

DOES PRAYER TRULY TRANSFORM A PERSON?

As we continue our Lenten journey, a sincere question may arise in our hearts: Does prayer truly transform a person? The Word of God answers not with abstract ideas, but with living witness. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, “the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God” (Exodus 34:29). Isaiah, standing before the holiness of the Lord, became aware of his unworthiness, yet after being purified he could respond generously, “Here am I; send me!” (Isaiah 6:8). In the Gospel, we are told that as Jesus was praying, “the appearance of his face was altered” (Luke 9:29). Scripture shows us that when a person truly encounters God, something within is changed.

St. Paul reminds us, “All of us... seeing the glory of the Lord... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18). Prayer gradually conforms us to Christ. It purifies our intentions, strengthens what is weak, and heals what sin has wounded. What begins as words becomes grace at work in the heart.

This is why the Church places prayer at the center of her life, especially in the Eucharist. In the Holy Mass, we are not mere observers; we are drawn into Christ’s own self-offering. There, heaven touches earth. There, we receive not only instruction, but transformation. As we unite ourselves to the sacrifice of Christ, we learn to pray as He prayed: “Not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42). In that surrender, our lives are slowly reshaped.

During this sacred season of Lent, I warmly invite you, if possible, to attend daily Mass and make it part of your Lenten commitment. The grace flowing from the Eucharist strengthens us to resist temptation, deepens our love for God, and renews our hope. Even one additional Mass during the week can become a powerful moment of encounter.

Prayer does not change God; it opens us to be changed by Him. If we allow these forty days to be marked by deeper prayer and faithful participation in the Eucharist, we will not arrive at Easter unchanged. The Lord who feeds us with His Body and Blood is the same Lord who forms us into His likeness.

AN HOUR WITH THE LORD

Eucharistic Adoration is a sacred time when we sit quietly in the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics, we believe that in the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus is truly present — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Adoration is not simply saying prayers; it is a loving, heart-to-heart encounter with the Lord who waits for us.

On March 5th, Thursday, following the 7:00 pm Mass until 8:30 pm, we will have Eucharistic Adoration here in our church. We warmly invite everyone to join us and experience this peaceful and grace-filled time. Come away from the noise of daily life and spend a beautiful and serene hour with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Come and rest in His presence.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

As part of our Lenten journey, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on **March 26th at 6:00 PM**. The evening will begin with a short prayer service, followed by individual confessions, and will conclude with the 7:00 PM Mass. Confessions will be heard in Italian, French, and English. Let us consider this grace-filled time as a beautiful opportunity to experience God's unconditional mercy and love, and to prepare our hearts for Easter.

FUNDRAISING GOAL:

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor family, all fundraising donations of **\$100.00** or more will be matched -- up to a maximum of **\$25,000.00**. this is a great opportunity to help us reach our fundraising goal.

If you wish to participate in this "Unique Matching Donation", kindly use the small-sized St. Monica Envelopes at the back of the church which display **Fundraising Matching Donations**. Please include your contact information on the back of the envelopes.

We thank you for your generous participation towards this effort and greatly appreciate your support. We also sincerely thank the donor family for their gracious donation.

MASS INTENTIONS: FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 6, 2026

Saturday, 4:00pm – February 28, 2026 – 2nd Sunday of LENT

*Antonietta & Biagio Libertini
Emerilda Imbault*

*Luisa & Angelo
Eugene & Ivide Belanger*

Sunday, 9:00am – March 1, 2026 – 2nd Sunday of LENT

*Anna & Lorenzo Forlini
Natalino, Mario & Olga Cappello*

*Erminio Forlini
Cappello Family*

Sunday, 11:00am – March 1, 2026 – 2nd Sunday of LENT

For All Parishioners Intentions

Tuesday, 8:30am – March 3, 2026 – Lenten Weekday

L) Souleymane Lenaud & Friends

Hilary & Raymond Jack

Wednesday, 8:30am – March 4, 2026 – Saint Casimir

Isa, Ivio & Mark Mazzella

Family

Thursday, 8:30am – March 5, 2026 – Lenten Weekday

Silvano, Giovanni & Norina

Zilli Family

Thursday, 7:00pm

For All Parishioners Intentions

Friday, 8:30am – March 6, 2026 – Lenten Weekday

For All Parishioners Intentions