



The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

The Mother Church of Stamford
279 Atlantic Street · Stamford, Connecticut 06901

February 25, 2018

The Second Sunday of Lent



Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Andrew A. Vill

Resident Priest

Rev. Albert D. Audette, Jr.

Director of Religious Education

Rev. Andrew A. Vill

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Basilica Choir Master & Organist

David Indyk

Chairman, Parish Financial Council

John Regan (203) 324-1553 x 117

Lay Members of the Parish Corporation

John DeSoye

Annie Schreck

Photo by John Glover

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Pastor's Corner: *This column was written last week before Monsignor DiGiovanni went to the hospital. We hope you enjoy his words and continue to pray for his healing.*

The Gospel for this Second Sunday of Lent relates the event known as the Transfiguration of Our Lord: Our Lord being transfigured, or glorified before his Apostles Saints Peter, James and John, on the top of Mount Tabor in the Holy Land. Appearing to the Apostles and speaking with Christ were Moses and Elijah: the embodiment of all the teachings of the Law of God and the Prophets.

Why would Christ show Himself in His glory as God? What was the point? We must put this into the context of Our Lord's public ministry. The Transfiguration of Christ is reported in four places in the New Testament: Matthew 17: 1-9; Mark 9:29; Luke 9:28-36; the Second Letter of St. Peter, 1:10-21. The version at Mass this Sunday is from Mark. Our Lord had begun the second part of His public ministry with His predictions of His death on the Cross. His Apostles were nervous about His repetitious assertion that He would suffer and die by crucifixion, especially since they put their hopes in the mistaken belief that Jesus was to be a political messiah, come primarily to liberate Israel from political subjugation to the Roman Empire. Our Lord now took His three most trusted Apostles, Saints Peter, John and James, up to the peak of Mount Tabor, and manifested to them the reality of who He is: God and man; and the presence of Moses and Elijah underscored the reason for which God had come as a man, known as Jesus: to save all mankind from slavery to sin and death, not merely to free Israel from political and military occupation. Atop Mount Tabor, Jesus also manifested that He is the presence of the Prophets Elijah, the greatest of the Old Testament Prophets, and Moses, who received the Ten Commandments from God. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the promises of the Old Testament, and the reason why Israel was created by God: His instrument through which the Savior of the world would come.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord speaks also to us today. Jesus is not simply another prophet or religious teacher. He is God, the Creator of the universe, Who became a man, and He calls us to share in His divine life and glory in Heaven, by means of the graces flowing from His Cross, that come to us primarily by means of the Church's sacraments, established by Him. The Cross, which Jesus repeatedly referred to, and which frightened the Apostles, is the only means by which our slavery to sin and death is ended. We come into contact with the Cross by the Church and Her Sacraments, given us by Christ as His instruments to change our lives to become more like God here on earth, and so to share in His glory in Heaven.

During this second week of Lent, meditate on Our Lord's generosity, and the means by which He shares His life with us. By taking on our human nature, He is like us in everything but sin, and by offering Himself on the Cross to pay for our sins, Jesus showed His true nature and work: He is the one and eternal God who became man so that mankind could become more like God and live forever. We can share in that glory by a life of faith and virtue, heeding the Word of God in our daily lives and allowing God to transform us through His grace of the Sacraments.

So, during Lent, our additional penances, prayer and acts of charity should be entered into for the sole purpose of setting aside our sins that attract us, so that God's Grace might work to transform us. Christ's glory on Mount Tabor in the Transfiguration will be ours, if we are in love with the God who became man, Jesus Our Lord, and respond to Him in faith and love, manifested in acts of charity and hope.



—Monsignor DiGiovanni

Please pray for the sick: Monsignor DiGiovanni, Rose Marie Clarke, Kimberly Rice, Janet Caione, Joseph Kung, Rosemarie Drexel, Loretta Wallace, Michael Scully, Roger Borrelli, Nyal Colies, Dorothy Keyes, Joevil Basulgan DelaCruz, Mary Duffy, Pat Farenga, Kenyon Jimmy Valcour, Jennifer Marciano, John Mellace, Ann Borkowski, Timothy Lyons, Gene Gavin, Richard Ridge, June Roberts, Marie Cassis, Patricia Morgan, Vittorio Faugno, Robert Strada, Dionysia Oliveira, Salvatore Piria, Mary Ellen Callahan, Louise Wiles, Frank Wruk, Isaac Lopez, Ron Frasca, Lisa Giugno, Michele Giugno, Helga Pecaric, Maria Trivino, Maria Gabriela Mossa, Paula Bennett, Mildred Beirne.

Please pray for those who have recently died: Art Reynolds, Lena Cocchia, Pasquale [Pat] Santagata, Elma Hefferna, Anne Mennona, Emile Maignan, Regina Derrisaint, Joanne Santarsiero, Carmen Colon Diaz, Kathryn Anne Marciano, Marilyn VanAuken, Joyce Patten, Katherine Kimberly, Mary Louise Wakin, David Kochosky, Jonathan Shearman, Debbie Schemmel, Susanne and Suzanne DePreta.

One Collection. . . There will only be one collection today. Thank you for your generosity.

Banns of Marriage: II Banns: Christopher Michael Kearney and Alexis Teresa Giaquinto

Update on Msgr. DiGiovanni:

As announced last weekend, Msgr. DiGiovanni suffered from a stroke last Thursday and was admitted to the hospital. He is now in a rehabilitation facility and still unable to receive visitors; however, his condition continues to improve each day. We assure him of the prayers of the parishioners and encourage everyone to join us in our Lenten novena for the intention of Monsignor's healing. The novena can be found on the pink sheet in the back of the Church.

Sincerely, Fr. Vill

Police: Policemen and women are under attack throughout the country, we ask that you *Please* remember the members of our Stamford Police Department in your prayers. Likewise, remember in your prayers Stamford's EMS and Fire Department and our military women and men who protect our nation.

Virtual Tour of the Basilica: Click on the parish website www.stjohnsstamford.com for a virtual tour of the interior, created and donated by Jonathan Powell of Matterport. Thanks, Jonathon!

The Lenten rules of fasting and abstinence from eating meat apply on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday:

Fasting refers to the cutting back on the amount of food or soft drinks or coffee, tea, alcohol consumed on certain days, and applies to those aged 14-60 years old, unless ill or suffering from a medical condition.

Fasting means that only one full meal [on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday] is to be taken and NO snacking between meals. **Abstinence** from eating meat means that no meat be eaten on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, or on any Fridays of Lent. This is a simple way to begin doing penance for our sins. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years and older, unless sickness or medical conditions prevent this. If one is ill, 60 years or older, or suffers from any medical condition, these rules and practices do not apply.

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday during Lent at 4:00 pm in English in the Basilica.

FORMED: Donated by a parishioner, this is a revolutionary online platform provides access to the best Catholic audio talks, movies, e-books, and video-based studies from trusted providers like the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, Catholic Answers, Sophia Institute Press, and St. Paul Center— **right at your fingertips, without cost.** Learn more at app.formed.org/ Access Code WWT2NF.

The Upper Room: For Catholics 39 years and older will next meet on March 15th at The Upper Room in Columbus Park Trattoria for "Stump the Priest Night." Bring your questions and a friend. All are welcome.

Weekly Sunday collection:

Sunday	February 18, 2018	\$ 11,319.61
Sunday	February 19, 2017	<u>\$ 13,083.32</u>

Please increase your Sunday offering by \$5.00 each weekend. “I ask you one thing: do not tire of giving to God, but do not give your leftovers.”---Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

March 4th Sunday Readings: EX 20:1-17; 1 COR 1:22-25; JN 2:13-25

Baptism/Confirmation Sponsorship Certificate: When asked to be a sponsor, a certificate is needed from your home parish. If the priest does not know you personally, or by sight, the only other way of knowing you as a practicing Catholic is by tracking your contributions by check or envelope.

Lenten Plenary Indulgence: A plenary indulgence is the remission of punishment due for sin, which the Catholic Church has the authority to offer as part of Our Lord’s concession to St. Peter in the power of the keys [Matt. 16:18] to forgive sins. On Fridays during Lent, a plenary indulgence may be obtained if, after having gone to Confession and received Holy Communion, one prays the “Prayer before the Crucifix”—copies can be found at the St. Joseph side altar—and pray one Our Father or one Hail Mary for the pope. Likewise one must be free from attachment to sin.

Walking with Purpose: Reaches out to women who desire to grow in their faith using a Scripture based program that is fresh, relevant, and focused on conversion of heart. We meet Tuesday mornings in Msgr. Nagle Hall from 9:30am-11:30am. Childcare is available. **Register at: tinyurl.com/WWPTBSJ2017. For more information, contact Rosa Federici at: wwptbsj@gmail.com or 203-536-5480.**

Birthright: seeks volunteers: Support women to bring their babies to term, providing pregnancy tests, connecting women with medical, financial, legal and other resources. Flexible schedules; training provided. They are in need of **WINTER maternity clothes** (all sizes). Call 203-348-4355 or www.birthright.org if you can help.

Project Rachel Ministry: Offers free and confidential help to those seeking healing after abortion. Come back to God’s love and mercy. Call 203-416-1619 or projectrachel@diobpt.org.

End Legalized Abortion: Abortions take place daily at Stamford’s Planned Parenthood, 35 Sixth Street. Help us stop this by joining parishioners in front of the facility on Wednesday or Friday mornings, 8am-10:30am, or even just for 30 minutes. We pray and silently bear witness to the sanctity of human life. Our presence has helped convince expectant mothers to spare their children. Call Noelle at 857-345-0808 for specialized training as a Sidewalk Counselor.

Volunteers: *FUTURE 5* is a non-profit organization to help motivated low income high school students in Stamford to improve themselves and their future. We need volunteers to do one-on-one student work, such as college coaches, job prep coaches, and teachers. We also need tutors. We currently have a new student who needs a tutor in Japanese. For more information or to volunteer and/or tutor, please contact Fanny Moran: fmoran@futurefive.org

Upcoming Admissions Events at Regina Caeli: www.rcahybrid.org *Spring Open House– **Saturday, March 3rd, 3-5pm.** Location: 254 Danbury Road, Wilton (Located inside Wilton Baptist Church); includes a tour of our facilities, a short presentation, and time for questions and answers! Refreshments served; children are welcome! * You CAN Home School High School. A High School Information Session– **Sunday, March 4th, 2-4pm.** Location: Saint Lawrence Church Parish Center, 505 Shelton Ave, Shelton. RSVP with Mary Grunbok, Coordinator of Education, mgrunbok.fcc@rcahybrid.org or call (203) 701-9154. Bring your questions and get answers!

Natural Family Planning & Fertility Care: Natural Family Planning / Fertility Care – Are you seeking a family planning method that is natural, effective, and morally sound? The Creighton Model System is based upon a couple’s knowledge and understanding of their naturally-occurring phases of fertility and infertility. Engaged couples preparing for marriage, as well as married couples, and couples who are experiencing infertility issues, can all benefit from using this system. The teachers of the Creighton Model System are trained allied health professionals, and specifically-trained physicians have been educated to incorporate the Creighton Model System into their medical practice. For a FREE introductory session, please contact Angela Marchetti at angelamarchettifcp@gmail.com

Homeplace Wisdom: Is a Catholic women’s organization promoting friendship and vocational development with monthly speakers and gatherings, play dates, and a daily email list for sharing ideas, prayer requests, parenting or home-place questions, and reading material. To join: lisakotasek@gmail.com

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: *The Eaglet*, the parish blog on our Basilica website, www.stjohnsstamford.com.

Not Married in the Catholic Church? Please call the parish 203) 324-1553 or Fr. Vill at (ext. 130) to make an appointment, to discuss the Church’s teaching on marriage and the possibility of getting married in the Church. This also applies to those who want to learn more about seeking an annulment.

Lenten Mission at St. Mary’s, Greenwich: St. Mary’s Lenten Mission, “Radiant in Christ,” will be led by Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P. Shortly before his Passion, Jesus leads three of his disciples up a high mountain apart by themselves and is transfigured before them. From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard: “This is my beloved Son, listen to him.” The Lenten Mission will be conducted February 26 to March 1 at 7:30PM.

FLU: During this seriously dangerous flu season, we will dispense with the sign of peace during all Masses.

SilverSource: SilverSource is available to St. John’s parishioners both as a place to volunteer or an important resource to help parishioners as we age. SilverSource is looking for volunteers to help older adults live as independently as possible by reaching out to say “hello”, reading and visiting a senior, or running to the market. St. John’s parishioners who are seniors and require some help can receive financial assistance for housing stability, for eye glasses and hearing aids, or for transportation to and from doctor’s appointments. Call Michael Feighan: 203-324-6584, or website: www.silversource.org.

Catholic Young Adults of Stamford: We are Catholic young adults in our 20s and 30s, We regularly meet for social events and community service projects. Join us for our monthly Sunday dinner following 5pm Mass. Connect with us on Facebook or Meetup, or email us at catholicystamford@gmail.com

Job Seekers: Led by Melanie Szlucha whose company, Red Inc., is a leader in helping find jobs. Meetings are held in Monsignor Nagle Hall on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 9PM. Topics include Job Interviewing, Resumes, Networking and Job Search Strategies. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 28th. THERE IS NO CHARGE, this is free job coaching. Call Melanie Szlucha at 203-866-1606, or melanie@redinllc.com.

Trinity Catholic School: Trinity Catholic High School is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. There will be a “Take A Look” open house on March 18th. Entrance examinations will be on March 3rd. Details at: www.trinitycatholic.org/admissions.

Men’s Choir: Men who can even just hum a tune are welcome: contact David Indyk in person, or leave your contact information at the parish office, 203-324-1553, ext 21.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Lenten Mission– Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart will be leading a Lenten mission at Our Lady Star of the Sea March 5th, 6th, and 7th at 7PM. See flyers in the back of Church.

Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

Saturday, February 24, 2018

4:00 +Mildred/JoAnn and Felix Fiore req. Leon Taricani

Sunday, February 25, 2018

7:30 + Deb Fallacaro req. the Bottaro Family

10:00 +Esperance Phillips req. Abdul and Sarah Aslam

12:00 +Emma Segovia req. Family

5:00 + Fr. Peter M. Rinaldi, S.D.B.

Monday, February 26, 2018

8:00 Special Intentions Fiona Kolaj req. Family

12:10 +Linda Price Ingram req. Mary Long

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

8:00 Healing for Msgr. DiGiovanni

12:10 +Richard Molgano 25th Anniversary req. Paula Molgano

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

8:00 +Patrick Kane and Family req. Estate of Catherine Kane & Family

12:10 +Marcial Gloria req. Angeles Family

Thursday, March 1, 2018

8:00 +Lucia and Antonio Tana req. Leon Taricani

12:10 +Phyllis Meyer req. Gail Allen

Friday, March 2, 2018

8:00 Souls in Purgatory req. Anne Marie Samedi

12:10 +Maudie Alteri req. Tom and Olga Kolenberg

Saturday, March 3, 2018

8:00 +Marian Murray req. Michael Fetta

12:10 +Joseph Fusaro req. Frank and Beth Carpanzano

Baptisms: Are celebrated every day of the week, according to the schedule of the parish priests and the families. Baptisms at St. John's are one-family only ceremonies: never groups. For more information, please call Keri, (203-324-1553, ext 21). Baptisms are offered for parishioners only. Baptisms are offered in English, French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

Weddings: Couples must contact and begin meeting with one of the parish priests for at least 6 months before a hoped for wedding date at Saint John's. Please call the parish secretary, Keri, or one of the priests for an initial discussion. Weddings are offered for parishioners only.

Holy Name Society: For men of the parish, **meets Fridays in the Rectory, 7-7:50 a.m.** for coffee, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction. All men are welcome. We finish in time for the 8a.m. Mass.

The Legion of Mary: Wednesday Evenings: 7:30 pm 'till 9:00 pm in the Msgr. Nagle Hall.

St. Monica Latin Patristic Reading Group: The St Monica Latin Reading Group meets on Tuesdays. Please call St John's Rectory, 203 324 1553, ext. 21, for more information.

ST. JOHN'S IN THE ADVOCATE: 145 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Feb. 28, 1873: "Washington's Birthday was not very generally or extensively observed in this vicinity. The Post Office was closed part of the day, our local banks and a few manufacturing establishments shut down for the whole or a portion of the day. The Veterans' Association gave the stars and strips to the breeze from the window of their club room. It was found impossible to hoist the Borough flag owing to the fact that the halyards were frozen fast. In the afternoon the Cadets of St. John's Roman Catholic Society paraded through the principal streets, headed by an efficient and apparently well disciplined drum corps. The processionists carried the American, French, German and Irish flags, and presented a neat appearance as they marched, keeping time to the beat of the drums. In the evening the drum corps and their friends crowded the floor of the school house on Meadow street, and danced till nearly midnight."

115 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Feb. 27, 1905: "There is to be an entertainment in Miller's Hall, tomorrow evening and Wednesday evening, for the benefit of St. John's R. C. Church. Tomorrow evening's will be of literary and musical character, and Wednesday evening euchre will be played. It was first intended to have the euchre tomorrow night, but later this arrangement was altered and the euchre will take place Wednesday. An interesting program has been arranged for tomorrow evening."

110 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Feb. 28, 1907: **LONGFELLOW CENTENARY.** "The centenary of Longfellow was observed with appropriate exercises in St. John's parochial school yesterday afternoon. The pastor, Rev. James C. O'Brien and many graduates of the school were present and all had a most delightful afternoon, devoted to readings, recitations and songs, which of course were from works of Longfellow. The work of Mary Quinn was especially good while all who took part did exceedingly well. The program was entitled "An Hour with Longfellow.""

90 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

March 3, 1927: **WILDCATS CAPTURE GAME FROM SCOUTS.** "Troop 22 defeated the Wildcats last night on the St. John's court. The final score was 30—23. Kiley led in the scoring for the Wildcats with 20 points and Hushion for the Scouts with 12."

85 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Feb. 26, 1931: **CHILDREN OF MARY.** "The Children of Mary Sodality of St. John's Church have called a special meeting for tomorrow night which will take place in the church hall following the Lenten service. Important business will be transacted and all members of the sodality are requested to be present."

Daily & Weekend Mass Schedule:

Monday through Saturday: 8:00a.m. & 12:10p.m.

Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 4:00p.m. (Hymns)

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. (No Music)
10:00 a.m. Family Mass
12noon Solemn Mass (Gregorian Chant)
5:00 p.m. (No Music)

Holy Days of Obligation:

- Vigil Mass (evening before): 5:15p.m.
- Holy Day: 8:00a.m., 12:10p.m. & 5:15p.m.

Confessions:

(English, Francais, Espanol, Italiano, Portugese, Deutsch).

Mon-Fri: 11:30-11:50 a.m.

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00-7:25, 9:30-9:55, 11:30-11:55 a.m.

Anytime by appointment in the Rectory.

Baptism

Parents must be parishioners of St. John's. Please call the parish office: 324-1553, ext. 21.

First Communion and Confirmation

For information on Religious Education, please e-mail religious@stjohnsstamford.com, attention Fr. Vill. Confirmation is a two-year program.

Sacramental Records call the parish secretary, Mon-Fri: 9am - 4pm.in the rectory, 324-1553, ext. 21.

Marriage

Engaged couples [**bride or groom must be a St. John's parishioner and attending Sunday Mass regularly**] should contact one of the St. John's parish priests at least 6 months in advance of the wedding. Marriages are not performed on Sundays at St. John's.

Sick Calls, First Friday Communion Calls, and the Anointing of the Sick: Our priests would be happy to bring Communion, hear Confession and administer the Sacrament of the Sick to anyone seriously ill, homebound or in the hospital. Please call the rectory: 324-1553, ext. 21.

Devotions

- Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 12:00 p.m.
- Daily Rosary following the 12:10 Mass: Mon-Sat.

The Basilica of St. John Bookstore Hours

Sunday: 10:45a.m. - 12 Noon.

Thursday: 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. (Closed during Mass)

Friday: 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. (Closed during Mass)