

Dear Friends,

The gospel on this second Sunday of Lent talks about the Transfiguration of the Lord. The word “**transfiguration**” is not often part of our vocabulary today. I can’t imagine a mother coming to the table with a beautiful casserole proclaiming that she had “**transformed**” the macaroni into the dish. We might use it if someone goes to the beauty shop and gets a haircut. ‘Look how **transformed** she is!’ Or we might use it in telling fairy tales to our children – someone was **transformed** into a princess like Cinderella or a frog was **transformed** into a Prince. But, despite the fact that it isn’t a commonly used word, what the word signifies does happen pretty often. Something is changed into something more beautiful.

Lent is a time of change in the Church. This is, of course, why we hear the story of the Transfiguration in today’s gospel. How can we transform ourselves during Lent? What do we have to do to turn ourselves from sin, the part of ourselves that pulls away from God? In the readings today, there are ideas for us about our own transformations during Lent and what we must do. In the first reading, Abraham had to turn his back on everything he held sacred. We know how important it was to have a son and heir for the Hebrew people. Abraham had only one son who was a gift from God. Then God wanted to take away Abraham’s only son, and by Abraham’s own hand. Perhaps Abraham’s faith allowed him to know that it was a test or that God would somehow make anything that happened right.

How willing are we to have complete faith in God? We know that God’s ways are not our ways. Knowing this, are we willing to suffer, to offer up everything we hold dear and put it in God’s hands? Abraham’s reward was a great one for his faithfulness. This “handing over” our lives to God, this ability to trust that God will make all things right in the end, this is one of the things that we need to work on in our repentance this Lent.

The Psalm today says “I kept my faith, even when I said “I am greatly afflicted”. Do we keep our faith when we suffer, when our family suffers, or even when there is death? That is the kind of faith we are being asked to develop in Lent. I struggle with Abraham’s kind of faith. Nobody said this was going to be easy! If we are able to put our faith in God, then we can say with St. Paul that nothing “will separate us from the love of Christ.” No hardship, no distress, no persecution, no hunger, no poverty...nothing will be able to get us down or take God’s love away. Faith can move mountains!

Jesus, increase our faith,

Fr. Krzysztof

