

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
FEBRUARY 7, 2016—THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS



Jesus went with Peter, John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, Peter, they saw that the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.



**BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME:
THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS**

Understanding the Transfiguration

What is the difference between transfigured and transformed?

When something is **TRANSFORMED**, there is usually a change in form or function. When something is transformed we don't see the original. Think of wheat transformed into bread—they don't look the same at all, and if you didn't know that wheat was there, you wouldn't recognize it.

When something is **TRANSFIGURED** there is a change that exalts or glorifies. When Jesus was transfigured the disciples could still see the human Jesus—and they could also see a glimpse of the divine Jesus—the fully human person who was also fully divine. When Jesus is transfigured his appearance is changed, but Peter, James and John still know without a doubt that he is still Jesus. The disciples were used to seeing Jesus as a regular person—just like you and me—the fully human Jesus. At the transfiguration they saw a glimpse of the divine Jesus.

Children know all about transfiguration and transformation, even though they might not realize it. When they learn or improve a skill, develop their social graces or improve in a school subject they are transforming themselves—not unrecognizably like wheat into bread, but they are changing, growing and developing every day from children to teens to adults. Celebrate the transformations they make. Learning to tie their shoes, surviving the first day of a new grade or school, taking the car for a solo drive, getting accepted to college...these are all events that mark both outward and inward transformations in our lives as parents and children. They are also transfiguring—as they begin to see another aspect of themselves and other people.

Changing the world: Jesus wants to transfigure us, to encourage us to see the divine spirit inside of all of us. Then, with the love that we are given from God we are called to go out and transform the world—to make it a better place and to spread God's love to all people. How can you do that? Talk with your family about how each of you can make the world a better place, volunteer for a good cause or spread love, happiness and kindness.

Dinner Table Conversation:

When has something in your life changed dramatically or even subtly?

Has something changed from bad to good, or from sad to happy?

When have you experienced transfiguration? (When have you seen another, beautiful, loving side or yourself?)

How does Jesus transform and transfigure us?

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know.

It is posted weekly on www.stjamesbatavia.org