

March 11-12, 2017

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4

Second Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9

Compared with who he was back in August, Seminarian Daniel is a different man today than six months ago. When, after their first year away, our sons and daughters come home from college, they are not the 'children' they once were. When we visit our Grandparents after a year or two of absence, the progression of aging is clearly evident and we realize the preciousness of available time. Being able to see things DIFFERENTLY, in a new light, is both a gift and a responsibility. In the Gospel recollection of the TRANSFIGURATION, Peter, James and John perceive Jesus' SECOND NATURE....not just the fellow human fisherman-preacher whom they had befriended and begun to follow, but as the incarnate divinity of God's Son. This had to be pretty powerful stuff for the three fishermen...the Scriptures say they were so afraid they fell to the ground. For the disciples, as for us, it frequently takes time to understand what we have seen or experienced, our first reactions can be shock, fear, confusion and even anger at having to adjust and recalibrate what we thought we once knew. Frequently, instead of allowing the NEW information to exist freely in our minds we usually try to cubbyhole it in a predisposition or our previous understandings of how things should be. These Lenten weeks are 'come to Jesus' moments when we are asked to integrate a lifetime of DIVINE experiences and insights so as to insure our LIVED ACTIONS are in harmony with what we say we believe and think we know to be true. If we truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God...are we following his instructions? Are we living as he has asked? Have we started to convince ourselves that the story told by Peter, James and John is a fabrication? Have we found that 'alternative facts' (self delusions) are easier to abide within our lives than the teachings of Jesus? As much as this weekend's Scriptures share the TRANSFIGURATION of Jesus....it is also an opportunity to look at ourselves and see if, over our own lifetimes, have WE have been TRANSFIGURED? **Do WE LOOK DIFFERENT** than who we used to be? DO people comment on how WE HAVE CHANGED? Have we found ourselves confused and uncertain regarding WHOM WE ARE BECOMING? Do we remember who we USED to be and shake our heads in disbelief that we are the same flesh and blood but an entirely different person?

As the weeks of Lent slowly pass, thank you for sharing this weekend with our Santa Clara community. Please take note that our Good Friday Prayer Breakfast reservations are almost entirely filled....please do not hesitate to make your reservation NOW if you wish to attend. This week we will be sending out LETTERS to the **750 Registered Parishioners who have NOT YET RESPONDED** to our Pastoral Services Appeal Pledge effort....our future could be so incredibly strong and secure if only EVERYONE participated! PLEASE.....do not delay in helping Santa Clara remain ALIVE and financially VIBRANT. The Bulletin has the ongoing Lenten opportunities for Stations of the Cross, Seminarian Daniel's Men's Series and other events, please take one home with you. **Since this Friday, March 17th is St. Patrick's Day**, in anticipation, THIS WEEKEND you (adults) are invited to enjoy a sip or four of authentic Irish beverages after Mass...no corned beef or cabbage...just some Irish holy water to wet your whistle. As you keep your eyes peeled for leprechauns and four leaf clovers, please know that you are loved. FKB