

LIVING FAITH

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

JOHN 6:24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

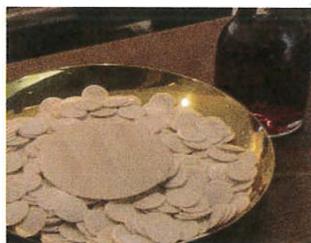
Jesus is the Bread of Life. If we eat of this bread, we will never be hungry again. Jesus is obviously not talking about the bread that comes from an oven and fills our bellies. He is talking about Himself—He fills our hungry hearts and souls. He is always there for us—and He will never leave us. We may wander. We may even turn away; but Jesus will never leave us to face our perils alone.

PONDER AND DISCUSS...

- Have you ever experienced the presence and the love of Jesus? How?
- Have you ever shown the love of Jesus to someone else? When and where and how?

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Jesus



The Bread
of Life

When we receive Eucharist we receive Jesus and are united with Him.

Jesus The Bread of Life

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
John 6:51 (NIV)



A	I	B	H	N	L	B	S	P	F	L	N	P	R	J
N	M	S	E	N	G	T	Y	C	N	A	J	L	Q	E
W	N	N	R	L	E	D	C	V	W	C	T	L	L	J
E	H	A	X	H	I	I	K	R	O	X	V	H	I	F
E	E	P	P	E	L	E	F	F	R	F	U	F	E	O
L	V	O	S	H	I	I	V	Y	L	V	A	A	D	R
T	R	E	S	D	V	I	B	E	D	N	D	E	I	E
P	R	E	R	M	E	K	C	P	N	S	E	H	E	V
T	L	U	M	L	A	Q	K	A	B	A	S	L	D	E
F	H	L	T	O	A	X	M	F	B	T	E	I	O	R
I	J	E	Y	H	T	S	E	H	D	E	R	F	X	B
M	E	Q	A	M	P	H	T	A	F	S	T	E	N	U
X	S	D	B	V	D	J	E	I	L	I	S	T	E	N
O	U	Y	P	B	E	R	L	R	N	K	Z	X	I	V
R	S	Z	X	V	B	N	P	T	W	G	G	N	M	M

<i>Bread</i>	<i>heaven</i>	<i>Jesus</i>	<i>father</i>	<i>mother</i>	<i>prophets</i>	<i>listen</i>
<i>learn</i>	<i>truth</i>	<i>believe</i>	<i>everlasting life</i>	<i>ate</i>	<i>manna</i>	
	<i>desert</i>	<i>died</i>	<i>live</i>	<i>forever</i>	<i>flesh</i>	<i>world</i>

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THE CHURCH TEACHES

A LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE—REJOICE AND BE GLAD

CHAPTER ONE

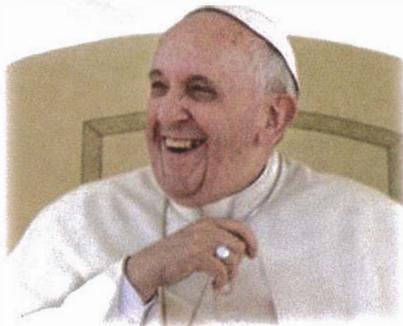


Gaudete et Exsultate is meant to be practical: it is not a textbook on holiness or spirituality. Rather, it is a meditation on how to respond to Christ’s invitation to be saints: to “Rejoice and be glad,” (§1). Chapter One deals with God’s call to holiness, issued to every single human being.



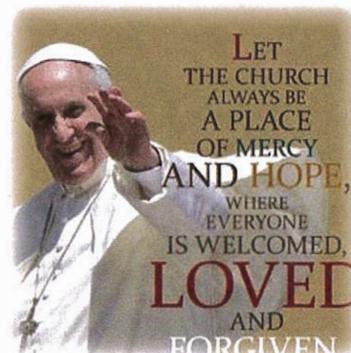
"Have the courage to be truly happy!"

Pope Francis



In this chapter, Pope Francis says, “We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness,” (§11). Besides the saints and martyrs whose lives were “an exemplary imitation of Christ,” Pope Francis praises the everyday holiness of “those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile,” (§7).

Pope Francis emphasizes the phrase “each in his or her own way,” for the diversity of forms of holiness means that Christians must discern how the Lord is calling each of them to holiness. While there are many good forms of life, every person has a unique vocation to whom he or she is called by God.



“At its core, holiness is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mysteries of his life.” (§20).

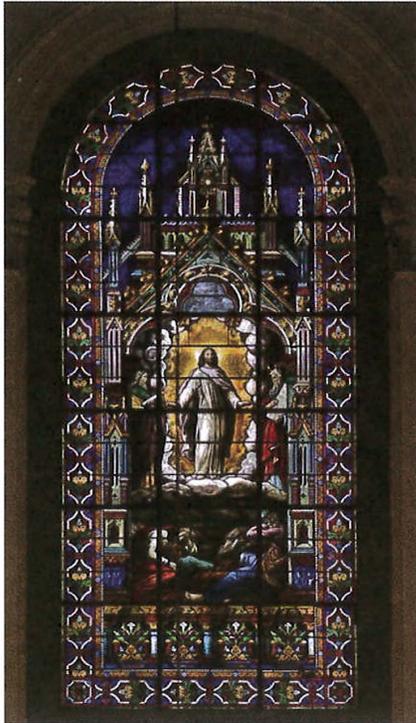
For a copy of *Gaudete et Exsultate* click here :
https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html



FEASTS THIS WEEK

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

AUGUST 6



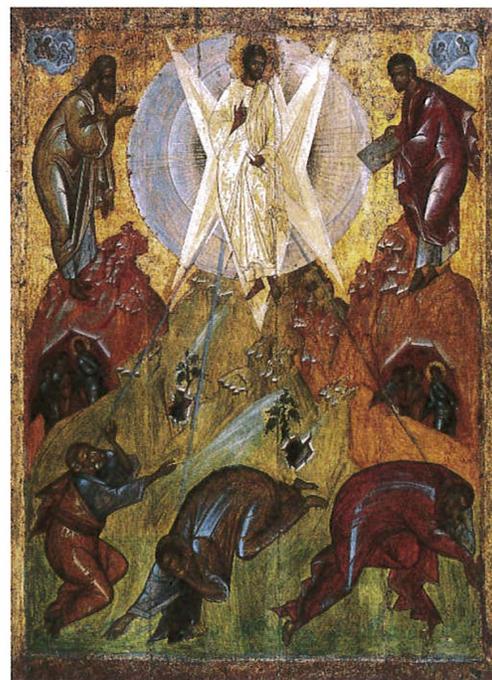
The **Transfiguration of Jesus** is an event reported in the New Testament, in the Gospels of Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36, and the Second Epistle of Peter also refers to it (2 Peter 1:16-18).

In these accounts, Jesus and three of his apostles, Peter, James and John go to a mountain (the Mount of Transfiguration) to pray. On the mountain, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Jesus is then called "Son" by a voice in the sky, the voice of God the Father, as had been heard at the Baptism of Jesus.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

The Transfiguration not only supports the identity of Jesus as the Son of God, but the statement "listen to him", identifies him as the messenger and voice of God. 2 Peter 1:16-18, echoes the same message: at the Transfiguration God assigns to Jesus a special "honour and glory" and it is the turning point at which God exalts Jesus above all other powers in creation, and positions him as ruler and judge.

The Transfiguration also echoes the teaching by Jesus (as in Matthew 22:32) that God is not "the God of the dead, but of the living". Although Moses had died and Elijah had been taken up to heaven centuries before (as in 2 Kings 2:11), they now live in the presence of the Son of God, implying that the same return to life applies to all who face death and have faith.



Icon by Theophanes the Greek, 15th century