

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Second Sunday of Lent– Feb. 28, 2021

St. Joseph of the Valley: 31151 207th Street, (Rural) Leavenworth, KS 66048

St. Lawrence: 211 West Riley, Easton, KS 66020

Parish Mailing Address: P.O. Box 129, Easton, KS 66020

Father Francis Bakyor, Pastor
Easton Rectory Phone: 913-773-5712
Father's cell: 913-235-6837

Father's Email: francis.bakyor@yahoo.com
Website: www.sjslparish.org
“LIKE” us on Facebook for new announcements

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

TUES	Mar. 2	06:00 pm	STL	Parishioners of SJ-SL
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
THUR	Mar. 4	05:00 pm	SJV	Parishioners of SJ-SL
FRI	Mar. 5	06:30	SJV	Stations of the Cross and Mass Parishioners of SJ-SL
SAT	Mar. 6	05:00 pm	SJV	Shirley Karczewski † Jamie Karczewski †
SUN	Mar. 7	09:00 am	STL	Richard Heim †

Confessions: SAT-4:30 pm at SJV; SUN-8:30 at STL

PLEASE NOTE:

Attendance for Masses is limited. We will be seating every other pew. We must continue to practice social distancing (of at least 6 feet). Masks are required to be worn. We are offering four Masses per week. Please do not feel obligated to attend weekend Masses — weekday Masses will work just fine if it fits into your family's schedule. Please see online info for restrictions and guidance.

Please pray for the sick, especially: Phil Bell, Susie Beying, Jennifer Brushwood, Carl Davidson, George Dean, Carolyn DeMaranville, Vince Eimer, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, Alan Halstead, Marly Heim, Frank Heintzelman, Jim Heintzelman, Lydia Heintzelman, Melanie Herken, Jon Highfill, Trista Highfill, Mark Hund, Arlene Jennings, Wendi Johnston, Michael Jones, Elmer Karczewski, Phillip Leon, Kelly Long, Joyce Lowe, Mary Meinert, Jeni Mettelstedt, Don Navinsky, Kay Nocktonick, Dannie Phillips, Adam Pineau, Mike Pursel, Mary M. Ruhlman, Kim Sachse, Tanner Siebenmorgen, Julie Simonis, Jim (Poly) Sloan, Gary Stafford, Aaron Welch, Louise Wistuba and Nick Yuska.

Prayer List for Our Soldiers: ARMY: 1LT Daniel Broaddus, Pvt. David Crook, Lexi (Skaggs) Hargis, Major Bryan Herken, SPC Derrick Hunt, SGT Colby Seifert, William Stradley. AIRFORCE: E-4 Robert W. Herken, TSGT Scott Loecher, E-3 Connor Schuler, A1C Noah Tattershall. NAVY: ADDA Jason P. Herken, YNS1 (SS) Kevin Lansing.

Prayer for Vocations: Brother Seelos (Tyler Lunsford).

OUR PARISH NEWS

COLLECTION: Thank you for your gifts to our parish! Collection amount for the past 3 weekends was a total of \$8,267.00, including \$100 for Masses, \$135 for utilities, \$5 for Central and Eastern Europe, \$80 for Black and Indian Missions, \$100 for hall rental, and \$50 for SJV cemetery. Last week's on-line collection was unavailable. Thank you for your generosity.

CONGRATULATIONS to Austin Green, Caleb Heim, Luke Heim, Max Nichols, Maria Peltzer, Grace Piche, Reese Siebenmorgen, Noah Siebenmorgen, and Wyatt Wilburn who received their confirmation at Immaculate Conception in Leavenworth on Monday, Feb. 22nd. May the Holy Spirit always lead them in their faith.

CALL TO SHARE: Today's readings are ALL about sacrifice and love. Love and sacrifice. In the first reading, Abraham wanted a son so badly and God gave him one through a wife that was supposed to be unable to get pregnant. God tested Abraham's love for him. Did he love his new son more or did he love God more? Abraham loved God and trusted in him, and Isaac was saved. Abraham sacrifices a ram in thanksgiving to God. In the Gospel, God transfigures Jesus into dazzling white and says to all, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." God loves US so much he sacrifices his own son (the Lamb) for our sins. How much do we listen to Jesus, as God asked us to? What sacrifices do we make, especially during Lent, in thanksgiving to God for all He gives to us? How much do we trust in God? Enough to give him control of our finances? Make the Archbishop's Call to Share appeal part of your Lenten almsgiving.

To pledge/give online – this video explains how: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?bblinkid=248371396&bbemailid=28868032&bbeid=1858333292&v=E7UbwuGawus&feature=youtu.be>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross and Mass will be held on Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph of the Valley on **March 5th**, and St. Lawrence at 6:30 pm on **March 12th, March 19th, and March 26th**.

SECOND COLLECTION: Will be held the weekend of **March 14th** for The Catholic Relief Services (formerly the American Bishop's Overseas Appeal)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: We are soliciting volunteers who would like to serve as our Parish Director of Religious Education (DRE), leading the effort to teach our children about their Catholic faith. Please prayerfully consider this incredibly fulfilling role within our parish. We are also open to co-DREs if that is an approach that works for you. If you are interested please contact: Jason Nichols, phone: 913-683-2661 or email: jnichols@dfamilk.com OR Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: w5cattle@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: We are searching for a volunteer to clean the rectory twice a month. POC is Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: w5cattle@aol.com.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: The Finance Council is happy to announce that the parish will be accepting applications for one or more scholarships for Catholic school (K-16) attendance during the 2021-2022 academic year or Catholic camp attendance during summer 2021. The scholarship is made possible by donations specified for Catholic Education. Interested applicants should fill out the application form, attach either a report card or transcript, and provide contact information for a reference. Applications are **due by April 1, 2021**. The link to the application form is available on the parish website and parish Facebook page. If you cannot access the application form one of these ways, send an email to angela.broaddus@gmail.com to request the link. LINK: <https://forms.gle/TZprU6dvCQ9wa9n7>

OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF AMERICAN HISTORY

In the modern world, virtually everyone everywhere condemns slavery. Yet, it is not long ago in our nation's history that this was not the case and human beings were deprived of their "inalienable rights" including the rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." This provides the most important lesson of American history and the continuing battle against contemporary forms of slavery and exploitation. First, we must oppose all forms of modern relativism, which attempt to establish "no absolutes." If a practice (such as slavery) is morally wrong, it is wrong and unacceptable under all conditions in any society. In other words, a moral evil does not become good simply because sociological or political views might change, or even if it is the prevailing law at a particular time.

Slavery is just one offence against human dignity. Today, abortion is the most heinous and extensive violation of human rights. Abortion like slavery refuses to recognize the fact that a human being is precisely that, a human being and instead, reduces human beings to "things" or chattels. The moral of the story is that we must always vigorously oppose any measure which undermines the dignity of any human being and reduces them to the status of means rather than ends. This is precisely what abortion-on-demand and the culture of death does and why it is so vitally important that we work unceasingly to oppose it!

XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Catholic education is affordable. Did you know that over 68 percent of Xavier families receive financial aid? We are currently enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year and we would love an opportunity to share more details with you about the benefits and affordability of Catholic education. Contact our school office at 913-682-3135 or visit our website at leavenworthcatholicchools.org.

CHRIST'S PEACE HOUSE OF PRAYER has adjusted many of the ways we operate in order to create a safe environment for our retreatants. The layout of our facility naturally lends itself to social distancing with separate guest cabins and rooms each with private entrances and self-contained kitchen and shower areas. We have altered many of our operating procedures including how we clean, serve food and interact in the public spaces together so as to eliminate the spread of the virus. The transform CDC pandemic guidelines are carefully followed. We want our guests to be safe and know that they can trust the steps we have taken to make that possible. It is a privilege to serve each of you in these challenging times. Schedule a time for a personal retreat, organize a group retreat or join one of our monthly preached retreats. Send an email to: info@christspeace.com or call 913.773.8255 to schedule a retreat. Visit us at christspeace.com.

2021 RETREAT SCHEDULE FOR CHRIST'S PEACE:

March 26-28: Palm Sunday with the Shroud of Turin
April 9-11: Divine Mercy - The Father's Love
May 15: St. Isidore Mass - Blessing of Seeds and Soil
May 21-23: Freedom in the Spirit
June 25-27: St. Joseph – With a Father's Heart
July 9-11: Theology of the Body w/ Fr. Thomas Loya
August 13-15: Consecration to Mary
September 17-19: Living in the Present Moment
October 15-17: Discovering the Wisdom of Saint Pope JP II
November 19-21: Unlocking Difficult Scripture
December 3-5: Advent Silent Retreat
January 7-9: New Year Spiritual Reflection and Planning

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(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)

HELP VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN KANSAS: Have you ever considered fostering or adopting a child? Or, do you want to help foster families by providing short-term respite care? Join an informational session via Zoom on Sunday, **Feb 28th** from 4:00-5:00 pm to learn more! This opportunity is for couples and/or individuals interested in learning more about caring for vulnerable children or supporting families who already do by providing respite childcare. Cornerstones of Care, a local foster agency, will share information about the training and steps required by the state of Kansas. Go to: <https://archkck18.wufoo.com/forms/foster-adopt-respite-information-session> to register. In addition, other foster agencies host similar sessions. Go to www.archkcks.com/foster for a list of the agencies and their websites. Contact Deb Niesen in the Pro-Life Office at dnieesen@archkck.org for more information.

LENTEN RETREAT – We invite you to schedule a Lenten Retreat to “renew your faith, draw from the living waters of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God.” Christ’s Peace House of Prayer is an Archdiocesan retreat center located on 120 acres of rolling pastures and timberland about 14 miles west of Leavenworth and one hour from Kansas City, Topeka and Lawrence. We have eight cabins in our wooded area, three courtyard rooms and six guest rooms in the retreat center to welcome guests. Contact us to schedule Private, Guided, Group or Sabbatical Retreats. 913-773-8255 or info@christspce.com Cabin/Courtyard: \$85/night or Guest Room/Hermitage: \$50/night. See our website for additional pricing guidelines and information - www.christspce.com

ARCHBISHOP NAUMANN LENTEN REFLECTIONS: Join Archbishop Naumann in reading and reflecting on the Sunday Gospels through Lent! Each audio/podcast segment includes the Gospel reading, Archbishop’s reflection and a personal witness of faith from a lay person in the Archdiocese -- all in less than 30 minutes. A guide for individual reflection and group discussion each week is also available. Each Monday of Lent, the upcoming Sunday reflection/guide will be posted on the Enflame website at: <http://archkcks.org/> (scroll down). You can also access past Sunday (and Ash Wednesday) reflections/guides on the website.

ENFLAME OUR HOMES: *March’s theme* is Joyful families REST. Sometimes we think that Lent is about what we DO, about the prayer, the fasting and the almsgiving. Of course, these things are important, but it’s also the perfect time to step back and REST-- in God’s love, and in the love of our families. Find and download all this month’s resources at: archkcks.org/rest

THE CALIX SOCIETY (www.calixsociety.org) is a national association of Catholics in 12-Step recovery (AA, NA, OA, AlAnon, etc.). The Calix Society meets the first Friday of each month at Church of the Ascension in Overland Park. The next meeting will be Friday, **March 5th**. For specific information on time and meeting format, call Neil at 913-645-7244, or Mary at 913-747-5039.

NOVENA: All are invited to join the St. Joseph Adoption Novena **March 10-18** as we pray for all those who travel upon the path of adoption. Visit usccb.org/adoption-novena.

APRIL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States since 1983. The Archdiocese encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making our communities a safe place for children and families. By ensuring that parents and mentors have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect. In April, we highlight these prevention efforts. Unfortunately during the COVID-19 crisis, children may face an increased risk of abuse and neglect. While many schools may still be closed and families are staying home, more abuse cases could go unreported and unnoticed. It is of particular import we continue to be vigilant and work together to prevent abuse. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 913-602-7717 or jvalenti@archkck.org

CAMP KATERI TEKAKWITHA 2021 DATES We are excited to announce the dates for Camp Kateri Tekakwitha for the summer of 2021. Camp Kateri Tekakwitha combines demanding outdoor activities with powerful, spiritual instruction bringing about a unique encounter with God. Although our adventure activities are memorable, often the love that campers experience through prayer is what they remember most. We look forward to spending the summer with you. Visit www.archkck.org/camp for more information.

This summer we will be offering a couple of day camp options in addition to our overnight camps.

Sr High is for campers entering 9th-12th Grade Fall 2021. Online registration begins Monday March 1, 2021:
HS Max \$440 June 21-26 (Overnight Camp)
HS Extreme \$510 July 23-31 (Overnight Camp)

Jr High is for campers entering 7th/8th Grade Fall of 2021. Online registration begins Tuesday March 2, 2021
J-high 1 \$360 June 8-10 (Day Camp)
J-high 2 \$435 June 11-16 (Overnight Camp)
J-high 3 \$435 July 12-17 (Overnight Camp)

Kateri is for campers entering 5th/6th Grade Fall of 2021. Online registration begins Wednesday March 3, 2021
Kateri Session 1 \$240 June 6-7 (Day Camp)
Kateri Session 2 \$280 June 28-30 (Overnight Camp)
Kateri Session 3 \$280 July 19-21 (Overnight Camp)

FAMILY CAMPS. Registration begins on March 1, 2021 by Email to camptekreg@gmail.com with each campers’ name and DOB. Cost - \$140 per camper 2yrs of age and older/\$ 0 under 2yrs
Family Camp June 18-20
Special Needs Family Camp July 9-11

PROJECT RACHEL RETREAT: Need healing after an abortion? We offer Compassionate, Confidential and Free services. Our next Saturday retreat is on **March 13th** from 8:30am - 5:00pm, in KC, MO. Lunch and snacks provided. Please contact Ann Marie Alvey @ 913-621-2199 for further details.

RETREAT WITH THE HEART OF ST. JOSEPH Come and retreat with the heart of St. Joseph. On Saturday, **March 20th**, you are invited to encounter the overflowing love of the Father’s heart as you reflect on the life of Saint Joseph. Take a day to step away from your pandemic routine, pressures, and worries. Take a day to enter into the Year of St. Joseph. Prairie Star Ranch is offering a one-day guided retreat entitled Cor: Retreat with the heart of St. Joseph. With options for both in-person retreatants as well as live-stream participation, we hope all can take advantage of this special event. The retreat includes a vigil Mass, powerful and dynamic meditations offered by the Holy Family School of Faith, lunch, and perhaps most importantly, time for greater prayer. To find our more, register, and review our COVID-19 precautions, visit our website at archkck.org/ranch

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH RALLY: The Jr. High Rally will be held Sun **March 21st** at the KofC Hall in Seneca, KS. The rally will run from 9:30- 3:15pm each day. PSR will feature Mikey Needleman Band, Mike Debus & Dcn Jody Madden as our keynote speaker. Mass will be with Archbishop Naumann. March 21st will feature Mikey Needleman, Mike Debus and Dcn Jody Madden as our keynote speaker and Mass with Fr Zarse. For more information click here [JHR](#) Due to COVID restrictions PSR will be limited to 180 and KofC Hall 275.

RESOURCES

PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus’ pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father’s will and to do what Jesus tells us. He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

ONLINE MASSES: For those who may not be able to attend our parish masses, here are some of the masses that are available to watch on line or on television:

- For regular TV - Channel 38 airs Sunday morning Mass at 7:00am each week.
- For Dish and DirecTV - EWTN airs Sunday Mass a few times throughout the day.
- For livestream – here are some you may wish to look up:
 - Church of the Ascension, Overland Park - Sunday Masses at 8:15am, 10:00am, 11:45am & 5:00pm - <https://kccascension.org/>
 - Queen of the Holy Rosary, Wea - Sunday Mass at 8:30am - <https://qhrwea.church/watch-daily-mass>
 - St. Michael the Archangel, Leawood - Sunday Mass at 9:00am - <https://stmichaelcp.org/ecatholic-live>

Here you can find links to Holy Masses online from different parishes all around the world. There is a link to see the calendar with the Catholic Holy Masses live online. Click on the chosen hour when you want to see the Holy Mass online. <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online>

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: CARES ACT – TAX BENEFITS FOR CHARITABLE GIVING EXTENDED THROUGH 2021

1. **Increase in tax deduction for cash gifts:** For donors that itemize their tax return, before the new legislation, the annual income limit was capped at 60% for cash gifts. The new legislation allows for charitable donations up to 100% of a donor’s annual income.
2. **New deduction:** If you do not itemize when filing your tax return, to reduce your tax liability, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction of up to \$300 for charitable donations. For more information visit the Archdiocesan website, CatholicPlannedGiving.com.

Bulletin Items: Contact Kim Sachse, 913-775-0690 Or Email Sjslparish@gmail.com. Mass intentions may be scheduled with Kim as well. MUST SUBMIT BY 9 pm TUES FOR INCLUSION.



Catholic Engaged Encounter Inc.

A WEDDING IS A DAY. A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME.

What is Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)?

CEE is a weekend designed for couples who are preparing for a Sacramental Marriage in the Catholic Church. While it is spent with other engaged couples, the focus is on private time for the couples to build on a closer relationship. The weekend gives the couple time to discuss their future lives together. This includes their strengths, weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals, as well as their attitudes about money, children, family, intimacy and their role in the church and society.

CEE is a Diocesan approved program.

However, you should consult with the priest supervising your marriage preparation to determine the exact requirements in your parish and diocese.

What happens on the weekend?

Through a series of presentations by two married couples and a priest, the engaged couple is encouraged to privately discuss all aspects of their forthcoming married life. Their discussion is always from the viewpoint of their own relationship. The couple's personal reflection and dialogue time becomes the focus of the weekend.

When is the weekend held?

Our 2021 Engaged Encounter Schedule is as follows:

February 13th-14th

March 20th-21st

April 24th-25th

June 5th-6th

July 17th-18th

September 11th-12th

October 16th-17th

We encourage you to make your reservations at least four months prior to your wedding date, as many weekends are filled quickly. The weekend begins Saturday morning and concludes Sunday afternoon, following mass. The couple must stay the entire time to derive the full benefit of the weekend and to receive a certificate of completion.

Where is the weekend held?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 weekends will be held virtually through Zoom.

What is the cost?

The cost is \$85 per couple and it includes all supplies needed for the weekend.

How do you register for the weekend?

Registration can be completed through our website: <https://kansascityengagedencounter.com>

Comments from Couples who have experienced CEE

"It was an unforgettable experience for both of us. We heard about marriage in a positive way."

"We became more certain of our decision to marry. We were able to concentrate on our relationship without everyday distractions."

"We've grown to love each other more, yet when we arrived on Friday night we hadn't thought that would be possible."

"We gained a better understanding and appreciation of the church's views on the sacrament of marriage."

"We drew closer as we realized how important God was in our marriage."

"It brought out feelings we didn't know we had, and we benefited from hearing the team couples talk openly about their experiences."

Contact Information

Reservation Couple:

Tom & Chris Carroll (816) 966-0947

kansascityregistration@engagedencounter.com

Local Coordinators:

Jake & Jessica Dallas (816) 804-1022

kansascity@engagedencounter.com



Second Sunday of Lent, (7/28.2021)

Texts:

First Reading. Genesis 1:1-2, 15-18.

Second Reading. Romans 8:31-34.

Third Reading. Mark 9:2-10.

Theme: Listen to Jesus, The Son of God.

Congregation: St. Joseph of the Valley- St. Lawrence Parish, Easton/ Kansas.

1 Daily Life:

Some time ago, a woman was talking to a priest and said that 8 years earlier she was going through a very bad time in her life. Then one day she was praying in her room and she distinctly heard a voice telling her not to worry, that all would work out well. She was assured that 'I will be with you'. And so, it proved. Life eventually got better, her marriage which she thought was ending is strong again and sickness she was experiencing has been healed. The priest said to her that it appeared she had a mountaintop experience like the transfiguration scene in today's gospel.

Maybe quite a number of people have had a similar experience without being aware that it was a kind of Transfiguration event for them too.

2 God's Message:

The gospel today describes the transformation or transfiguration of Jesus. An encounter with God changes us. We read about the outer change in Jesus' appearance, but for most of us, the appearance of God brings about an inner change, a change of heart.

The gospel talks of the three disciples going up a high mountain with Jesus. He is the one who leads. In the two passages before this, he had been telling them that he was destined to suffer grievously, be put to death and rise again after three days. Peter reacts strongly and tells Jesus that this cannot be so. But Jesus says that anyone wishing to be a follower of his will have to take up his/her cross too.

The Transfiguration of Jesus now takes place. It has a double significance, one for Jesus and the other for the disciples.

For Jesus: He had taken the decision to go up to Jerusalem where he would suffer and die and he wanted to know if he had made the correct decision. On the mountaintop he received a double approval of his decision from Moses and Elijah. These saw in Jesus the fulfilment of all that had been dreamt of in the past.

But above all, God the Father approved Jesus. Jesus did not just consult his own wishes. He went to God for confirmation and he gets it very clearly here. But the crucifixion on the cross will be part and parcel of what will ultimately lead to his glory.

For the three disciples: The idea that the Messiah would be rejected, made to suffer and die at the hands of his own people was simply unthinkable. Now it seems to them this special experience is given to balance out the picture. The three disciples are given a glimpse of the "real" Jesus to help them through the dark days ahead.

The gospel comments that Peter did not know what he was talking about in asking to build three tents or shrines. There would never be a shrine to Jesus except in the hearts of his followers. We cannot hold on to our good experiences. We must move on to face what come next in life. But the good news of the Transfiguration scene is that each of us has the potential for transformation for transfiguration, for greatness. Often, suffering will be part of this but in overcoming our temptations and weaknesses, following Jesus' example and the gift of his Spirit to help us we become more and more transformed into God's dream for us, his dream for us. This is the basis of our Christian hope.

3 New life:

On the mountain a cloud came and covered them all. The cloud is traditionally the biblical way of describing God's presence. The voice which says 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him' is God's voice. It is God's invitation to the disciples and ourselves to accept the difficult things he speaks about, his and our rejections, sufferings and death- but also resurrections. Jesus is the Word of God. To listen is to hear, to accept, and to follow-all way leading to final glory.

God is totally pleased with the self-offering of Jesus on our behalf. God as the second reading says, 'did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all'. That is why is so pleased with his Son because Jesus offered up his life in order to show us the enormous love of God for us.

Most ordinary people do this in their daily lives without making any connection to the sufferings of Jesus. They are faithful in their marriages, looking after family and friends especially intime of sickness and difficulties etc. God equally says to all of you who does these: "You are my beloved children. In you I am well pleased".

Finally, in the gospel scene when the bright cloud disappeared, the disciples are left with 'only Jesus'. God has made himself that close and familiar to us that we do not need to be afraid. He is always with us and we should never forget the transfiguration moments in our lives, the glimpses of transcendence. They encourage us to be faithful especially in difficult times until the time of final glory.

"Lord Jesus, help us to be courageous in times of trial, knowing you are with us always, Amen"

Fr. Francis Bakyor