

Dear Padre,

I've been to Latin Masses, and people do not socialize in church and seem more respectful than at a regular parish Mass, where people are leaving before Mass is finished, and there seems to be constant talking. Why is there such a contrast?

I'd like to caution you about two assumptions. The first is about judging people who leave Mass early. We can't know what is in a person's heart. Some people work on Sundays or have other unavoidable commitments that require them to leave at a certain time.

The second assumption is that socializing before and after a parish Mass is disrespectful. The celebratory and welcoming culture of a Christian community that has gathered together to celebrate the Eucharist gives glory and praise to God. It is not disrespectful of the Eucharist, but rather a powerful witness to the unity, the community, and the faith of the people of God who gather with their Lord and Savior.

There are Eucharistic gatherings that encourage silence, such as the Latin Mass you have experienced as well as Eucharistic Adoration and Forty Hours Devotion. We need both—silence as we worship together and joyful interaction with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Both give glory to God.

All that being said, to those who enjoy socializing or who must leave the Mass before the final note of the final hymn: do be considerate of those praying near you. They might be praying for you! ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MARCH 2	MARCH 3	MARCH 4	MARCH 5	MARCH 6	MARCH 7	MARCH 8
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38	Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12	Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28	Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Ex 17:3-7 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We must also cry out for peace in the world. Let us all say, "We want peace in the world!"

Let us pray for peace. Let us pray for peace and be witnesses of the peace and reconciliation of Jesus Christ, the light that we are all seeking for today's world.

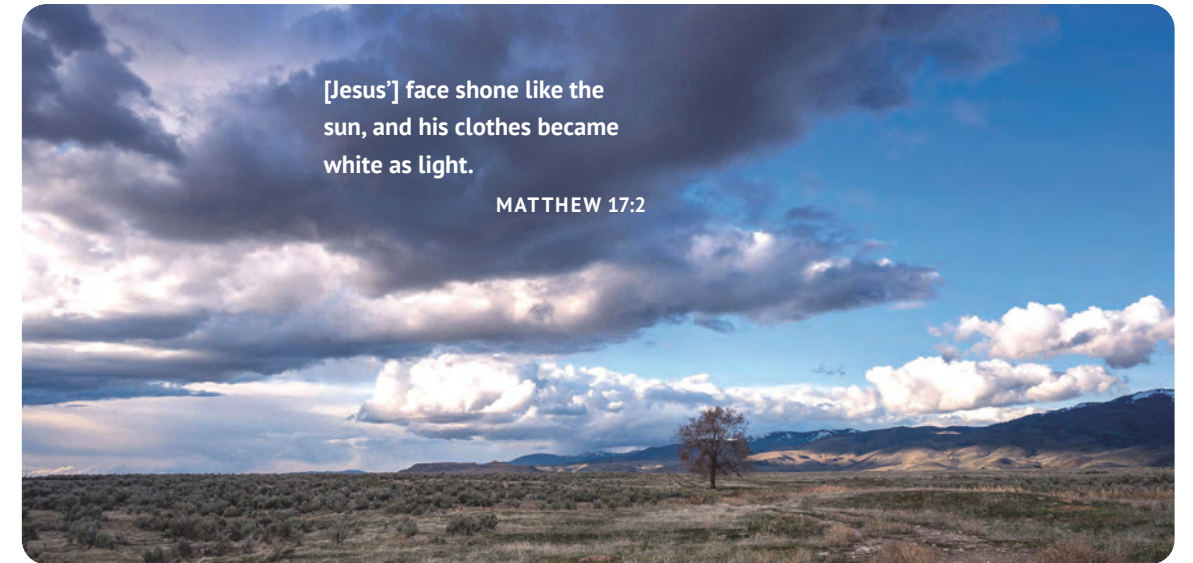
GREETING TO YOUNG PEOPLE, ROME, JULY 29, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9



[Jesus'] face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

MATTHEW 17:2

Where Heaven and Earth Meet

ANN M. GARRIDO

Have you ever noticed that mountains and clouds seem to “go together”? When I was a child, I thought it was because the mountains’ height pierced the sky. Turns out, it’s a bit more complicated. Mountains “create” their own clouds. When moving air comes across a mountain front, it forces the warm air to rise to cooler zones and water droplets in the air to condense. The phenomenon is so common that these clouds have their own name: lenticular. They are known for being bright—even colorful—with rays of light peeking out from behind.

It’s no wonder why, throughout history, people have sought to ascend mountains as part of their spiritual journey. It was a way to get closer to the “heavens”—to those radiant clouds. Recall the prophet Elijah, who climbs Mount Sinai seeking a face-to-face encounter with God. Or Moses, who, with three of his closest friends, ascends Mount Sinai to meet God in a radiant cloud that hovers over the top of the peak.

So, it’s also no wonder why Jesus, with three of *his* closest friends, might also climb a mountain and meet Elijah and Moses there. No wonder why that mountain would be covered in a bright cloud that thunders with God’s voice, and why, in that moment, Scripture describes heaven and earth as mysteriously yet visibly mingling in the person of the transfigured Jesus.

The story of the transfiguration reminds us that just like mountains and clouds were meant for one another, heaven and earth were meant for one another. Jesus stands at the point where the two meet. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What places or moments in my life have made me feel close to heaven?



The
Catholic Church
in Pocahontas County
West Virginia

OUR MISSION

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20, NAB-RE)

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH & CHURCH OFFICE, 714 Tenth Avenue, Marlinton WV 24954
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST MISSION, 92 Catholic Church Road, Rts 250 & 92, Bartow WV 24920
ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX CHAPEL, 6332 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe WV 26209
Telephone: St. John Neumann 304-799-6778, St. Bernard of Clairvaux 304-572-0847
Website: PocahontasCatholic.org
E-mail: Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org



Patty Bryant
Margaret Bryant
Ann Burke
Danielle Cade
Dick Connor
Matt Madruga
Cynthia Olson
Quinn Riffle
Tristan Sizemore

EUCHARIST THIS WEEK

Monday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Friday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	St. Bernard
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	St. John
	11:30 a.m.	St. Mark



St. John Neumann Church is open for private prayer every day during daylight.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered before each Eucharist or by appointment, and at St. Bernard on Saturdays 4:30-5:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available any time upon request.



Please call the Church office (304-799-6778) if you know of a parishioner who is sick, in the hospital or nursing home, homebound, deployed, or in prison.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513.
To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.
To report suspected cases of sexual misconduct or sexual abuse by a bishop or eparch, please contact ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 800-276-1562.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

"All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."

(Genesis 12:3, NAB)

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

(2 Timothy 1:8, NAB-RE)

And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

(Matthew 17:8, NAB-RE)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES

- **Daylight Saving Time** begins next Sunday (March 8) at 2 a.m.
- **Stations of the Cross** is every Friday during Lent at 5 p.m. at St. John Neumann and St. Mark the Evangelist. Stations will include Exposition and Benediction at St. John Neumann this week.
- **Community Lenten Prayer Service** is every Wednesday at noon at Marlinton United Methodist Church. The topic this week is "Ransom: Jesus Sets You Free" (Luke 4:16-30, Acts 16:16-29) by Minnehaha Springs New Hope Lutheran Church pastor Rev. Angela Lambert.
- **Knights of Columbus Friday Fish Fry** in White Sulphur Springs is March 6, 13, 20, 27.

ASH WEDNESDAY

	<u>attendance</u>	<u>collection</u>
St. John Neumann	22	
Priests' Retirement collection		\$280.00
St. Mark the Evangelist	9	
Priests' Retirement collection		\$53.00
St. Bernard of Clairvaux	32	
Priests' Retirement collection		\$190.00
total	63	\$523.00

LAST WEEKEND

	<u>attendance</u>	<u>collection</u>
St. John Neumann	30	\$735.00
donation		\$3,500.00
St. Mark the Evangelist	11	\$282.50
Fund for the Poor		\$20.25
St. Bernard of Clairvaux	104	\$766.25
Fund for the Poor		\$510.00
total	145	\$5,814.00

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Fund for the Poor
\$1,106.54 distributed in Jan. & Feb.
in direct aid for those in need.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

First Reading (Genesis 12:1-4a)

The LORD said to Abram:
"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father's house
to a land that I will show you.

"I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth
shall find blessing in you."

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22,
Grail translation, 1963)

Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading (2 Timothy 1:8b-10)

Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life,
not according to our works
but according to his own design
and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus
before time began,
but now made manifest
through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus,
who destroyed death
and brought life and immortality to light
through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation (*cf.* Matthew 17:5)

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

Gospel (Matthew 17:1-9)

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them;
his face shone like the sun
and his clothes became white as light.
And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them,
conversing with him.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Lord, it is good that we are here.
If you wish, I will make three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
While he was still speaking, behold,
a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,
then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him."
When the disciples heard this,
they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.
But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
"Rise, and do not be afraid."
And when the disciples raised their eyes,
they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
Jesus charged them,
"Do not tell the vision to anyone
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Reflection (2023)

Some people are born in one place, and live there for their entire lives. But many of us move from one place to another: some for a short time and then return home, and others never to return home.

Abram left his home as the Lord directed him, and he found blessing from some and curse from others, in his new home.

Peter, James and John accompanied Jesus up the mountain, and they loved the experience of Jesus transfigured before them, conversing with Moses and Elijah, but then they had to come down from the mountain back to their ordinary routine of life.

Sometimes, the move is wonderful, other times the move can be full of difficulties. Sometimes, you are welcomed in your new home, sometimes you are rejected. Sometimes, we are the ones who make it unwelcome and difficult for those who are new in our own country – certainly not the way the Lord wants us to behave.

St. Paul tells us to “bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.” When we move from our home to a new home, we can be the ones who bring the Gospel to new places. That is what Abram did, maybe without realizing it, and that is what the disciples were called to do in their time, coming down from the mountain. Today, we too are the missionaries of the Gospel wherever we are, bearing with difficulties if they come, but always trusting in the strength that comes from God.

Reflection (2026-a)

When I was a child, if I complained about anything, I was told “offer it up.” Those of you who are older, you probably remember the same. Where does that come from?

St. Paul tells Timothy “Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.” Offer it up – there is more to life than just the hardships you are experiencing or the comforts that you would prefer.

In the worst of times, if we reflect on the best of times that we have been given, and the best of times that we are promised, well, any reason to complain disappears.

Reflection (2026-b)

God said to Abram “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.” And so Abram went to a foreign land. It's like so many immigrants, today and in the past, and for so many different reasons, but the same today and in the past, going to a foreign land.

So what happened to Abram when he got to this foreign land? Well, there is a hint when God says “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.” It appears that some people welcomed him and others did not. It's like so many immigrants, today and in the past. It makes me think of our country's history, the many Chinese, Germans, Irish, Polish, Italians, Mexicans, and others who came here – there were open borders, but that didn't mean they were welcomed. These immigrants, especially those who were Catholic, were often scorned, told they were criminals, bringing disease, taking away jobs, and on top of that, so many homes and churches were ravaged and destroyed. God said “I will curse those who curse you.”

But God also told Abram that “All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you,” just as immigrants in our country have been a blessing to all of us.

Reflection (2026-c)

Ever have a wonderful experience, and you would like to have that experience over and over again? Well, that is exactly what happened to Peter, James and John. They were up on the mountain with Jesus and then he was transfigured before them and became brilliant, and Moses (the law) and Elijah (the prophets) joined him. For faithful Jews, nothing could be better, and they wanted to experience this over and over again.

When Peter, James and John opened their eyes, they were alone with the Jesus who was with them before they went up the mountain. Sadly for them, they had to come down from the mountain. They had to face the reality that life isn't always wonderful.

For us too, there are wonderful times, and times that are more ordinary. The reality is, most of our life is ordinary, we have to come down from the mountain. But Jesus is still with us.

1 March 2026
Second Sunday of Lent - Year A

Penitential Rite

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Faithful

Almighty Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to hear our prayers:

- for the leaders of the Church, that they will be guided by the values of the Gospel, we pray
- for the leaders of our country, that they will be guided by wisdom and humility, we pray
- for peace in the Middle East, we pray
- for pilgrims and travelers, that they will return home safely, we pray
- for immigrants, refugees, and exiles, that they will be welcomed, we pray
- for those suffering hardships in life, that they will find the support they need, we pray
- for all of us gathered for Eucharist, that Christ will be part of our ordinary lives, we pray
- for all those who have died, that they will be saved, we pray
- and for your other intentions
(pause)
- for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, we pray

Merciful Father, we ask you to hear our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.