Homily – The second Sunday of Lent Year A (St. Jude Parish)

My dear brothers and sisters,

Today the Church takes us up the mountain. Jesus does not bring the whole crowd. He takes Peter, James, and John — His closest friends — and leads them away from the noise, the expectations, the arguments, and the fatigue of daily ministry. And there, on that quiet mountain, something extraordinary happens. His face shines like the sun. His clothes become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear. Moses represents *the Law* — the covenant God gave to Israel. Elijah represents *the Prophets* — those who called the people back to faithfulness. Together, they stand for the entire Old Testament — the Law and the Prophets — bearing witness that Jesus is the fulfillment of everything God had promised. Their presence shows that Jesus is not separate from Israel's history but its completion. The Law finds its perfection in Him, and the prophetic hope is realized in Him. When the Father says, "Listen to Him," it means that now Jesus is the definitive Word of God — greater than Moses, greater than Elijah. The old covenant points to Him; the new covenant is established through Him. In short: Moses and Elijah confirm that Jesus is the promised Messiah and the fulfillment of God's saving plan. And the voice of the Father declares: "This is my beloved Son… listen to Him."

The Transfiguration is not just about Jesus changing appearance. It is about the disciples seeing who He truly is. For a brief moment, heaven opens, and the veil is lifted. The glory that was always there becomes visible. But what is Peter's reaction? Very human. Very relatable. He says, "Lord, it is good that we are here. Let us build three tents." Peter wants to stay. He wants to freeze the moment. He wants to manage glory. And aren't we just like Peter? We love the mountain-top moments of our faith. We love powerful retreats, emotional confessions, beautiful liturgies, peaceful prayer times. We say, "Lord, this feels so good. Let's stay right here." When life feels spiritual, organized, and uplifting, we want to build tents. But then comes Monday. Then comes the hospital visit. Then comes the parish disagreement. Then comes the family tension. Then comes the financial stress. And suddenly, we must go back down the mountain. Like Peter, we often want faith without struggle. We want glory without the cross. We want light without walking through darkness.

Peter also gives his opinion quickly. He interrupts the silence with his own idea. How often do we do the same? Before God even finishes speaking, we already have a plan. We already know what the Church should do. We already know how others should behave. We already know how God should answer our prayers. We tell God: "Lord, fix this problem my way."" Lord, remove this suffering immediately." "Lord, change that person."" Lord, bless my plan." Peter was not wrong to love the moment. But he was wrong to think he understood the whole picture. And then the cloud comes. The Father's

voice speaks:“ This is my beloved Son… listen to Him.” Notice — not “admire Him.” Not “build for Him.” Not “organize for Him.” But “listen to Him.” The heart of the Transfiguration is obedience. Listening. Trust. Jesus knew what was waiting at the bottom of the mountain: rejection, suffering, the Cross. And yet, He comes down. He does not stay in the glory. He walks toward Jerusalem. This is the message for us today. Faith does not escape. Faith is strength for reality. The mountain experience prepares us for the valley. The light prepares us for the darkness. The voice of the Father prepares us for the noise of the world. How often do we avoid reality? We distract ourselves with screens. We avoid difficult conversations. We postpone forgiveness. We pretend problems will solve themselves. Like Peter, we try to build tents around comfortable spirituality instead of facing the mission waiting below. But Jesus gently touches the disciples and says, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” That is powerful. After the glory fades, after the voice is silent, after the cloud disappears — Jesus remains. Only Jesus. And that is enough.

In our lives, moments of spiritual brightness may come and go. Emotions rise and fall. Success and failure alternate. But Christ remains. Maybe today you feel you are not on a mountain but in a valley — a valley of illness, loneliness, doubt, aging, or exhaustion. The Transfiguration reminds you: the glory is real, even when you cannot see it. The light is not gone — it is simply hidden. And maybe today you are like Peter — enthusiastic, full of ideas, ready to speak. The Gospel invites you to pause and listen.

The Church today needs less noise and more listening. Less opinion and more obedience. Less building tents and more walking with Christ into the real struggles of the world. The disciples had to go down the mountain because the world was waiting for healing. A suffering father was waiting for his child to be freed from a demon. Crowds were waiting for hope. The Cross was waiting. And our world is also waiting — for patience, for mercy, for courage, for forgiveness, for witnesses of hope. We cannot stay on the mountain of private comfort. We are sent back into our families, workplaces, parish life, and community — not to complain, not to argue, not to dominate — but to reflect the light we have seen.

The true Transfiguration happens when our ordinary faces begin to shine with kindness. When our speech becomes gentle. When our hearts forgive. When our lives listen to Jesus.

My brothers and sisters, we will have moments of glory — but we must return to reality. And reality, when lived with Christ, becomes holy ground. Let us ask today: Lord, when I speak too quickly, teach me to listen. When I want comfort more than mission, lead me down the mountain. When I fear the cross, show me Your hidden glory. And when the vision fades, stay with me — for You alone are enough. Amen.