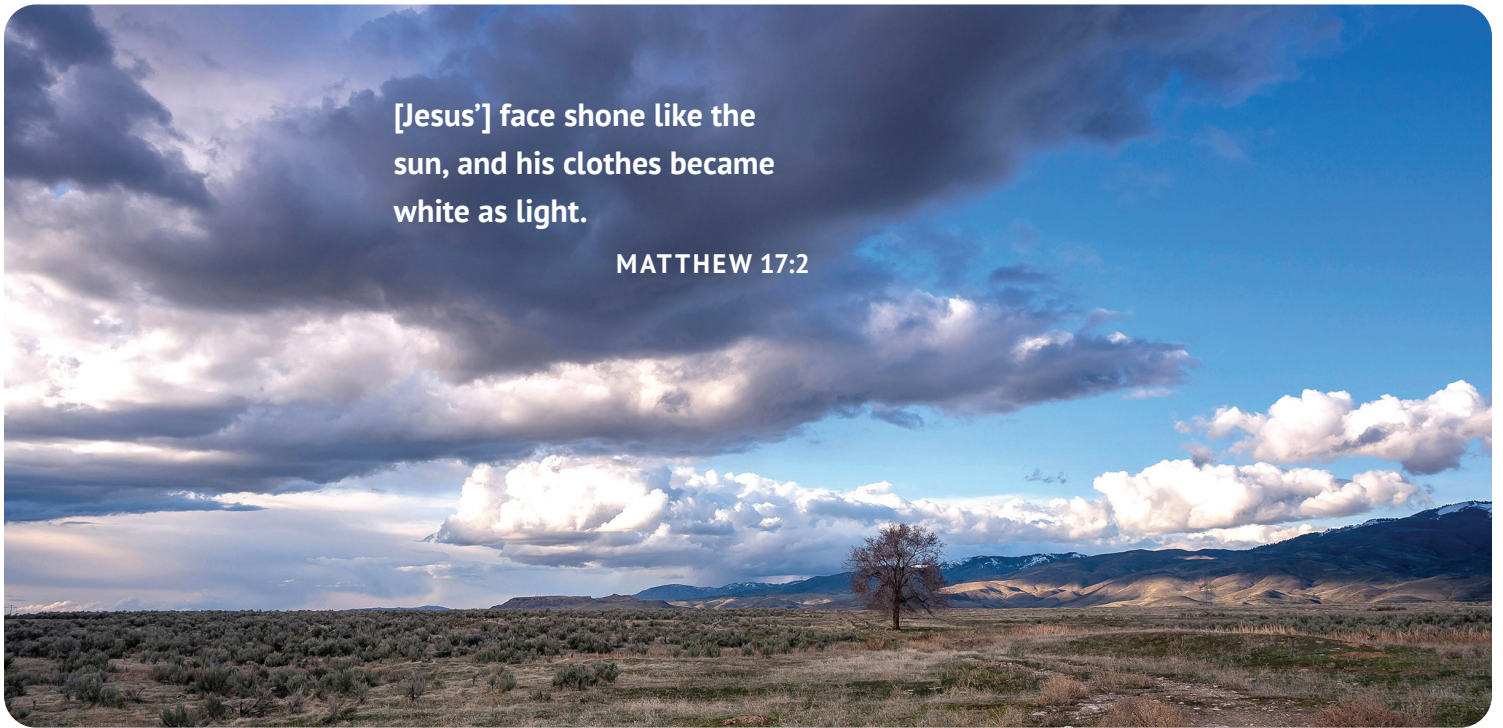




[Jesus'] face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

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?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.
Telephone: (441) 234-2321
Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



Mass Schedule

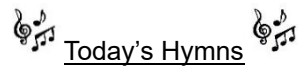
Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Baptism | By appointment: one month in advance |
| Weddings | By date: one year in advance (approx.) |
| Sacrament of Reconciliation | Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m. |
| Filipino Mass – Saturday | 21 st March 2026: 11:00 a.m. |
| Kids & Youth Ministry | 1 st March 2026 |
| Children's/Family Mass | 22 nd March 2026 |
| Pastoral & Finance Council | 9 th March 2026 – 6:30 p.m. |
| Coffee Social | 26 th April, 2026 |
| Second Collection | 8 th March 2026 |

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA
Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

| | |
|---|--|
| Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson | Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative |
| Walette Cross Stewardship Representative | Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education - Kids & Youth Ministry |
| Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader | Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry |



Today's Hymns

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| Entrance: | Be Not Afraid | #673 |
| Offertory: | We Remember | P |
| Communion: | I Have Loved You | #623 |
| Recessional: | The Glory of These Forty Days | #347 |

Leader of Song: Aidan Stones



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 8th March 2026

Proclaimer of God's Word
Sacristan
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Server
Music

Elizabeth Card
Stephen Card
Jane Bermingham
Kathie Ausenda
Liam/Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our sick and shut-ins in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTION:

Sunday, 1st March

*Francisca Domondon

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

| MASS – 9:00 a.m. | Attendees | Collection |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Saturday, 21 st February – 11:00 a.m. – Filipino Mass | 26 | 181.00 |
| Sunday 22 nd February - Regular | 40 | 375.00 |
| TOTAL: | 66 | \$556.00 |

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information:
St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 –



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY at 7:00 p.m.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the Coffee Social last Sunday morning, a nice warm, welcoming experience. It was nice to be with one another, once again, in such a relaxing environment, and nicer still that we were able to have Sue (Moench) spend that brief time with us. These get-togethers create a deep sense of "community." We are most grateful to all who contributed the delectable goodies; who helped with setting up; and who helped with the clean-up afterwards. Please know, you all are very much appreciated.



On Thursday, 19th March. Mass at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate The Feast of St. Joseph, followed by a social in the Parish Centre. Our celebrant will be Bishop Wes. If you would like to donate towards the refreshment table, your kindness and "goodies" are always appreciated (and enjoyed!).

Dear Portuguese Family: Please be advised that on the 4th Sunday of Lent, 15th March 2026, there will be a special Lenten Retreat Day for our Portuguese community. We will host Fr. Vando Marques Gomes who is the Parish Priest of St. Helen's Parish in "Little Portugal" in Toronto. Fr. Vando will preside the 10:00 a.m. Mass and then will be available for confessions from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Theresa's.

Please be advised, that due to Bishop Wes' unexpected trip to Port of Spain to meet with their Tribunal for Causes of Saints, and with the Apostolic Nuncio, there will be no Portuguese Mass on Wednesday, 4th March at 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church.

BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Pope Leo held the usual Lenten meeting with the priests of the Diocese of Rome. After the Pontiff delivered a speech inviting them to "rekindle the fire" of their ministry, an off-camera discussion followed during which he responded to spontaneous questions.

In response to a question about how the Gospel can be embodied in the world of young people, the Pope said: "First of all, what is needed is the witness of the priest. Then, when meeting young people, priests must broaden their horizons in order to reach as many of them as possible. For this, it is necessary to rediscover the value of communion." He also recommended knowing well "the community in which one lives and works. It is necessary to know the reality well. To love your community, you must know it. Therefore, a genuine shared effort is needed to understand it better and thus face together all the challenges that arise."

The Pope then invited the priests to engage fully in real life and called for vigilance when confronted with artificial intelligence and internet use. He warned against the temptation to prepare homilies with artificial intelligence. "Like all the muscles in the body, if we do not use them, if we do not exercise them, they die. The brain needs to be used; our intelligence must also be exercised so as not to lose this capacity. To give a true homily is to share faith and AI will never be able to share faith," he said. One question was more reflective: "Today, as priests, many are unable to rejoice in the success of a fellow priest, and many experience loneliness. We are all human, but we should set a good example, especially the example of priestly fraternity." He dwelt at length on how to cultivate priestly friendship and reaffirmed "the need for fraternity, for the joy of being together. We must give thanks and truly live in gratitude for the fact of being priests, from the day of our ordination every single day. We must thank God for this great gift and live the priesthood with gratitude, and here a great deal of humility is also required."

Have a serene weekend and a blessed Lent!

Bishop Wes

CONTINUING THE MISSION: Second Sunday of Lent

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. [Matthew 17:1-3](#)

This was not the first time that the Son of God spoke to Moses and Elijah on a high mountain. Recall that Moses was called up to Mount Sinai (also called Horeb) to be with the Lord for forty days and forty nights, during which time the finger of God inscribed the Law on tablets, given to Moses to give to the people. During that time, the Israelites, from the base of the mountain, saw the summit consumed in fire. Similarly, Elijah, the great prophet, was called up that same mountain to encounter the Lord. He entered a cave and waited. Elijah then encountered a strong and violent wind, an earthquake, and a fire. But

God was not in any of them. Then Elijah heard a light quiet sound, a whisper, and he hid his face out of reverence as the Lord spoke to him.

In the experience of the Transfiguration, which we ponder today, the Son of God, now in the flesh, allowed His glory to once again shine forth. As He did, He conversed with Moses and Elijah in the presence of three of His disciples. These disciples were in awe, just as Moses and Elijah had been during their first encounters with God on Mount Sinai. These two great Old Testament figures now stand as witnesses of God's unfolding plan, revealing by their presence that Jesus is the fulfillment of all they had been entrusted to teach in their lifetime.

Moses' encounter with God on the mountain provided the foundation of the Law for the people of Israel. This Law guided them for centuries and ultimately came to fulfillment in Jesus, who transformed the Law and elevated it to a new level by grace and mercy. Elijah's encounter with God on the mountain gave him direction to anoint kings to lead the people and to anoint Elisha as the prophet to succeed him. Elijah and Elisha continually preached to the people, calling them back to fidelity to the covenant God had made with them.

On the Mount of the Transfiguration, Jesus prepared three new disciples to continue the mission He began through Moses and continued through Elijah. Jesus gave these disciples the New Law of grace and mercy that He came to institute. The disciples were also entrusted with the prophetic mission of Elijah to call people to repentance and to fidelity to the covenant.

Today, our Lord calls all of his faithful servants up a spiritual mountain with Him so as to entrust to them the ongoing mission given to these great servants of old. Through prayer, God will manifest His divine presence to each of us if we are willing to make that journey. As He does, He will entrust to us His New Law and inscribe it on our hearts. He will command us to embrace the perfection of the love of God and the bestowal of mercy on others. He will entrust us with the prophetic mission of calling others back to God and will empower us to fulfill that mission in accord with His perfect will.

Reflect, today, upon this glorious scene of the Transfiguration. This image teaches us about the entire plan of God throughout time. Prayerfully ponder the idea that Jesus is inviting you to make the arduous journey up the mountain of prayer, self-discipline, virtue, and holiness. Pray that your eyes will be open to see His glory and that this experience will inspire you and strengthen you to continue to fulfill the mission of God started long ago, until it comes to completion when He returns at the end of time.

PRAYER

My Transfigured Lord, you spoke your divine will to the great leaders of old on a high mountain. You also entrusted your mission to the disciples on a holy mountain. Please give me the grace and determination I also need to journey with you up the mountain of prayer so that I will be entrusted with the mission you give to me. Jesus, I trust in you.

Source: My Catholic Life

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 |
| <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> |
| 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*.



PROFIBSANT / CATHOPIC



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

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