

**March 16-17, 2019**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Genesis 15:5-18**

**Philippians 3:17-4:1**

**Luke 9:28-36**

For those in the military, it may have been a ‘got your back’ moment. For some it was being roommates in college. Perhaps a shared tragedy? For a privileged few it may be sharing a loved one’s kidney or other organs? Sometimes, relationships have no defining moment, they JUST ARE. Moving further into the Lenten Season this weekend, (frequently referenced as, ‘Transfiguration Sunday’, in deference to the Gospel) we hear of a RELATIONSHIP that binds together an entire CULTURE with the mysterious entity known as God. Easily dismissed by the cynics of our modern culture, the relationship established between Abraham and God is the prototype for the ones we now endeavor to experience with Jesus. Within the Transfiguration experience, the disciples are given a GLIMPSE of Jesus’ FULLNESS...he is much more than just an articulate carpenter from Nazareth. Many of us, in the early years of our lives, upon hearing the child-appropriate stories of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), we easily accepted and believed. We may even have individually experienced Jesus within different life-experiences. Painfully, MANY of us, as we have grown older, have become cynical or dismissive of what we used to easily believe and in some cases, doubting the existence of the one to whom we once desperately clung. Within our culture there are very few who have NOT heard about Jesus; it is difficult to drive our roads without catching a glimpse of some devotional bumper sticker or a graffiti message encouraging faith in Jesus (or in worst cases, threatening eternal misery if we don’t have a relationship with him.) The problem is that, as we have grown older, nobody has clarified what a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus entails or means. Thus, we are left with childish images and stories of God that fail horribly when it comes to reassurance of God’s presence especially in the midst of pain, disappointment and suffering. The continuing sexual abuse cases being revealed throughout the world have caused many to reject the INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH (the instrument of proclamation) and in some cases even the PERSON the Church is proclaiming, JESUS. Lent is an invitation to GROW UP, to experience the presence of God in a mature way, even facing up to the limitations that are part and parcel of all relationships. Lent is an invitation to revisit when we FIRST believed and understand how our beliefs have altered, grown or diminished and consider WHY and HOW. What was your CHILDHOOD faith? Did something destroy it or did time simply diminish it? Can you distinguish between Jesus and the human components (fractured and flawed) of which the Church is composed? On this Transfiguration Sunday, who is Jesus to you TODAY as opposed to when you were a child? Has your relationship grown and matured? Has it evaporated? Has it stayed childish?

THANK YOU for continuing to share our communal Santa Clara journey of Lent. **You are reminded of our Lenten Reconciliation Service on this coming Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7pm;** ample priests will be available to help cleanse your soul of failings and disappointments. **Our ONE AND ONLY ‘ALL MINISTRY - STATIONS of the CROSS’** and KofC dinner will occur on **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**, please see the Bulletin for details. Your help is once again invited, as we did at Christmas, in assisting with the decorating of our Church/Hall throughout the Easter Season. Our A&E Team will do all the messy work of procuring and arranging the assorted plants and flowers....all you need do is utilize the FLOWER ENVELOPES at the entrances/exits and help us to pay for everything. THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. Lastly, the arrival of Spring occurring this Tuesday (March 20<sup>th</sup>) this is a FINE weekend to anticipate the new season by honoring **St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of All Ireland**.... you are invited to stop by the booth on the Parking Lot side for a sip of Irish Holy Water (or Apple Cider) ...to help drive away whatever snakes might be lurking within your gastrointestinal system! As you relish the change of seasons and keep alert for shamrocks, please know that you are loved. FKB