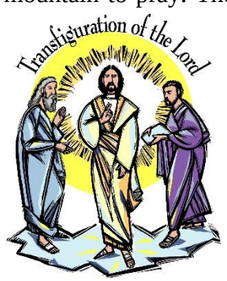
Second Sunday of Lent — March 16, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

We can look at Lent in one of two ways. We can see it negatively as a time of deprivation, or we can see it positively as an opportunity for growth. The Church hopes that we can all have a positive spirit because Lent offers us the opportunity for the transformation of our lives. That is real growth.

Jesus in the Gospel in the second Sunday of Lent reveals the great Lenten theme of transformation. He begins to reveal the Paschal Mystery. He went up a mountain to pray. There he became transfigured. His face changed and his garments became dazzlingly white. This manifestation prefigured the glory that would come to him through his death and resurrection. It helps us to understand that it pleased God to lead his Son through suffering to joy, through humiliation to exaltation, and through death to life. That is the transformation which is at the heart of Lent.



God's plan for us is to share in this mystery. We began our sharing through baptism. With Christ we died to sin so that we could begin a new life. It was a transformation for us. We were given a white garment to remind us that we had become like Jesus in his transfiguration. As the transfiguration for Jesus was but a prelude to his resurrection, so baptism directs us to a future event. That event is our sharing in the glory of Christ's resurrection.

The body and the blood of the Lord in the Eucharist nourish us on our way to our destiny. At Mass, we go in procession to the communion station, a symbol of a people who are on a journey. Standing to receive communion is a sign of our faith in the promise of Jesus. "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have life eternal and I will raise them up on the last day." (John 6:54).

As baptism begins our sharing in the Paschal Mystery, so the Eucharist will perfect and complete it. We must never forget that the Mass is our means for participating in the Paschal Mystery since the Eucharist is the sacrament of the death and the resurrection of Christ. In the Mass, we find the meaning and purpose of human existence.

The world is not a stage upon which a play is enacted. Rather the world is part of God's kingdom of truth and life. And the truth is that we are on a journey, but our journey is not a death march. We do not end as we began in a "second childishness," instead, we come to the fullness of our likeness to Christ as the mature children of God. Our inheritance from a loving Father is everlasting life.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**March 18**	**11:00AM**
Cynthia Soares †		Jennifer and Emily
Wed.	**March 19**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving (birthday/safe travels)		
Thur.	**March 20**	**11:00AM**
Athena, A.J., Nico, Imelda (March birthdays)		
Fri.	**March 21**	**11:00AM**
Maisey Frances Ty		Alma & Rogelio
Sat.	**March 22**	**4:30PM**
Arturo Balagot †		Arturo
Sun.	**March 23**	**9:00AM**
Robert B. Bañaga (birthday)		Lydia
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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