



Discovering Magnificat moments in our lives

Have you ever asked yourself, "Is it all really worth it?" When it is morning sickness during the second pregnancy, crackers soothe, but another look at the baby book usually supplies the answer, yes, it is worth it. When it is college final exams, one quick glance at the want ads helps us to see the value of education and respond emphatically, yes, it is worth it! When we are fatigued with travel waiting in yet another airport and security line, peeking at the picture of the hotel on beautiful blue waters helps us reply, yes, it is worth it.

When Abram left his native land at the age of 75, the question probably entered his mind on a desert evening as Sarah nagged him to hurry and pitch the tent. "Is it really worth it?" (And remember, Abram didn't have a full-color brochure of the Promised Land.) What about the Apostles after learning about Jesus' upcoming Passion and invitation to take up a cross instead of a crown? If any group needed a little encouragement it was the disciples. They needed a glimpse of the future, which

would give encouragement and meaning to the present.

The glory of the Transfiguration of Jesus, which we celebrate this Sunday, was exactly that: a brief glimpse, a temporary experience, but one that was given to provide strength for the road ahead.

The glory of the Transfiguration was indelibly impressed upon their memories. It was on a grand scale but not unlike the spiritual experiences that many of us can recall in our own lives. Such temporary mountains of transfiguration are given to each of us to provide strength for our daily lives and enable us to walk the way of the Lord into the future and say, Yes, it is worth it.

I like to describe these moments as "Magnificat moments" when we truly feel that power and presence of Jesus in our lives. These are the precious moments when we felt the

Lord revealing himself to us and guiding us. We all can make a list of moments in our lives that are times to remember and to hold onto when life gets tough.

It might be the moment when someone said "I love you" or "I believe in you." It might be the encouraging

words of a coach, teacher or priest. It might be a meeting with our boss who recognizes our potential for future accomplishments. It might be when our child gives a small good night kiss to us. Or after walking your daughter down the wedding aisle and look you back at all you and your wife did in preparation for that day. It might be in the silence of an empty church when we are in deep prayer before the Lord seeking guidance for some difficult questions in our lives.

Jesus was transfigured on Mount Tabor so he could be strengthened to face Gethsemane and Mount

Calvary. His loving Father transfigured him to instill the great gifts of strength, patience and perseverance for the days ahead.

As you and I gather during another Lenten Season, we too, might ask ourselves, "Is it all really worth it? Why give things up? Why do more? Does it make a difference?" This Sunday, each of us comes to our own Mount Tabor to be transfigured, to be changed and to become radiant in the Lord's light.

That mountain is our parish church, where we listen to God's Word and receive the Lord himself to give us that encouragement that boost, that glimpse of life in him that we so often need to keep us on track.

When you wake up on Easter Sunday morning and look back at your Lenten promises and practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, hopefully you will say, "Yes, it was all really worth it!"

Father Thomas J. Protack is pastor of St. John Neumann Parish, Berlin, Md.

**Readings for February 17,
Second Sunday of Lent**
Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10;
Matthew 17:1-9

[Back to top](#)