

Pastor's Letter

August 2, 2026 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

Several years ago, Pam and I went to Grand Tetons National Park with my brother and his family. One night my brother and I stepped out of the tent cabin we were staying in and went over to sit by the campfire. We sat there talking for a long time and both of us just watched the fire die. As the fire went down the darkness got thicker and thicker. It was a moonless night and there were no other lights around. Eventually the fire went out and it was pitch black. That's when we noticed the stars. If you've ever been to the mountains, you know how amazing the stars look. If you haven't, it's hard to describe just how brilliant and close they look and how many of them there are. But you can only see them on the darkest nights.

It's in the darkest moments of our lives that the light of God's love shines the brightest. This coming Thursday the church will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John go up a mountain with Jesus and the glory of heaven shines out of him and the voice of the Father declares his love and approval of Him. It's a scene of transcendent beauty, but it comes after some very difficult words from the Lord about what lies ahead for him and for his disciples. Just before their mountaintop experience, Jesus tells them that he must go to Jerusalem and be killed and that his followers can expect similar treatment. The disciples are shocked and refuse to believe that this could happen to their teacher. Jesus even has to get a little harsh with Peter to show them how serious he is about the hardships to come. But then, on the mountain, heaven opens up for them. After that experience they can go back down the mountain and face whatever comes.

That's often how it is for us. Our faith is challenged by some difficult circumstance. Our conscience forces us to take a stand for what is right and true even though it might hurt. Things look dark for us. But then God shows himself and whatever we have to go through is bearable when seen in the light of God's love and when we remember our goal of eternal life with him. Maybe the light breaks in through the love and support of others. Maybe it's a word of encouragement from a Christian brother or sister to keep moving forward in faith. Maybe it's a beautiful sunrise that reminds us of the providence of God.

Are things getting dark around you right now? Wait a moment and let your spiritual eyes adjust. In the darkest night, look for the stars and be amazed.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Journey of Faith begins September 28

Have you ever had questions about the teachings, history, and structure of the Catholic Church? Maybe you are thinking about becoming Catholic, have family or friends who are Catholic, or maybe you are Catholic and want to go deeper in the practice of your faith. Our parishes will once again be offering a class called, "Journey of Faith" starting in September. This is our program for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Our OCIA class is for anyone interested in learning about Catholic faith and life. Classes will begin on Monday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Brigid's in the parish hall. The class will be led by Fr. Scott. This is a great opportunity to go deep into the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith. Bring your questions and join us! For more info contact Fr. Scott.