

After the Heart of Jesus ...

*“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.”*

Every year on the Second Sunday of Lent we read the Gospel stories of the Transfiguration. Seeing Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah on Mount Tabor gave Peter, James, and John much needed hope. Jesus had just told them of their taking up crosses to follow him, and they were about to journey to Jerusalem where Jesus would be crucified. Their experiences on that mountain assured them that Jesus was the beloved Son of God and reaffirmed their commitment as disciples.



Reflecting on the disciples' experience of the Transfiguration gives us a wonderful opportunity to see our need to go up the mountain to pray, to seek signs of God's presence and love, and to receive hope. Our Parish Lenten Mission has been planned to be just this kind of experience. These days of Mission will be a time of spiritual mountain climbing.

Sunday's prayer focus is "Healing Comes to a Prepared Heart." Jesus often asked those seeking healing, "What do you need me to do for you?" This night is given so that we might go beneath the surface of our wants to examine our needs for healing, restoration, and reconciliation. We will be praying in the style of Taize, which includes chanting of simple mantras, some readings of Scripture, extended periods of quiet, a candle lighting ritual, and petitions. Hopefully through this service we will all become more aware of the desires of hearts for the real healing that we need this week.

Monday's prayer focus is "Jesus Heals Us." Healing can take many different forms. Sometimes, though, we might think that healing cannot come to us, or we can grow frustrated and angry when healing isn't given in the manner we hope. To help us understand that healing is possible for us, we have invited three parishioners to share their experiences of how healing happened in their lives. Their stories are diverse, telling of ways Jesus helped them overcome physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual struggles. Monday's service will also include a communal blessing with holy water to be in solidarity with all those who seek healing.

Tuesday's prayer focus is "Jesus, Heal our Hearts." We will celebrate the healing that takes place through Reconciliation. When we go to our physician we need to name all the things that are wrong with us and all the symptoms we are feeling, like pain or fevers or tingling sensations or nausea. Once we name what is wrong, the physician can help us begin the process of physical healing. Similarly, we need to go to Jesus, the divine physician, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and name (confess) the symptoms of our spiritual sickness, the sins and temptations that block us from the life of grace. Turning to Jesus in Reconciliation, we have confidence that our sins are forgiven and our hearts are renewed. Our high school teens will present a very special drama that powerfully shows Jesus' role in healing us of sinful ways. Also, several priests will be available to assist us with the individual sacrament of penance.

Our Mission will conclude on Wednesday with a special healing Mass celebrated by our associate pastor Father Mario Quejadas. As we focus on the healing power of the Eucharist, the readings and songs will move us to encounter more deeply Jesus, who heals our lives. The Mass will conclude with individual laying on of hands and prayer. We cannot predict how the Lord will touch us through His Spirit, but we know that He will!

Please join us for the Parish Mission, preferably for the whole Mission as the process builds from one night to the next. But come if you are only able to join us for one or two evenings. All services will begin at 7:30 PM in St. Walter Church. Fellowship and light refreshments will follow every service in the narthex. You may feel that you do not particularly need healing at this point in your life. If that is the case, then you probably know someone else who needs the healing of Christ today. Please come to the Mission and offer your participation for that person's healing.



Healing is also the theme of our Lenten Almsgiving this year. All of the projects will bring some form of healing to people in Guntur, India (the home of Father Charles) or locally in this area or in Sucre, Bolivia (our sister diocese). Please see the article that lists all the projects we hope to support through our sacrifices. Mini first-aid kits are available at the Lent table in the narthex to help collect the money throughout Lent. May they remind us that as we are being healed in our Lenten journey we can offer the gift of healing to others.

May we be prepared to receive an abundance of healing grace during Lent as we live ...

After the Heart of Jesus,
Father John