

FROM FR. DEO

March 1, 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God is good all the time... All the time God is good!

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent. After describing for us the temptations of Jesus in the desert, Matthew leads us up Mountain Tabor, where Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John. His face shines like the sun and His clothes become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear conversing with Him, and the voice of the Father declares: *"This is my beloved*

Son... listen to Him."

The Church gives us this Gospel today to offer hope on our journey to the Cross. After predicting His Passion, Jesus reveals His glory to the disciples, a foretaste of Easter, reminding us that the suffering of the cross is not the final word.

After witnessing the Lord's glory, Peter wants to build three tents and remain on the mountain. But Jesus calls them to descend into the valley. Faith is not formed in extraordinary moments alone—it grows as we follow Christ in the challenges and ordinary realities of daily life.

Like the apostles, we all experience "mountain-top moments"—times when God feels especially near, such as a retreat, a powerful Mass or a deep prayer. We especially experience this transfiguration in the Eucharist, the Source and Summit of our life. Each Mass deepens our union with God, strengthens us against temptation, and renews us on our Lenten journey.

In moments of doubt, darkness, discouragement, or the loneliness of our "desert experience," we ought to seek the Lord through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and learn to listen to His voice and take His words seriously. May our daily prayer echo the words of today's Responsorial Psalm: *"Lord, let Your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in You."*

In parish news, I would like to reflect on our parish vision and the kind of community we are called to become. We envision being "a vibrant Catholic parish family where all are welcomed to seek and be transformed by Christ, and to be sent forth to radiate Trinitarian love in daily life."

"Vibrant" means alive in the Spirit—faith-filled, growing, joyful, engaged, and mission-oriented. Hospitality lies at the heart of our identity. Every person should feel seen, heard, valued, and warmly welcomed. In this way, we reflect Christ's own openness to all.

Our encounter with the Lord in the Mass, prayer, Scripture, and the Sacraments sends us on mission. As missionary disciples, we're called to radiate the love and communion of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—into our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods.

A vibrant parish is not built by one person or one group. It is built by all of us—walking together, listening to one another, and moving forward as a community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Together, we're St Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish. Please, join us Monday as we live out this synodal way of being church as each of us discerns what we can do for our parish.

Finally, I invite you to take up the Lenten discipleship challenge: bring or invite a friend or family member to Mass.

St Elizabeth of the Trinity, Pray for Us.

Fr Deo