



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY August 6 & BEYOND**

## They Saw His Glory



The Transfiguration of Jesus is like a reflection in a pool, beautiful and mysterious. You see yourself in the wavy water, but it is not completely clear and focused. You must look closely to understand what you see. What is God showing me in this vision? What does it mean to me? Something and someone very special indeed.

First, in the water I see Moses on Mt. Sinai, standing with the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. Moses has returned from a long sojourn with God. It is a time of reflection, and a time for Moses to listen. What shall I do with this wayward people? How shall I guide them? I can imagine these questions knowing how much trouble he faced as their leader. The Israelites were becoming a new people under Moses. They were learning about freedom after experiencing oppression. They were on a long journey to a new land, there was joy, but there was also murmuring. “We want meat and bread.”

I see Moses' face, shining with the glory of God. This seems very much like the Transfiguration of Jesus. His face was shining brightly after being in the presence of the Holy One. Jesus' garments and face shone because he was God's Son.

In the reflection of the water, it is easy to see Elijah as well. He represents the prophets of old. He lived in the northern kingdom of Israel when Ahab was king with his notorious wife, Jezebel (1 Kings 17ff). Elijah railed against the people of Israel who ran after Baal, the Canaanite God, and he defeated their prophets on Mt. Carmel. Elijah would leave this earth in a chariot of fire, only to return to be with Jesus.

Together on the mountain, we see Jesus with Moses and Elijah. The glory of God is with them all in an overpowering brilliance that must have left the disciples in awe and wonder. The gospel tells us they were weighed down with sleep, but I can only

imagine they were also overwhelmed in glory. If I had been with Peter, John and James I would have been both terrified and joyful. I would have felt like the centurion who declared, “Truly, this is the Son of God!” (Mark 15:39)

Paul writes, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:12) It is in this world that we see things dimly. In the life to come, we see God’s vision clearly, face to face. There are so many things we question in life, so many things we wonder about. Spiritually, we are given only a dim vision of God’s true glory and majesty. The Transfiguration is an offering to reveal the shekinah (glory of God) — more brilliant than any bleach or light, more revealing than the spoken word. It is dazzling white, and everything is changed by its glory.

On the Feast of the Transfiguration God pulls back the curtain so that we may see what cannot be seen, and understand what is beyond our comprehension. For a moment, the clouds of incense part, and we are there with him on the mountain. The word of God is given: “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5)

Father Steven L. Schuneman

## CALENDAR

SUNDAY:           8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
                      9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)  
                      10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)  
                      —*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY           7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY:        Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY:           9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)  
                      9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

### AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)  
8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)