

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Matthew 17:1-2.** 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.



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I started teaching PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) because they didn't have a teacher for my daughter's grade. My husband was on the Education Commission at the time, and there was a stipulation that the spouse of someone who served on the commission couldn't be a teacher because that would be viewed as a conflict of interest. I volunteered anyway, but I knew that it would never happen. But the PREP director called me and said, "Father said you can do it!" So, there I was. I think about how the Holy Spirit worked in that avenue because there was a part of me that volunteered because I knew it wouldn't work out and then all of a sudden I had to step up to bat. Teaching has been fulfilling, even in my worst times, when the children have tried me to the max! Every fall, I still get excited about the new PREP year. I still feel that push. Sometimes I think I get more out of it initially, and the reward for the kids is in the future. Maybe ten or fifteen years from now they'll remember what we talked about in class.

The story of the Transfiguration teaches me that we have to take time for ourselves. Christ came to serve, and yet he took the time to be away from everyone and rest. There are several places in Scripture that speak about this. Jesus reveals himself in our quiet times, through the time that we take to rest.

I've had a very challenging year and I forget sometimes that in all of the challenges of this year I need to take time for me. I'm a great believer in serving, but I know what it's like to be exhausted. In times like that I'm reminded that I get so worried about everyone else, I forget about me. In that forgetting, my relationship with God gets put on the back burner, too. Even though I'm being of service, I need one-on-one quiet time with God, too.

I've been reminded of this Scripture at various times in my life. One time my husband was in the hospital and I was worried about him, about the class was taking, and many other things. There were all these little dominos colliding with each other. I realized that my relationship with God had gone totally off track.

When I would try to pray I got angry because I thought my prayers weren't being heard. I kept asking God, "Where are you?" It was only when I asked that question in the quiet of my life that I got my answer. I'm reminded of the importance of taking the time to be quiet – that's when God can reveal himself to me. Music ministry, the perfection of babies, my husband's love, the love of my family and the beauty of creation all serve as reminders of God's love, but we need the personal relationship with God to renew and transform us.

I wonder why Jesus might have chosen Peter, James and John to see him transfigured in this way. Was it because they needed it the most? Were they doubtful? Would they be the most involved in his mission? Maybe it was because they would be held to a higher standard of believing when others were sharing their experiences. I think about Peter being so weak, but Jesus chose him for a great ministry.

This reading always reminds me to take time for me, and to take time to settle down to renew my relationship with God. Christ came here to serve and was the ultimate example to us. He knew he had to take the time to renew his relationship with his Father. I think about that in times when life is hectic; when the children are in need, or my husband is in need. Jesus took the time to re-connect even though people were always looking to him for healing and wholeness. He must have been emotionally drained. We all sometimes feel that way in our lives. If we don't take the time for rejuvenation, our relationships and our ministries will suffer.

When we are overwhelmed we must remember to let others minister to us. This can be an awesome journey for those of us who are continually ministering to others. Letting others minister to us can be a humbling event. It is important for all of us to experience the joy of helping and being helped by others.

*More information can be learned about St. John Choirs elsewhere on this website, or you may wish to contact Julie Richards at [jrichards@stjohndavison.org](mailto:jrichards@stjohndavison.org) or by phone at 810-658-1135.*

*For more information about the Sienna Heights Lay Ecclesial Minister Program, please contact: Nancy Joseph at 517-342-2512 or Sr. Marilyn Barnett at 517-264-7690 or [mbarnette@siennaheights.edu](mailto:mbarnette@siennaheights.edu)*

*Are you a good listener? Come and be part of our BeFriends Ministry. Contact Laurie Miles by e-mail: [lmiles@stjohndavison.org](mailto:lmiles@stjohndavison.org) or by phone: 810-652-0304, ext. 269.*

*You can learn more about CAFÉ by contacting Elaine Ouelette at: [eouellette@stjohndavison.org](mailto:eouellette@stjohndavison.org)*

*Would you like to assist with our PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)?  
You can learn more by contacting Elaine Davis by e-mail at  
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