powerful history) in their home at the time. During this grace-filled time, they had a terrifying vision one night. A single handprint appeared on their dining room window above Rosa Mystica just after they finished praying one night. It was not a handprint they ever saw before then, and they saw it only once afterward. It certainly seemed to them that it was the hand of God. It was terrifying but comforting. Within a few weeks, they conceived their first child.

The second time that I heard the Lord's call to the priesthood was terrifying. It was on a retreat and during Adoration. It was my second year of seminary when I was 50/50 on whether I was called or not. I was begging the Lord to give me an answer about my vocation, and I resoundingly heard, "I am calling you to be a priest". As with my friend, it was clearly the voice of the Lord. My heart skipped a few beats, and then it started racing. "Be careful what you wish for!" Tears began to roll down my face. This was it. The answer. Then, over the next 30 minutes or so, He gave me a clear vision of what my priesthood would look like. I was terrified but excited.

Many of us have the experience of being terrified at some point in our faith. It's bound to happen because we are dealing with the supernatural realm which is unfamiliar to us. More than that, though, God can surprise, overwhelm, and even terrify us with how awesome He is and how intimately He loves us.

May you know the freedom of Christ this Lent,

Fr Greg

Healing Prayers for: George Thomas, Yvonne Lesesne, Juanita Watkins, Deacon Ralph Cyrus, Burdell Thomas, Angella Greene, Frederick McNeil, James Anthony Murphy, Earnest Ingram.Jr., John Howard, Iris Best, Dorothy Hollis, Calvin Best Gisele Best, Lezeal Rorie, Corinne Bachiller, Lillian Taylor, Veronica Brown, Deacon McBurnett Smith, Marsha Carlson-Meyers, Dr. Dee Jones Adams, Barry Robella, Father Dan Vitz, Eleonora Best, Jane Rhyne, Faye Lyon, Abby Fargo, Mildred Selmar, Heather Wooten-Rollins, Brenda Newman, Courtney Barlow, Christine Jones, Benjamin Davis, Ronald Horton, Veronica Harris, Teresa Wilkinson, Pauline Haggins, Dorothy Sylvester, Darlene Jones, Paul Higgins, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Johnson, June Murphy
Our Homebound Parishioners: Mary Cooke, Sybil Depeazer, Louvenia Gray, Fr. Charles Green, Pauline Johnson, Yvonne Samuel, Audrey Saunders, Joan Shields, Viola Walker

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK-February 25, 2018

The hope of being transformed or transfigured into the image of God awaits all of God's children. We walk through this life knowing that our eternal destiny is to be like God and live eternally in his presence. How does this truth about who we can become change the way we live today? Does it even matter to us that we are called to a higher purpose that is often quite different than the one we fabricate for ourselves here on earth? A transformed, eternal life is God's desire for all of his daughters and sons. Knowing this helps us put suffering in perspective and walk peacefully with hope in our hearts.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK -Mk 9:2-10

Abraham's willingness to unconditionally obey God's command brought him the divine blessings of land and descendants. What blessings would you like to receive from God?

READINGS FOR THEWEEK

Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday	Ex 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25



ONE MONTH MEMEORIAL MASS CELEBRATIONS AND MASS INTENSIONS

All daily Masses are available for Mass Intensions. Please give the office a call if you would like to have a Mass offered for someone.



2nd Sunday of Lent

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. - Mk 9:2-3



Announcements

We will have Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent after the 12:10 Mass

10 Great Ways to be a Catholic Evangelist! Joanne Fields from St. Paul Street Evangelization will be giving a seminar to us on evangelization at St. Dominic's on March 11 from 12 - 1:30 pm. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn how to be more effective in sharing your faith!

Encounter Lent

Join our faith community -- and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl located in the back of the church.

Come and Let Us Sing

St. Augustine: "He who sings prays twice"

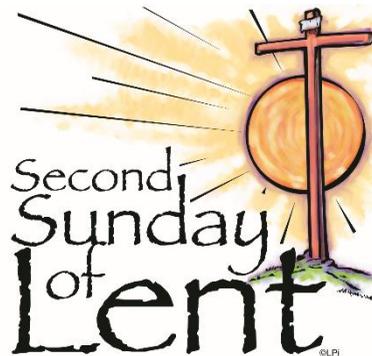
If you have a desire to praise God in song, please consider joining our music ministry. Rehearsals are on Tuesday at 6:00 pm. In the church. Please see Ms. Denese after Mass.

Prayer | Fasting | Almsgiving

When I was first in parish work, I remember the parish priest talking with the schoolchildren about the topic of Lent and prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. He asked them if any of them knew what fasting was. After a very long wait, one student raised his hand and said, "It is what I do when my Mom is mad at me. I run really fast!" The adults in the assembly burst into laughter. Laughter is good. However, the Lenten devotions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are very serious practices for us as we prepare to celebrate the Easter mysteries.

As our catechumens prepare for the Easter sacraments, we are called by the Church to model what it means to be a Catholic Christians. We are called, especially during this Lenten season, to pray, fast, and give from the wealth we have to those who need our assistance.

This season is not merely a season of obligation to act more intently as God calls us to act; it is a season of opportunity to practice the foundation of our faith more attentively: prayer, fasting, almsgiving. Events like the Transfiguration don't happen



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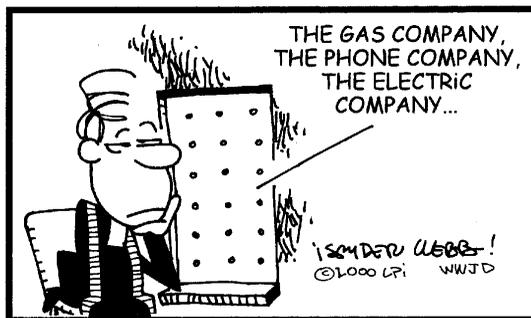
Can you recommend some good books for Lenten spiritual reading?

A

On more than one occasion, a coach being interviewed about his team — successful or not — will be asked about the next step. The inevitable response includes something about getting back to basics. Reviewing the fundamentals of the sport strengthens performance and builds confidence.

The best Lenten reading takes us back to the fundamentals. If Lent is the time for the church to be on retreat, then we should focus on the texts that help us deepen our understanding of our faith. Spend time reading one of the Gospels, and use a Scripture commentary to learn all you can about the passion of Jesus. Read about the lives of the saints, especially your patron saint and that of your parish. Perhaps there is some local candidate for sainthood, like Father Walter Ciszek, SJ, who wrote several faith-inspiring books. Finally, you can use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to learn more about the church's teachings and beliefs. The sections on prayer and the Mass are really great reflections and more than one person has commented on how powerful and interesting they are. Focusing on the basics really helps us take another step forward in our faith. We have not only a better understanding of what we believe and practice, but also why we believe. With that belief comes the confidence we need to be better, more faithful witnesses to Christ.

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



February 25, 2018