

**AUGUST 6, 2017
THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's Gospel we hear the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus. The Transfiguration has one primary purpose, namely to reveal the divine identity of Jesus. This scene takes place immediately after Jesus tells his disciples that he would be rejected by their political and religious leaders and be made to suffer and die before rising in the third day. It is clear that this came as a terrible shock to the disciples. Their vision of the Messiah was of a glorious, victorious king defeating all of the enemies of Israel. The idea that the Messiah would be rejected, made to suffer and die at the hands of his own people, was simply unthinkable.

The disciples are brought by Jesus up to a solitary mountain. As usual in such miraculous events there is minimal detail. We are simply told that Jesus was transfigured and that his clothing became dazzling white. This Gospel gives us a glimpse at what awaits those who persevere in their living faith. The vision of Christ glorified was a special privilege granted to the disciples which they would never forget. Elijah and Moses are present in the Transfiguration episode and are in conversation with Jesus. They represent the Prophets and the Law and together they represent the whole tradition of God's people. Jesus then becomes the manifestation of the fullness of divine Revelation.

The highlight of the transfiguration is the voice that comes from the overcasting cloud, identifying Jesus as the Beloved Son, and the mandate to listen to Him. Here again we have further endorsement of Jesus for the benefit of his disciples. Jesus is God's own dear Son. And they are to listen to Jesus even when he says things that they find it hard to accept: his rejection, suffering, death – and resurrection.

The voice that they heard from the Father told the disciples that they must listen to Jesus. This needs our whole-hearted attention. True listening requires a response from the listener, attending to what was said, recognizing its meaning, and making it part of the person's inner, conscious experience. God speaks to us in so many ways, through persons, situations and activities. St. John of the Cross once pointed out that many people who think they are listening to God are actually only listening to themselves. We must be attentive listeners. First, we need to learn to listen to what life is saying in the present moment before trying to shape our prayer. Too often we make the world just a projection of our own desires and fears. Second, when life gives us its message, we should make the understanding of that message as the object of our prayer. At the foundation of the life of prayer is the virtue of hope, and hope is the grace to believe that whatever events occur, they will contain the necessary ingredients of our salvation. Third, once we have received the message of life we must attempt to integrate it into our life. In this context the Gospel must be the focal point of our lives.

Jesus is the beloved Son of God and we ought to listen to him, for he has the words of eternal life. The glory of Jesus' transfiguration prepared the disciples to accept the scandal of the cross. They would understand this only after the resurrection. Today let us look beyond the pain of life and see the presence of God in our world, and the gift of life that God makes to each of us. Let us listen to him intently and put his words into practice. Let us all open ourselves so that we may both experience that love in our own lives and help others to know that love too. And be ready to offer our lives for others in any way that God calls us.

May God bless you,

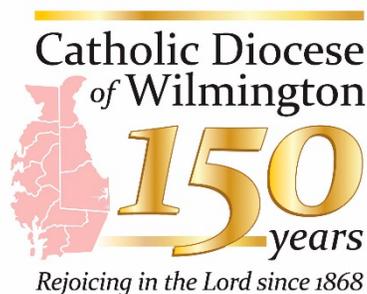
Monsignor Hurley

BAPTISM

For parents who wish to have their babies baptized the next class will take place on Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00pm in the church. For further information and to register, please call the rectory office at 658-5131.

PILGRIMAGE SIGN-UP EXTENDED

As part of the Diocese of Wilmington's 150th anniversary celebration, a pilgrimage to Anney, Rome and Assisi will take place April 16 – 26, 2018. *And you are invited!*



Anney, the birthplace of Saint Francis de Sales, patron saint of the Diocese of Wilmington, is an alpine town in southeastern France, where Lake Annecy

feeds into the Thiou River. It's known for its cobbled streets, winding canals, and pastel-colored houses. Rome, Italy's capital, is a sprawling, cosmopolitan city with nearly 3,000 years of globally influential art, architecture and culture on display, including ancient ruins such as the Forum and the Colosseum. It is the home of Vatican City, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, as well as the burial place of Blessed Pope Pius IX, the diocese's founder. Assisi is a hill town in central Italy's Umbria region. It was the birthplace of St. Francis, one of Italy's patron saints. Caravelle Tours has extended the deadline to August 15. Space is limited and reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. For more information about this affordable, once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage, including a day-to-day itinerary, exclusive features, and pricing, go to www.cdow.org/anniversary-pilgrimage.

LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY

\$3,431.00

Thank you for your generosity

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 7

6:00pm – Kevin A. Selner

Tuesday, August 8

8:00am – Marlin Adams

Wednesday, August 9

8:00am – Anna and Herman Schweiger

Thursday, August 10

8:00am – Margaret Borgia

Saturday, August 12

5:00pm – Mass for the People

Sunday, August 13

8am – Henry 'Hank' Ableman
10am – Mary Bifferato

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage Moments: "And [Jesus] was transfigured before them, his face shone like the sun." (Mt 17:2) What is the most endearing physical feature of your beloved? Has it changed over the years?

Parenting Pointers: Read a book to (or with) your child that was a favorite when you were their age. Already did that? How about writing or telling a short story together.

VOCATION REFLECTION

One day, each of us will share the transfigured life of the Lord in the Kingdom of God. Until we get there, though, religious women, religious men, deacons and priests attempt to keep us focused on that new life through lives of holiness and service. Is God calling you to serve the Church in one of these vocations? If you think so, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations!

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER

The Cathedral of Saint Peter is in need of our help. The weekend of August 19 & 20, a special collection for the maintenance and preservation of the Cathedral of Saint Peter will be taken up in all parishes in our diocese. Please be as generous as you can. For more information about the Cathedral, please visit the Cathedral's website at www.cathedralofstpeter.com. For a video tour of the Cathedral, special video message from Father Klein the Cathedral's Administrator, and a tour of the Cathedral's 99 year-old organ, visit the diocesan website at www.cdow.org. Together, we can help assure that our Cathedral will remain a place of beauty and prayer for generations to come.

GOD IS ON THE AIR

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, August 13th, Father John Solomon, Associate Pastor of Holy Cross Church in Dover and co-chairman of the Diocesan 150th Anniversary Pilgrimage Committee, will discuss the pilgrimage to Rome and Annecy that will take place in April 2018. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at cdow.org/communications or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DRIFTED

Please join us in praying for our families and friends on the Feast of St. Monica, Sunday, August 27, 2017. We will be praying together to bring back all those who have fallen away from the Church at a special Devotional Event at St Hedwig Church, 408 S. Harrison Street, Wilmington, DE. 3pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, Rosary, Benediction and 4pm Holy Mass. Come fill out a Tear Drop card for your loved ones and all who have fallen away from the church, all are welcome.

For more information

12374columbiettes@gmail.com

ST. DOMINIC – August 8

Saint Dominic was born in Caleruega, Spain in 1170. His parents were members of the Spanish nobility and related to the ruling family. In 1194, Dominic joined a Benedictine order, the Canons Regular in Osma. He became the superior, or prior of the chapter in 1201.

In July 1215, Dominic was granted permission to form his own religious order for this purpose. He was joined by six followers. The group followed a Rule of Life which included a strict routine of discipline, including prayer and penance. They also established a system of education. They often traveled the countryside to preach. His order was confirmed on December 22, 1216, and in 1217, Pope Honorius III dubbed Dominic and his followers "The Order of Preachers."

According to writings about him, Dominic chose for himself only the most meager of provisions. His accommodations and clothes were described as "mean." He refused to sleep on a bed. When he reached the edge of a town, he removed his sandals and walked barefoot, regardless of the path. He constantly prayed or issued instruction as he walked and whenever he faced discomfort, he praised God. His only possessions were a small bundle and a staff. In his bundle he kept a copy of the Gospel of Matthew and the Epistles of St. Paul, which he would read over and over again. He always drew great crowds wherever he went.

In July of 1221, after several weeks of illness, he made a last confession and a will, then passed away on August 6. He died in the presence of his brother Dominicans. Dominic was just 51.

Pope Gregory IX canonized St. Dominic on July 13, 1234, and his feast day is August 8. Saint Dominic is the patron saint of astronomers, the Dominican Republic, and the innocent who are falsely accused of crimes. He is commonly depicted in icons with a dog, or lilies, holding a book. His hair always appears cut with a tonsure.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

The Transfiguration of the Lord | Matthew 17:1-9

On the mountain Jesus is Transfigured and appears with Moses and Elijah, who in the old testament both remind the people to "Obey God". Jesus tells Peter, James and John to believe and obey Him and keep this vision a secret until the resurrection.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words...
left, right, up, down
or diagonally.

On the mountain, a voice from Heaven is heard,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well
pleased; listen to Him."

Matthew 17:5



- Transfigured
- Matthew
- Jesus
- Mountain
- Peter
- James
- John
- Appears
- Shone
- Sun
- Clothes
- White
- Light
- Moses
- Elijah
- Obey
- God
- Believe
- Speaking
- Cloud
- Son
- Love
- Well
- Pleased
- Listen

H	T	R	B	S	P	E	T	E	R	N	E	B
A	I	A	P	P	E	A	R	S	S	W	R	C
J	O	H	N	E	H	M	A	T	T	H	E	W
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N	O	S	C	L	O	U	D	T	P	L	A	S
R	L	H	T	A	S	E	H	T	O	L	C	W