

Sacrifice of Praise

Second Sunday of Lent: Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9

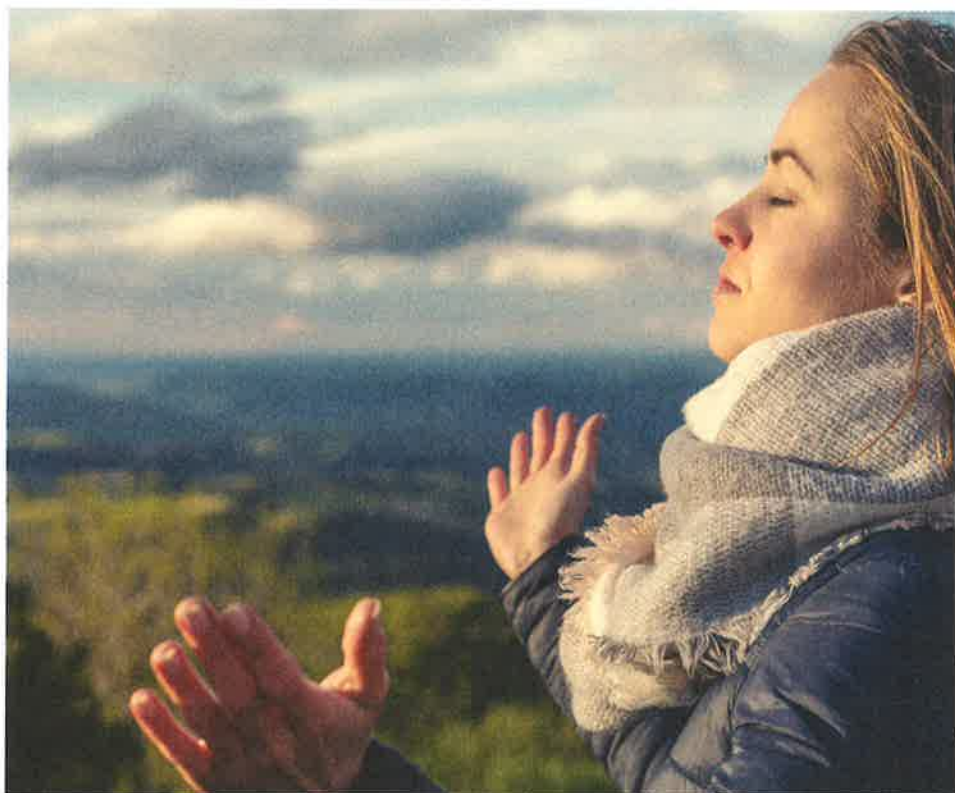
The Glory of the Lord Shone All About

Jesus led three chosen apostles — Peter, James, and John — to a high mountain. There Jesus was transfigured, appearing in dazzling white before them as a foreshadowing of his glorified self. What a magnificent moment for all to behold. The Lord’s “face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light” (Mt 17:2), a “dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them” (Mk 9:3).

As if that sight were not enough, appearing alongside the Lord were Moses and Elijah. Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets; both figures share having encountered God on a holy mountain and experienced an exodus. Both were representing significant moments and a prefiguring of Jesus’ mission, as well as being pivotal characters in the salvation history story.

How the three disciples must have doubted what their eyes were seeing. How often have we looked upon the Eucharist and doubted who was truly present before us? There on the altar in all his glory, under the guise of wine and bread, is our Lord and Savior — body, blood, soul, and divinity. Jesus, glorified in splendor before them, was preparing them for what was about to come, present to us in the Eucharist, preparing our hearts and soul for when he will come again.

Peter’s response seems strange and rash. He wishes to erect three booths to freeze that moment in time. He thought it an experience so incredible and unimaginable that he never wanted it to end — a reaction anyone who has been witness to the birth of a child, stood with a loved one at a wedding, or enjoyed a special vacation would understand; those times in our lives when the



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FOR REFLECTION

- How can prayer help you witness God’s glory?
- Describe how you feel in the presence of the Lord, hidden in the mystery of the Eucharist.
- Have you experienced a moment so special you never wanted to leave it?

world seems to stand still as the event unfolded before our eyes, in ways so unexpected or unparalleled, our hearts burst with joy!

Then, while Peter was still speaking, a cloud descended, and the voice of God breaks through Peter’s ramblings, and says, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him” (Mk 9:7). God is not merely

delivering this message to these chosen three, but he is revealing Jesus’ authority to each of us.

How often are we, like Peter, still speaking instead of prayerfully discerning the circumstances unfolding before us in life. How often do we allow the Holy Spirit, and the voice of God, to quiet us as to instruct and guide, that we may better know the will of God in our lives?

We are deaf to the guidance and blessings God longs to bestow — the gift of salvation, the gift only he, through his Son, can offer. How often in prayer do you sit quietly and listen for the whisper of the Holy Spirit to guide your heart? Do you allow God to interrupt your own narrative when he seeks to speak to you?



Prayer

Heavenly Father, hide not your glory from me. Open my eyes so I might notice in the people I meet, the beauty of nature, and the quiet of my heart while in prayer how all display your glory. The Transfiguration prepared the disciples for what they were about to experience in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. May my Lenten practices transform my heart, to be better prepared for the experiences of Holy Week this year.

Any time spent before the Eucharistic presence, be it long or short, is the best-spent time of our lives. – ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA

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LENTEN TIP

How Do We Worship the Glory of God, When It Is Hidden from Us?

Almsgiving offers a chance to serve others. If you want to see the glory of God, then look for it in those he has created. As Mother Teresa said, "Each one of them is Jesus in disguise."

Here are a few suggestions for ways to worship God as we serve others:

- Help in a soup kitchen
- Spend time with your family cleaning the basement or attic — donate "your treasure"
- Visit the homebound, elderly, ill, or imprisoned
- Participate in the Rice Bowl Project
- Collect school supplies for children in need

Transfiguration Trivia

- 1 Although often presumed to have occurred on Mount Tabor in Israel, none of the Gospels specify where the Transfiguration actually happened.
- 2 The Transfiguration transpired while Jesus was praying.
- 3 Moses and Elijah each experienced an exodus, while Jesus was preparing to participate in the New Exodus.
- 4 The event is considered by some scholars as the culminating point of Jesus' public ministry, having its beginning in his baptism and conclusion with his ascension.

Power in Prayer and the Eucharist

St. Clare of Assisi, inspired by the preaching of St. Francis, left her aristocratic life to be devoted to Jesus as a cloistered nun. Clare is often depicted holding the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance. She knew the power of the Eucharist. Once, under attack by invading Saracens, tradition holds, she thwarted their advance by raising the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance while praying with great trust for God's protection. While doing so she comforted the other sisters in the convent with the words: "Don't be afraid. Trust in Jesus."



STOP

Feeling sick?

Stop the spread of flu in the workplace.
Stay home when you are sick.

Common Flu Signs & Symptoms Include:



Fever* or feeling feverish/chills

*It is important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.



Sore throat



Runny or stuffy nose



Cough



Muscle or body aches



Headaches



Fatigue (tiredness)

Flu is different from a common cold.

Flu usually comes on suddenly, and in general symptoms are more intense.

If you think you may have flu tell your supervisor and stay home from work.

All employees should stay home if they are sick. CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8 degrees Celsius) is gone. Your fever should be gone without the need to use a fever-reducing medicine.

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/flu



A Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of nations. Give them foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are at home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us. (Kerry Weber, March 2, 2020, [America Magazine](#).)



2900 Hoover Avenue
Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232-3514
Fax: 515-232-2875
www.stceciliaparish.org
office@stceciliaparish.org

March 8, 2020

Dear friends,

I'd like to personally invite you to join us on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, March 29th-31st for our Parish Mission with Anthony Digmann!

Anthony is a faithful Catholic and engaging speaker who travels around the state and the country giving talks that help explain the faith and call listeners to a deeper love of God. (Little known fact: Anthony is also the brother of Fr. Kyle Digmann, pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas.)

Anthony will spend each evening successively unpacking the topics of "Why God?", "Why Christian?", and "Why Catholic?" The content is certain to be helpful not only in your own walk with Christ but also in your conversations with others. Often we encounter people who are ignorant of the Gospel or even hostile to faith. We may sometimes feel inadequate giving what St. Peter called "a reason for our hope" (1 Peter 3:15). Anthony's talks will help give words to your convictions.

If you can't make it to all three talks, that's okay! Please join us for as many as you can. Anthony designed the talks to build on one other but also to stand alone so you won't be disappointed either way. Each evening will begin at 7:00pm and will be held in the St. Cecilia Sanctuary.

Please join us on March 29th, 30th, and 31st and feel free to invite friends and family as well. All are welcome!

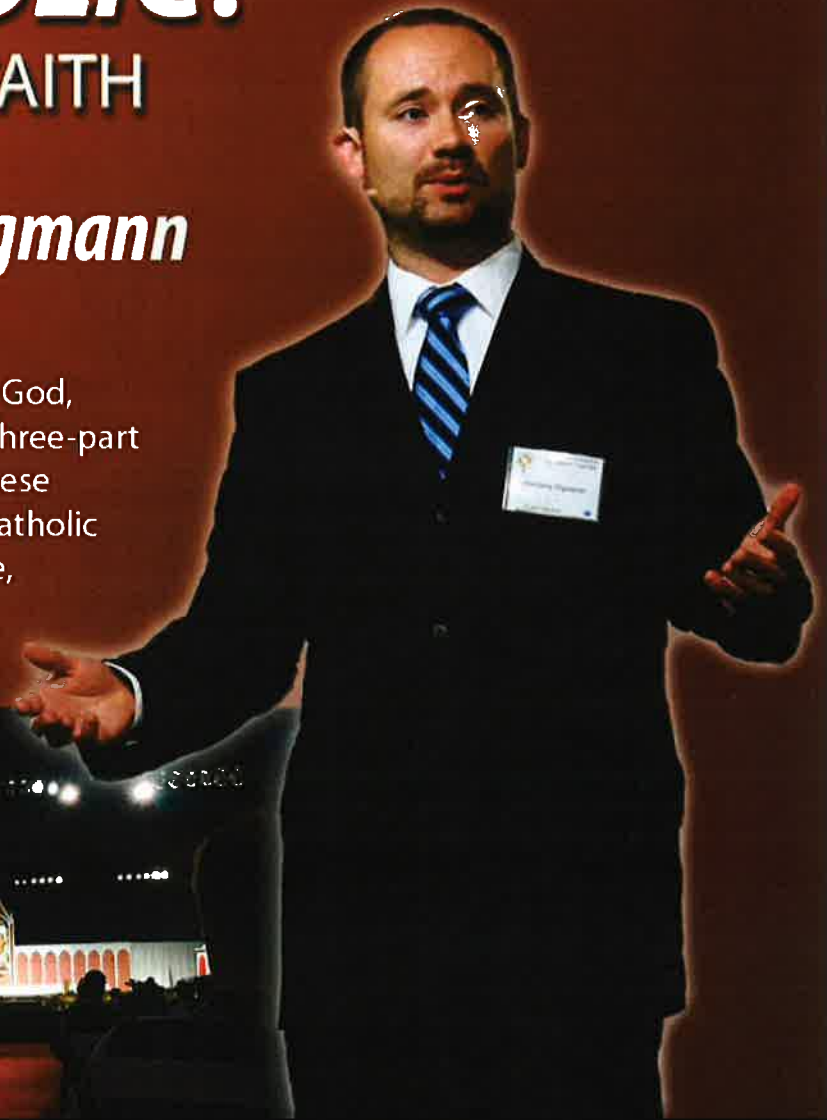
In Christ,

Fr. Jim Secora
Pastor, St. Cecilia Church

WHY GOD? WHY CHRISTIAN? WHY CATHOLIC? EVIDENCE FOR FAITH

with **Anthony Digmann**
MA Theology

Explore the reasons behind our faith in God, Christianity, and Catholicism with this three-part parish mission, workshop, or retreat. These presentations combine Christian and Catholic apologetics with evidence from science, philosophy, and archaeology.



Discover more at AnthonyDigmann.com

"Anthony Digmann is a gifted and faithful Catholic evangelist. His speaking, writing, and teaching illuminate the truths of the Church for youth and adults alike, and his commitment to both the Church's mission and the Magisterium is inspiring. I am pleased to endorse Anthony and his evangelization apostolate."
-**Most Rev. Michael O. Jackels, S.T.D.,**
Archbishop of Dubuque

"Why God?" - Sunday, March 29th at 7pm
"Why Christian?" - Monday, March 30th at 7pm
"Why Catholic?" - Tuesday, March 31st at 7pm

Location: St. Cecilia Church Sanctuary