

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

THEME: **JESUS OUR SOURCE OF TRANSFORMATION**

The liturgy of the word for today's Mass talks about transformation and the need for all of us to always listen to the voice of Jesus. The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them and radiating the glory and grace of the transfigured Jesus to all around us by our spirit-filled lives.

The first reading describes the transformation of a pagan patriarch into a believer in God and the transformation of his name from Abram to Abraham. Because of these transformations God made a covenant with Abraham's family as a reward for his obedience to God.

The second reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy, explains the type of Lenten transformation expected of us. According to St. Paul we are transformed when we see the hand of God in all our hardships, pains 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 message.

In the transfiguration story in our Gospel reading, Jesus was revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary aim of Jesus' transfiguration was to allow him to consult his heavenly Father and Ascertain his plan for his Son's suffering, death and resurrection. The secondary aim was to make his chosen disciple aware of his divine glory, so that they might discard this worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and to be strengthened in their time of trial. On this occasion, God the Father identified Jesus as his Beloved Son and advised us to listen to him. The transfiguration is the revelation of who Jesus really is. The transfiguration of Jesus in today's Gospel reading gives us a glimpse of the heavenly glory awaiting those who do the will of God by listening to the voice of Jesus his beloved son.

Any time we celebrate the Holy Mass, our offering of bread and wine is transformed to the Body and Blood of Jesus. As the transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of heavenly strength against our own trials and source of renewal. Each sacrament we receive should be source of transformation in our lives. Baptism for example transforms us into sons and daughters of God and members of his Church. Confirmation makes us the temple of the Holy Spirit. By receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick in faith we are spiritually and physically healed, and our sins are forgiven.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, in moments of doubt, pain, suffering, and disappointments, let us always come to Jesus and listen to him. He is the only one who can bring transformation in our life. God the Father in our Gospel reading today is telling us as he told the apostles, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him."