



From the Senior Warden...

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

Dear Family of St. Christopher's,

On June 9, we began what is considered to be our longest religious season – Pentecost. This is our time to await the Holy Spirit and is a time of prayer. One of the major feasts (or celebrations) during Pentecost will happen on 6 August 2019.

This celebration is the Transfiguration of Christ. A transfiguration is basically a changing of the figure, form or outward appearance of a person and is done so as to exalt or glorify. The one being glorified is filled with a radiance or light.

This celebration is considered by many to be the highest point of Jesus' earthly life when he was "transfigured" by a brilliant white light at the top of a mountain and is proclaimed to be the well-beloved Son of God which comes from a heavenly voice. By all 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 and his garments become "white as the 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, said voice is assumed to be God, the Father.

The transfiguration is one of the miracles of Jesus described in the Gospels but what makes this miracle unique is that the miracle happens to Christ himself. This miracle is considered to be "the greatest miracle" which is equal to his baptism. This event is also considered to be one of the five major milestones in the life of Christ – the others happen to be baptism, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

This miracle is a pivotal moment in that the event itself is presented as the point where human nature meets God, the meeting place of the temporal (i.e. temporary) and eternal and with Jesus himself being the connecting point between heaven and earth. Upon leaving the mountain, Jesus tells the three apostles to not tell anyone of the things they have seen.

For us as Christians and for those around the world, the Transfiguration remains as an important observance. It is a chance for us to reflect on the glorious divinity of Christ made manifest (i.e. make clear or evident) in this our material world.

*Yours in Christ,
Joe Maldonado
Senior Warden*

"Blessing of the Backpacks"

On Sunday, August 25th we will have "Blessing of the Backpacks" at our 10:00 service of Holy Eucharist Everyone - kids or adults - who is returning to school or college, please bring your backpack to church and Fr. JJ will bless them and you!

From Padre Miguel and Fr. Alex...

Padre Nuestro

Cuando en nuestra Iglesia rezamos el Padre Nuestro lo hacemos en primer lugar, conciente de que es una oración comunitaria. Padre nuestro, no Padre mío. Es comunitaria siempre. Aunque la digamos solos, sin embargo, siempre nos consideramos miembros de un gupo, una comunidad religiosa. Por eso, aunque estemos solos, siempre es Padre nuestro. Nosotros somos personas libres, pero miembros de una comunidad, una Iglesia

Miembros de una familia en donde el "Padre", por amor, nos comunica su propia vida. Al decir nosotros a Dios, Padre, significa que tenemos experiencia de haber recibido esa vida. En el Bautismo nos hacemos hijos de este Padre y recibimos esa vida, nacemos y tenemos esa vida Espiritual. Movidos por el Espíritu, los que pronunciamos el Padre nuestro son los que ya tienen el Espíritu de Dios, porque es el Espíritu el que nos hace hijos. Uno que no se sienta hijo, que no sea hijo, no puede decir Padre. Podrá decir Señor, podrá decir Dios, pero, para decir Padre, necesita la experiencia del amor que Dios nos tiene, y de que con ese amor nos ha comunicado su vida, su Espíritu.

En las bienaventuranzas, recordemos que dice "dichosos los que trabajan por la paz, por la felicidad de los seres humanos, porque a esos Dios los llamará hijos suyos, serán llamados hijos de Dios".

Aquí Jesus es el que nos llama hijos suyos. Por lo tanto los que decimos Padre Nuestro, pertenecemos a esos que Dios llama hijos, que el trabaja por la paz. Y, como el Padre Nuestro se dice en plural, es decir, incluye a una comunidad, es la comunidad cristiana que ha recibido el Espíritu de Dios en Pentecostes, la que está en communion con Dios Padre por ese compromiso de amor y la que está trabajando por el bien de los seres humanos. Cada uno de nosotros tiene ese trabajo por la humanidad, cada uno a su manera, según sus cualidades, sus fuerzas, su preparación.

Cada uno encontrará el terreno en el cual tiene que hacer avanzar ese amor de Dios para todos sus hijos. Padre nuestro del cielo, es decir, nosotros hablamos de que tenemos la experiencia de tu amor. Sabemos que nos amas. Y además estamos comprometidos con ese amor y estamos trabajando para que la humanidad conozca tu amor, trabajando por la felicidad de los seres humanos, trabajando por el Reino de Dios Padre.

¿Qué significa el Reinado del Padre? Cuando rezamos lo que se pedimos es que llegue su reinado, es decir, que la voluntad de Dios se ponga en practica sobre la humanidad. Y la voluntad de Dios es amar y servir, el bien y la paz para toda la humanidad.

El reinado de Dios es la comunicación de vida. La vida de Dios comunicada es el Espíritu. Por tanto lo que se pide es que esta experiencia de vida que tenemos nosotros, del Espíritu que nos ha dado vida, que sea también experiencia de la humanidad.

Acordémonos de otra bienaventuranza. "Dichosos los que eligen ser pobres, porque sobre ellos reina Dios, Dios ejerce su reinado, tienen a Dios por rey". De manera que para que Dios ejerza su reinado sobre los seres humanos, esa comunicación de vida, hace falta esa opción, la opción por la pobreza, que es la opción contra las ambiciones de dinero, de honor y de poder. La comunidad ha hecho la opción y ha recibido el Espíritu, ya Dios reina sobre ella. Entonces se pide que Dios reine sobre la humanidad, y eso implica que la humanidad cambie su estado de valores, que en vez de los valores de la sociedad injusta (la ambición, las insolidaridades, la violencia interna y externa), que cambien y que elijan precisamente lo contrario: la sencillez y el compartir, la igualdad y el servicio mutuo, en vez del poder, el honor y el dinero. De manera que esta humanidad que, primero, se libera al comprender que Dios es Padre y no es tirano y, por lo tanto, no acepta un tirano, esa humanidad, así liberada, haga las opciones propias de ese Padre que se propone, las opciones para que el Padre pueda reinar. Las opciones implican renunciar a las ambiciones, y entonces "tu reinado" será una realidad. Que la humanidad se llene de vida, de Espíritu, de amor, de solidaridad, de

fraternidad, porque ha hecho las opciones que eliminan esas rivalidades, hostilidades y violencias de la sociedad en que vivimos.

De manera que éste es el reinado de Dios. Dios reina sobre cada uno de nosotros y también sobre todos, porque la opción la hace cada individuo, esa no es comunitaria. Dentro de la comunidad, uno hace su opción personal. Eso es inevitable. No se pueden hacer opciones comunitarias, cada uno tiene que hacer su opción. Entonces así se crea la persona nueva. La persona que hace esa opción, que destierra de sí las ambiciones, que renuncia a todo eso y recibe el Espíritu, es la persona nueva, la nueva criatura. Entonces lo que se pide es que los seres humanos sean personas nuevas y que por esa opción vaya surgiendo la humanidad nueva.

Our Father

When we pray the Our Father in our Church, we do it in the first place, aware that it is a community prayer. Our Father, not my Father. It is always community. Although we say it alone, however, we always consider ourselves members of a group, a religious community. Therefore, even if we are alone, he is always our Father. We are free people, but members of a community, a Church

Members of a family where the "Father", for love, communicates his own life. When we say to God, Father, it means that we have experience of having received that life. In Baptism we become children of this Father and we receive that life, we are born and we have that Spiritual life. Moved by the Spirit, those who pronounce our Father are those who already have the Spirit of God, because it is the Spirit who makes us children. One who does not feel a son, who is not a son, cannot say Father. You can say Lord, you can say God, but, to say Father, you need the experience of the love God has for us, and that with that love he has communicated his life, his Spirit.

In the Beatitudes, let us remember that he says "Blessed are those who work for peace, for the happiness of human beings, because those God will call them his children, they will be called children of God."

Here Jesus is the one who calls us his children. Therefore, those of us who say Our Father, belong to those whom God calls children, who works for peace. And, as the Our Father says in the plural, that is, it includes a community, it is the Christian community that has received the Spirit of God in Pentecost, which is in communion with God the Father for that commitment of love and that which is Working for the good of human beings. Each one of us has that work for humanity, each in its own way, according to its qualities, its strengths, its preparation.

Everyone will find the ground on which he has to advance that love of God for all his children.

Our Father from heaven, that is, we talk about our experience of your love. We know you love us. And we are also committed to that love and we are working so that humanity knows your love, working for the happiness of human beings, working for the Kingdom of God the Father.

What does the Father's Reign mean? When we pray what we ask is that his reign arrive, that is, that God's will be put into practice on humanity. And God's will is to love and serve, good and peace for all mankind.

The reign of God is the communication of life. The life of God communicated is the Spirit. Therefore, what is requested is that this experience of life that we have, of the Spirit that has given us life, be also the experience of humanity.

Let us remember another bliss. "Blessed are those who choose to be poor, because God reigns over them, God exercises his reign, they have God as king." So that for God to exercise his reign over human beings, that communication of life, that option is needed, the option for poverty, which is the option against the ambitions of money, honor and power. The community has made the choice and has received the Spirit, and God reigns over it. Then God is asked to reign over humanity, and that implies that humanity changes its

state of values, that instead of the values of unjust society (ambition, insolidarities, internal and external violence), that they change and that Choose precisely the opposite: simplicity and sharing, equality and mutual service, instead of power, honor and money. So that this humanity that, first, is freed by understanding that God is Father and is not a tyrant and, therefore, does not accept a tyrant, that humanity, thus liberated, makes the options of that proposed Father, options for the Father to reign. The options involve giving up ambitions, and then "your reign" will be a reality. May humanity be filled with life, Spirit, love, solidarity, fraternity, because it has made the options that eliminate those rivalries, hostilities and violence of the society in which we live.

So this is the reign of God. God reigns over each one of us and also over all, because the choice is made by each individual, that is not communal. Within the community, one makes his personal choice. That is unavoidable. You can't make community options, everyone has to make their choice. So that's how the new person is created. The person who makes that choice, who banishes ambitions from himself, who renounces all that and receives the Spirit, is the new person, the new creature. So what is being asked is that human beings be new people and that new humanity will emerge through that option.

*Blessings,
Padre Miguel +*

You are the light of the world.

The Lord Jesus Christ envisioned his disciples to bring something new to the world; we read in the Gospel of Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven". Christians have this vocation to share the presence of our Lord. It seems that many people have their own agenda without God; Jesus gave the tasks to his Church to be the light which people need to experience the Kingdom of God. We are called to be witnesses of hope in a broken world; this is a great challenge but we rely on the Holy Spirit to achieve this goal to be the light of the world.

Jesus Cristo nuestro Dios, desde el principio de su ministerio vemos que le encomienda a sus discipulos el llamado a ser la luz del mundo como lo leemos en el evangelio de Mateo 5: 14-16. Escuchamos en las noticias el sufrimiento de la gente que necesita descubrir la presencia de Dios. Hoy nosotros tenemos ese reto de llevar la luz del Evangelio. Tenemos la confianza que la gracia del Espiritu Santo nos da la fuerza para llevar a cabo esta importante tarea para la Gloria de Dios.

*In Christ,
Fr. Alex +*

*Happy
Birthday*

**AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS**

*Padre Miguel Ramirez 2 Manuel Rodriguez 2
Cesar Gonzalez, Jr. 7 Heather Bishop 14
Estela Salcido 8 Liceldy Garcia 21
Julissa Rodriguez 26 Carlisle Navidomskis 27
Laura Salcido 29 Edwin Rodriguez 31*

ANNIVERSARIES

*Carol and Luis Garcia 3
Navin and Sandra Navidomskis 13*

MEETINGS

**Sunday, August 11
11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 14
10:00 a.m. Bible Study in Spanish**



AUGUST PRAYER LIST

Please keep these members and friends of St. Christopher's in your daily prayers...

Lois Kelley (Member), Deacon Ken Anderson (Member), Mary Hernandez, (Member), Mariana Bernal (Bernal), Katie Hudak (Member), Patty Lane (Member), Luis Garcia (Member), Mary Reyes (Cano), Ray Vega (Vega), Gary Welsh, Richard and Kathy Schofill (Truesdale), Kevin Salcedo, Joe Heidrick (Shinn), Christie Lechuga (Perez), Fernando Peña, Christy Darling, Jerry Brown (Shinn), Hank Hosford (Mowad), Octaviano Tavares (Rodriguez), Donna Hvizdos (Hudak), Maria Morgan (Anderson), Irma Lopez (Mowad), John Hudak (Hudak), Skip Bambrook, James Mowad (Mowad), Bill Fields (Fields), Linda and Larry (Navidomskis), Manuel Vida, Bunky Mitchell, and Mrs. Mitchell, Mariann Chavez (Shinn), Bob St. Jean (Truesdale), Roman Morales and family, Chasaidy Cantrell (Truesdale), Larry and Linda (Navidomskis), Ariel, Estela and Jesus Salcido, Mrs. Zapata, the Gomez Family (Cano), Pat McClendon

Almighty God, we commend to your care and keeping all of the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad: Capt. Matthew Barchie USAF, Sgt. Charles East, Navy, Matthew Barnes, Jerry Carreon, Adam Garcia, Navy, Magie Gonzalez, Lt. Jody M. Daniels, Navy, Roberto Salgado, Mark Logan, USAF, PFC Jose Gonzalez, Oscar I. Gonzalez, Comd. Darren Rich, Oscar Camuniz, SP Woody Needler, Army, Raymundo Ubina,

*The families and friends of all who are serving at home and abroad
Please contact Holly to add or delete names*

OUR MINISTRIES

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

During the 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, August 25, Fr. JJ will give the "Blessing of the Backpacks" for everyone returning to school or college

After the service, there will be pizza for youth and kids, then children and parents are invited to the Ally B Gator Indoor Playground Parents must accompany their children More information will be given in Bulletins and Weekly Reminders

SUMMER STEWARDSHIP

The summer months are always very difficult for the Church You might go on vacation, but the Church never does! Bills, salaries, and expenses still go on!

Please consider your pledge before you hit the road ~ It would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you, and prayers for safe travel!

2nd QUARTER INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Individual Contribution Statements for the second quarter of 2019 are available upon request If you would like a copy of your contribution account, please let Holly know You may also email her at htnec@elp.rr.com

SOUP KITCHEN

(Menus are subject to change)

Saturday, August 10

Martha Cano and Carlisle Navidomskis

Menu:

Soup, Salad, Sincronizada, Postre

Saturday, August 17

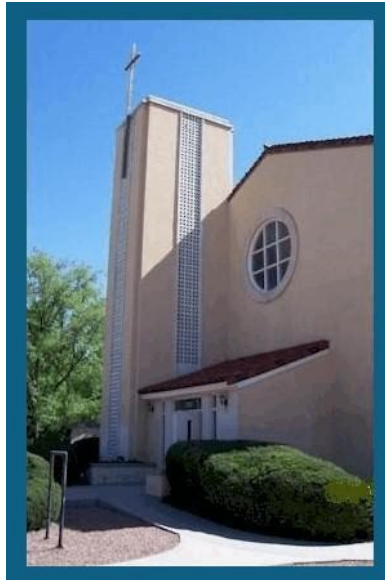
Diana Marquez and Vanessa Marquez

Menu:

Soup, Salad, Torta, Postre



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WEBSITE AND
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ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 Riverside Drive El Paso, Texas 79915

Church Office: 915 859-9329

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Email:

stchristopherselpaso@gmail.com

Website:

www.stchristopherselpaso.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Eucharist & Healing 10:30 a.m.



St. Christopher's

Soup Kitchen

Outreach

11:00 a.m.

2nd & 3rd Saturday of each month

**BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
OF THE RIO GRANDE
The Right Reverend Michael B. Hunn**

**CLERGY AND STAFF
The Reverend Canon José J. Bernal
Rector**

**The Reverend Miguel Ramirez
Associate Priest**

**The Reverend Alejandro Reyes
Associate Priest**

**The Reverend Kenneth Anderson
Deacon (Ret.)**



**Holly Truesdale
Parish Administrator**

**VESTRY
Joe Maldonado - Senior Warden
Virgie Shinn - Junior Warden
Carlisle Navidomskis
Bruce Truesdale**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rector

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday

**Fr. Bernal will be also available
on Saturdays by appointment.**



**Administrator
and Church Office
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
Administrator in Office
at home on**

**Monday and Wednesday
852-3954 or 252-2475**

Church Offices Closed on Friday

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Mission, as vessels indwelt
by the Holy Spirit, is to proclaim
the Gospel and teach the Faith;
to bring Christ's healing power to
those who are wounded and hurting;
to share our blessings with those in
need; to administer the Holy
Sacraments; and to live our lives to
God's glory, sharing the love of
Jesus Christ with all people.*

