

Homily ~ Lent II (A) > March 1, 2026.

The common theme of today's readings is *metamorphosis* or *transformation*. The readings invite us to work, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, to transform and renew our lives during Lent, so that we may radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord, which we have just received, all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

The first reading describes the transformation of a pagan patriarch into a believer in the one God. His name is transformed from Abram to Abraham and his small family into a great nation. All Abram has to do is to obey the Lord God's command, and he does so. The second reading, taken from St. Paul's second letter to Timothy, explains the type of Lenten transformation expected of us. We are transformed when we recognize the hand of a loving, providing, and disciplining God behind all our hardships, pain, and suffering and try our best to grow in holiness by cooperating with the grace of God given to us through Jesus and his Gospel. In the Transfiguration story in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow Jesus to consult his Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death, and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make his chosen disciples aware of Jesus' Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and their dreams of him as a conquering political Messiah, and that they might be strengthened in their time of trial. On the mountain, Jesus is identified out of the Cloud by the Heavenly Voice (God the Father), as "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased!*" On Jesus, the Holy Spirit would also descend as a dove, confirming for John the Baptize, the identity of his cousin Jesus of Nazareth, as the Promised Messiah, as John publicly proclaimed. Thus, the Transfiguration narrative is a Christophany, that is, a manifestation or revelation of who Jesus really is. Describing Jesus' Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him, as the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 33), for today, encourages us to do.

(1) The Holy Mass, through Transubstantiation, becomes our source of strength. Bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus, giving us grace to resist temptation and remain faithful to God. Just as the Transfiguration strengthened the Apostles, the Mass strengthens us against evil and renews us, especially during Lent. It defends us from temptation and transforms our minds and hearts so we can see Christ in others.

(2) Each Sacrament transforms us. Baptism makes us children of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation fills us with the Holy Spirit. Reconciliation restores sinners to holiness. The Anointing of the Sick brings spiritual healing, forgiveness, and the physical healing God wills for us.

(3) In times of suffering and doubt, we need a message of hope, we need spiritual "mountain-top" experiences to hear God's reassuring voice. Let our Lenten sacrifices lead us to the joy of Easter.