



[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. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: **5:00pm**, Sunday: **10:15am**
Saturday **7:00pm** (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES ...

FEBRUARY 28/MARCH 1st - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Fred Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Willile Forbes
Collection: Jesse Almeida

MARCH 7/8th - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Kathy Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS ...

FEBRUARY 28/MARCH 1st - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM St. Michael's Deceased Parishioners
10:15AM For all the Souls in Purgatory

MARCH 7/8th - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM St. Michael's Deceased Parishioners
10:15AM Francisco Bizarro & Deolinda Bizarro ++

Thank you for your generosity.

FEBRUARY 21/22nd COLLECTION:

\$643.00

Maintenance Collection:

\$315.00

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

Pastor's Point ...

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel is from St. Matthew 17:1-9. This momentary vision of Christ, in his glory, was given in order to strengthen the three principal Apostles to face the trials to their faith, which the sufferings and crucifixion of their beloved master would bring on them. For the very same reason it is retold to us today, in the early part of Lent, to encourage us to persevere in our Lenten mortification. It reminds us that, very soon, the Easter bells will be ringing out their message of joy once more. If we are sharers with Christ in his sufferings, we shall be sharers with him in his glory as St. Paul reminds us.

This is a truth we all too easily forget, namely, that we cannot and do not get to heaven in a limousine. Our spell on earth is the chance given us by our heavenly Father to earn an eternal reward. This reward surpasses even the wildest imagination of man. We could never earn it, but God accepts the little we can do and provides the balance of his infinite mercy. And yet there are many, far too many, who refuse even that little bit that is asked of them, and are thus running the risk of not partaking in God's scheme for their eternal happiness.

And are they any happier during their few years on this earth by acting thus towards the God of mercy? Can they, by ignoring God and their duties towards him, remove all pain, all sorrow, all sufferings, from their daily lives? Death, which means a total separation from all we possessed and cherished in this world, is waiting around the corner for all of us. Who can face it more calmly and confidently —he man who is firmly convinced that it is the gateway to a new life, and who has done his best to earn admission through that gateway, or the man who has acted all his life as if death did not exist for him, and who has done everything to have the gate to the new life shut forever in his face?

Illnesses and troubles and disappointments are the lot of all men. They respect neither wealth, nor power, nor position. The man who knows his purpose in life, and is ever striving to reach the goal God's goodness has planned for him, can and will see in these trials of life the hand of a kind father who is preparing him for greater things. His sufferings become understandable and more bearable because of his attitude to life and its meaning. The man who ignores God and tries to close the eyes of his mind to the real facts of life has nothing to uphold him or console him in his hours of sorrow and pain. Yet, sorrow and pain will dog his footsteps, strive as he will to avoid them, and he can see no value, no divine purpose in these, for him, misfortunes.

Christ has asked us to follow him, carrying our daily cross, and the end of our journey is not Calvary but resurrection, the entrance to a life of glory with our risen Savior. The Christian who grasps his cross closely and willingly, knowing its value for his real life, will find it becomes lighter and often not a burden but a pleasure. The man who tries to shuffle off his cross, and who curses and rebels against him who sent it, will find it doubles its weight and loses all the value it was intended to have for his true welfare.

Let the thought of the Transfiguration encourage each one of us today, to do the little God demands of us, so that when we pass out of this life we may be assured of seeing Christ in his glory, ready to welcome us into his everlasting, glorious kingdom.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings, Cycle A, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M. (Catholic Culture - Feb. 23, 2026, The Liturgical Year).*


Fr. Joe, Pastor & Vicar General



Bishops 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!

+ Wes Jurek
Bishop Wes



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! ●



PROFESSANT / CATHOPIC

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

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

During Lent the 12:10pm Mass at St. Theresa's will be celebrated from Monday to Friday. Each Friday the Stations of the Cross at 11:40am .

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, March 4th at 6:00pm in St. Patrick's church.

St. MICHAEL'S

- SYNODAL BIBLE STUDY - is inspired by the method of SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION used during the Synod on Synodality. It is leading a small group using the texts from the Sacred Scriptures in a structured format emphasizing: listening, discernment, and community, fostering a deeper connection with scripture and with each other. This NEW BIBLE STUDY eawch **Wednesday at 3:00pm** in the Pastor's Office. Just park behind the Church and make sure to bring your CATHOLIC BIBLE. This is FREE and is open for anyone in the diocese interested with everything else provided. Any questions please contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236.
- EMMAUS Bible Study: Each Tuesday at 3pm
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S

- During the winter season St. Theresa's Cathedral will be locked at 4:00pm from Monday to Friday.
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Noon Day Mass in St. Theresa's Cathedral: The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am
- Adoration each Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

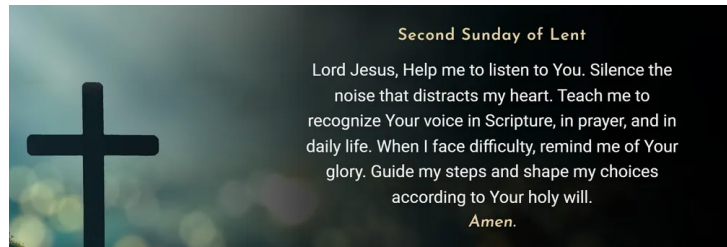
- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

Opening hours - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays.
Come and see what we have.

SPECIAL LENTEN RETREAT DAY

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 10:00am Mass and then will be available for confessions from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at St. Theresa's.



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



Mental Health Brochures . . .

Please find included in the Bulletin rack (in Portuguese and English) and as individual links to the weekly email blast three flyers discussing your Mental Health and Wellness. They are brilliant, informative and very helpful flyers.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Salvation Army Soup Run

As some of you may know, members of our diocese assist with The Salvation Army Soup Run to feed the homeless on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday nights.

Several of our volunteers have retired after many years of service and we are looking for new volunteers to replace them.

If you are interested in volunteering or getting more information, please contact Joe Kelly at joekelly@logic.bm .

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our Sunday Readings

GENESIS 12:1-4a
 PSALM 33:4-5,18-20,22
 2 TIMOTHY 1:8b-10
 MATTHEW 17:1-9

Future Glory

GENESIS 12:1-4a

Reading closely

1. Imagine that you're Abram.
 - a. What do you know about God?
 - b. How do you react to God?
 - c. How do you feel about what God promises?
 - d. How willing are you to leave?
 - e. How does your family react?
 - f. What do you think will happen?

Living the word

2. Have you ever sensed that God was leading you in a new direction?
3. How willing are you to let God disrupt your life?

THE FIRST READING

Salvation history

Chapters 1-11 of Genesis tell us how sin overwhelmed the world. In chapter 12 a new stage of salvation history begins. God's promise to Abram points ahead to the salvation of the whole world that will one day come about through Jesus, a distant descendant of Abram.

A personal blessing

The people of Abram's era didn't believe in an afterlife. The only way to "live" after death was to have children who would remember and honor their ancestors.

When God promises to make Abram *a great nation*, God means that Abram will have thousands of descendants who will remember him. For Abram there was no greater sign of divine favor. Thus, God's promise that "All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you" (v.3b) gave rise to the expression, "May you be as blessed as Abram."

A universal blessing

God's blessing of Abram also indicates that through him every person will eventually find – or lose – salvation (v.3a). Those who believe that God first revealed himself to Abram, then in the story of his descendants, and finally in Jesus will become part of God's blessing. Those who reject God will be excluded from divine favor.

MATTHEW 17:1-9

1. Imagine that you're Peter, James, or John.
 - a. What is it like on the mountain?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus takes you with him?
 - c. What are you and the other two disciples saying and/or doing?
 - d. How do you recognize Moses and Elijah?
 - e. How do you react when the two men appear?
 - f. Do you hear what Jesus talks about with Moses and Elijah?
 - g. Do you want Moses and Elijah to stay? Why/why not?
 - h. How would you describe the cloud?
 - i. What does the voice from the cloud sound like?
 - j. How well have you been listening to Jesus?
 - k. Why are you afraid?
 - l. How do you feel after Jesus helps you up?
 - m. Do you ever talk about what happened?

Living the word

2. How well are you listening to God's Son?
3. How do you find strength to persevere in your Lenten practices?

THE GOSPEL READING

Up the mountain

Jesus didn't fit people's expectations of the messiah. He broke Jewish laws, befriended sinners, and instead of visibly defeating his enemies, his enemies seemed to defeat him.

Knowing that it will be difficult for his followers to keep believing, Jesus takes his closest disciples aside so God can help them understand who he is.

Narrative clues

Elements of this story underscore the meaning of what is happening.

- Mountains were traditional places of revelation because they were close to the heavens, the dwelling place of God
- Dazzling whiteness was a sign of glory and divinity
- Clouds often represented God's presence because they carried life-giving water

Three tents

Moses represents God's law, and Elijah represents the prophets. By the time of Jesus, Jews had come to believe that both men had been taken up into heaven. People expected Elijah, and possibly also Moses, to return at the end of the age (Malachi 3:23).

Given these expectations and the extraordinary events that are unfolding before their eyes, Peter believes the final age has come. He offers to make permanent shelters for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. Not only does Peter misinterpret what's happening, he speaks as if Jesus were on equal footing with Moses and Elijah. God clarifies the superior status of Jesus.

Listen to him

The voice from the cloud repeats what it said after Jesus was baptized (3:17). This time, however, the voice adds, "Listen to him." Moses promised that God would send his people another prophet to teach and guide them: "to him shall you listen" (Deuteronomy 18:15). Jesus fulfills this promise, but he also exceeds it, for he is greater than even the greatest figures in his people's history.

Do not be afraid

It was typical of people having a vision of heavenly or divine figures to bow down in fear (Daniel 10:9 and Ezekiel 1:28f). The holy figure then raises the frightened person up. Jesus' touch and reassuring words also echo his healing actions in other parts of the Gospel.

PRAYER

*adapted from the Prayer over the People
for the Second Sunday of Lent*

O Lord,
 bless your people
 with a blessing that endures forever.
 Keep us faithful to your beloved Son.
 May we always desire
 and at last attain that glory
 whose beauty he revealed in his own body
 to the amazement of his apostles.
 We ask this in his holy name. Amen.