

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

FROM THE PASTOR
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

The Transfiguration of Jesus, which we celebrate this Sunday, is a very strange and mysterious event. The Apostles (Peter, James and John) seem to be in some kind of a dream state, confused and awe-stricken by what they see and hear. We might ask ourselves if this was some kind of mystical vision that was collectively given to them, or did the Transfiguration actually happen in time and space? It would certainly seem that it was an actual event, with very mystical tones.

The Apostles are at a very critical moment in their following of Christ. They are on the way to Jerusalem, and Jesus has just begun to speak clearly about what will happen there. He has told them that he will be arrested, beaten and killed. This is a crisis for them, because the belief was that the Messiah could not die but would live forever. He was to be a great military and political leader who would become King of Israel and would rule the world from Jerusalem. Now Jesus is telling them he would die—a sure sign for them that he was not the Messiah.

They are distraught. Their faith in Jesus is deeply shaken. Perhaps they have backed the wrong guy, and he is not who they have presumed him to be. If he will die in Jerusalem, what about them? What will their fate be? Perhaps they would be willing to die for him and with him if he is the Messiah, but no one wants to simply throw their life away on a lost and false cause. Should they go back home and abandon him?

It is in the midst of this crisis that Jesus is transfigured on Mount Tabor, showing the glory that was his before his Incarnation, and that will be his again when he is resurrected. He is joined by Moses, the great Lawgiver, and Elijah, the Prophet. The Jews referred to what we call the Old Testament as the Law and the Prophets. Their presence with Jesus assures the Apostles that he is the one who was prophesized and that they can trust him. Finally, there is a great cloud (recalling the cloud that contained God's presence which led the Hebrews through the desert), from which comes the voice of God, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

As the Transfiguration of the Lord gave comfort and encouragement to Peter and the others, so their witness to the Transfiguration is intended to give comfort and encouragement to us when we experience doubt and uncertainty. In our second reading, Saint Peter himself testifies to what he saw on the mountain that day.

Even though the Apostles had experienced the Transfiguration of Jesus, they still faltered when the Passion began. But all three of them, recalling this

amazing event, pulled themselves together and recommitted themselves to following and serving Christ. We may falter and fall as well, but sustained by the witness and example of the Apostles, we get up and move forward.

LISTENING SESSIONS

I have begun a series of Listening Sessions, so that I can get a feel for the needs of the parish community. This past week, I met with some of those who have been involved in leadership within the parish, and got from them their sense of where we are as a parish, where we need to go, and how we need to go about getting there. I want to hear from you as well. In next week's bulletin, I will list some future dates for listening sessions. Please feel free to email me (mcomer@mother-of-god.org) or call or text me (859-816-3198). You can also find me on FaceBook at Fr. Michael Comer. Friend request me, and I will put you on my friend list and you can message me.

SAINT DOMINIC

On Tuesday of this week, August 8, the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Dominic. Dominic was born in 1170 and died in 1221. He was a contemporary of Saint Francis, whom he did meet at one time. They share much in common, as remarkable men who were filled with the Spirit of God and who were great reformers in an age that dramatically needed reforming.

Born in Spain at a time in which the Cathar heresy was very powerful, Dominic founded a religious order (the Dominicans) who were known as the Order of Preachers. They went about preaching against the Cathars, winning many back to the Catholic faith. Most orders of that time were monastic and had large possessions of land that they farmed to provide for their needs. They tended to be cloistered, which meant that they did not leave, but remained within the monastery living lives of prayer. There were also the secular priests who lived in the towns and villages, tending to the spiritual needs of the people. Dominic's order lived in community, among the people and begged for their daily food and shelter.

SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was born as Edith Stein in 1891. She was a German Jewish philosopher, who converted to Catholicism in 1922. Later she became a Discalced Carmelite nun. After the Nazis came to power in Germany, she and her sister, who had also converted and joined the Carmelites, were sent to the Netherlands, for their safety, given their Jewish heritage. When the Germans conquered the Netherlands, the sisters were left alone for a number of years but were arrested in 1942, and sent to Auschwitz. There they were killed in the gas chambers on August 9, 1942. The

Church honors Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross this Wednesday, August 9, the 75th anniversary of her death.

SAINT CLARE

Saint Clare was born in 1194, in Assisi. When she was about 16, she heard Saint Francis preach in one of the local churches and decided to dedicate her life to God. She eventually sneaked away from her family, who did not want her to become a nun, and came to Saint Francis and his brothers. That day her hair was cut, as a sign of her dedication to God, and she was sent to a Benedictine convent, as there was not yet any Franciscan convents. A few years later, Clare's sister Agnes joined her, as did other women, and arrangements were made to have a convent built next to the Church of San Damiano (where Francis had heard Jesus speak to him from the Cross).

The women who lived and prayed here became known as the Order of Poor Ladies of San Damiano. Later, after her death, they were called the Order of Saint Clare, or sometimes, the Poor Clares.

One of the most famous scenes from Clare's life was when Assisi and her convent were being threatened by an army from Frederick II. Although she was very ill, she brought the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance and placed it on a wall facing out toward the troops, where they could see it. She knelt and prayed, "O Lord, protect these sisters who I cannot protect now." She heard a voice say to her, "I will always protect them and keep them in my care." At that moment, the soldiers were frightened by something and fled from Assisi, doing no harm to the sisters or to the city. Saint Clare is often portrayed holding the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament. This Friday, August 12, is the feast of Saint Clare.

CONVERT INSTRUCTION CLASSES

Are you interested in joining the Catholic faith, or in learning more about the Catholic Church? We will begin our Convert Instruction Classes (RCIA) on Tuesday, September 5, at 6:30 pm, in Saint Aloysius Center. If you are already Catholic but did not get a good education in the faith as you were growing up, these classes would be very helpful to you as well.

Call me (Father Comer) at 859-816-3198.

CCD--RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

The religious education classes for students attending public school are known as the Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine or CCD. Has a worse name that conveys less information ever been devised? I think not. We will be looking for a better name.

We will begin classes for students K-8 in September. The day of the week and the time have not yet been decided. But I would like to hear from you if you have a child in one of these grades. The two grades that most parents are very concerned with are second and eighth

grades. Second grade is when most students make their First Confession and First Communion. Eighth grade is the traditional year for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have a son or daughter that missed those Sacraments, please let me know so we can figure out what we need to do to catch them up.

Call me at 859-816-3198.

BEGINNING TO READ THE BIBLE

On Thursday, September 7, we will begin a series of sessions on Beginning to Read the Bible. These sessions will be presented twice—once at 11 am, and again at 6:30 pm. I have always done two sessions because I find that there are many people who can make one time but not the other.

The first sessions will focus on understanding the Bible itself, and then we will move into looking at specific parts of the Bible. We will look at the first 11 chapters of Genesis, which are a prologue to the entire Bible, laying out the problem the Fall and the effects of sin on the human race. They set up the stories that make up the rest of the Bible, and which are collectively known as Salvation History.

When we get to the Advent season, we will look at the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. There is no registration. Come to as many of the sessions as you can. Bring your Bible.

WHICH BIBLE SHOULD I BUY?

Any Bible is acceptable. I recommend the New American Bible translation. That is the translation that is used at Mass and is the translation I will be using. The Revised Standard Catholic Edition Bible is also very good. Many think that the translation is better than the New American Bible. A more traditional translation is the Douay-Rheims Bible.

If you are shopping for a Bible, you want to look for a good Catholic Bible. The Catholic Bible has more books than the Protestant Bible (if you want to know why, come to the class), and will have some differences in translation. The most important feature of a "good" Catholic Bible are the notes and articles and maps and graphs. These make it much easier to read and understand these documents, which are 2,000 to 3,000 years old. The best I have found is the Catholic Study Bible. It is a little pricey but an excellent investment.

INSTALLATION MASS

On Sunday, August 20, Bishop Foys will be here to officially install me as pastor of Mother of God Church. This will take place at the 11:30 am Mass. Rather than a reception in the undercroft, the parish picnic that afternoon will serve as the reception.

I hope that many of you will join us that day.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is available at Mother of God Church every Thursday after the 12:05 pm Mass and concludes with Benediction at 5 pm. Would you be willing to spend time in prayer with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? Please call our parish office at 859-291-2288 if we can count on you for a regular time each Thursday afternoon. Or just come in to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

ACUE COLLETION: Next Sunday, August 13, will be the collection for the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE). This collection helps support Holy Cross, Holy Trinity, St. Augustine, Holy Family, St. Anthony and Prince of Peace schools.

GIFT OF THE MONTH: Prince of Peace School needs: Crayola fine-line markers, Crayola broad-line markers, glue sticks, wide-rule notebooks, wide-rule loose leaf paper or cash donations are gratefully accepted. Please place your donations in the bins by the church doors. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION is Tuesday, August 15, and is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be at 12:05 and 5:30 pm. The office will be closed

PLEASE NOTE: Confessions on Saturday from 11 am until time of Mass at 12:05 pm.

FAMILY PROMISE: Mother of God Church has been very active for many years as a support church with Family Promise. Volunteers are needed in several capacities. Please see the last page of the bulletin and come to the church hall on Sunday, August 13, between the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses to learn more. *Vicki & Frank David*

MOTHER OF GOD PICNIC: Mark the date, August 20, 4 pm, with dinner served between 5 and 5:30 pm at the Villa Madonna picnic grounds. This year's picnic will be an extra special celebration. Father Comer will be officially installed as our pastor on that day, and he has requested that, in lieu of a cake and punch reception after Mass, he would prefer to celebrate with us at our annual picnic. Fried chicken, soft drinks, water, plates and utensils will be provided. Participants are asked to bring either an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to

share. *Loving Life* is this year's photo contest theme and certainly is apropos for our picnic theme. Join the parish fun and help give Father Comer a Mother of God welcome.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to Dale Moore on the loss of his mother, Jennie Wiehoff. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

SUNDAY COLLECTION	JULY 30, 2017
Envelopes	\$6,468.00
Loose	\$554.50
Online Giving	\$218.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$7,240.50

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

On August 13, after both Masses, parish members and volunteers from Catholic Charities will be in the back of church promoting their upcoming fundraiser, the CaSSba, and selling raffle tickets. The raffle tickets are \$20 each. The grand prize is 30 percent of total ticket sales. Last year the winners received over \$11,000! All proceeds for this event benefit the clients being served through Catholic Charities. You can also purchase tickets on line at www.covingtoncharities.org. Thanks for your support of Catholic Charities. For more information, call Vicky Bauerle, BA, Institutional Advancement Manager at 859-581-8974, ext. 116.

BITS OF MOG HISTORY:

The stained glass windows along the sides of Mother of God Church represent the Old Testament in the lower panels and the New Testament fulfillment in the upper panels.

The full name of Mother of God is "The Annunciation of the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God." Outside, above the portico and entrance, is the German name for our church, "Mutter Gottes Kirche," which translates to "Mother of God Church." Almost from its founding, Mother of God Church was known as a "Cradle of the Arts." It is renowned for its visual arts (murals and stained glass windows). Remember, we still have the 240 page *Cradle of the Arts* history/tour book available from the ushers.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, August 10

12:45 – 5 pm, Eucharistic Adoration

Sunday, August 13

Catholic Charities CaSSba Ticket Sale after Masses
Family Promise in Hall between 9:30 and 11:30 Masses

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug. 6	9:30 am	Parishioners & Memorials
	11:30 am	Thelma & John Hennessey
Aug. 7	12:05 pm	Ian Willett
Aug. 8	12:05 pm	The Santel Family
Aug. 9	12:05 pm	No Mass
Aug. 10	12:05 pm	Ed Schultz
Aug. 11	12:05 pm	Maureen Hollenbeck
Aug. 12	12:05 pm	Thelma Harris
Aug. 13	9:30 am	Jeff Bowling
	11:30 am	Julie Rice

SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST 6, 2017: Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14; Psalm 97; 2 Peter 1: 16-19; Matthew 17: 1-9.

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Dan Ries
Rose Sketch	Beth Redwine
Pam Neal	Susan Hodge
Robert Gander	Trudy Koehling
Shirley Hensley	Ralph Kunkemoeller
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Margie Huesman
Barry Price	Greg Scanlon
Mary Jo Schwartz	Makayla Borg
Carol Jenkins	Liz Enzweiler
Pat Ruttle	Mertle Cann
Bill Meyer	Fr. Ray Hartman
Greg Dahlenberg	Bob Schroeder
Baby Eli	Rosa Maria Santos

Family Promise – Mother of God Information Meeting Sunday, August 13 Undercroft (Between 9:30 and 11:30 masses)

Are you looking for a way to help our Northern Kentucky families find a way out of homelessness, while gaining employment and/or schooling and learning life skills? Mother of God has been very active for many years as a support church with Family Promise. We are looking for people willing to help with van driving, meal preparation and serving, as well as overnight hosts.

Frank and I will be available, as well as others involved in this ministry to answer questions that you might have. Please consider joining us to learn about the one ministry in Northern Kentucky that keeps families together during the transition.

Vicki and Frank David