

From The Desk of Fr. Patrick

My dear brothers and sister in Christ, the Gospel of Matthew 17:1–9 presents the mystery of the Transfiguration—a moment when heaven touches earth and the disciples glimpse the glory of Christ. Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, and there “his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.” In that radiant moment, Moses and Elijah appear, representing the Law and the Prophets, all fulfilled in Christ. Then the Father’s voice declares, “This is my beloved Son... listen to him.”

This Gospel speaks powerfully to our daily lives. We all have “mountain moments”—times when God feels close: a retreat, a quiet hour before the Blessed Sacrament, a family celebration, or even a moment of reconciliation after conflict. Like Peter, we are tempted to stay there: “Lord, it is good that we are here.” We want to build tents and remain in comfort. Yet Jesus does not allow the disciples to stay on the mountain. They must go back down into ordinary life, where misunderstandings, suffering, and the cross await.

In our daily routines like driving to work, caring for children, visiting the sick, managing parish responsibilities, Christ invites us to see his hidden glory. As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” Even when life is ordinary or difficult, we carry within us the light of the Transfiguration. A parent who patiently listens to a struggling teenager reflects Christ’s light. A parishioner who forgives a neighbor becomes a living sign of that radiant face. A volunteer who serves quietly without recognition shines with a light that the world may not notice, but heaven does.

The voice of the Father says, “Listen to him.” In a noisy world filled with opinions, news, and constant notifications, listening to Jesus requires intentional silence. St. Teresa of Calcutta reminded us that God speaks in the silence of the heart. Perhaps listening to him means setting aside five minutes before Mass to pray. Perhaps it means reading a few verses of Scripture before bed. Perhaps it means choosing kindness instead of reacting in anger. Listening is not passive, it transforms how we live.

The disciples were afraid when the cloud overshadowed them, but Jesus touched them and said, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” How often fear paralyzes us, fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of change. Yet Christ’s touch remains real in the sacraments. St. John Paul II often repeated the words, “Do not be afraid!” When we feel overwhelmed, these words echo the Gospel. We rise not by our own strength, but because Christ raises us.

As we reflect on this Gospel, I want to thank all of you who contributed to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your generosity is a concrete way of coming down the mountain and living the Gospel in action. It is never too late to contribute. Whenever we exceed our goal, the proceeds will come back to St. Patrick Church. Your sacrifice helps the Church shine Christ’s light far beyond what we can see.

And as you know, our patron saint is Saint Patrick. On March 14, 2026, we will celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day together. Just as Saint Patrick carried the light of Christ to Ireland, may we carry that same light into our homes, workplaces, and community. Please sign up and join us for this joyful celebration of faith and fellowship.

Transfiguration reminds us that glory and the cross are inseparable. We glimpse Christ’s light so that we may have strength for the journey. May we listen to him, rise without fear, and reflect his radiant love in the ordinary moments of each day.

-Fr. Patrick