

Deacon Tony's homily for 2nd Sunday in Lent

31 He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, **and be killed**, and rise after three days.

32 He spoke this openly. Then **Peter took him aside** and began to rebuke him.

Let's begin in the chapter preceding where our Gospel begins. Jesus had just foretold his suffering and death at the hands of the chief priests and elders.

This was not easy for the Apostles to handle and they became depressed and refused to believe it, as we see in Peter's response.

In order to help them accept His suffering and death, he took a select few of the leaders, up a high mountain to reveal to them just how sacred their calling is.

Mount Tabor was 1886 ft high.

Mountain top experiences are meant to bring us closer to God.

Abraham brought his only son Isaac to Mt Moriah (2500 ft) to be sacrificed.

Moses went to Mt Sinai (7497 ft) to receive the Laws from God for his people.

Elijah fought the false prophets of Baal on Mt Carmel (1791 ft).

Jesus in His Sermon on the mount, presented the New Covenant Laws.

We are encouraged by Paul's words to the Romans and understand the importance of sharing God's blessings with all those around us.

**IF GOD IS FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST ...
WHEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD HAS SET YOU FREE.**

We are at true peace when we live in the will of God.

Mountain top experiences are designed to be sacred events but, even though we are tempted, we must come down from the mountain and share the joy and the blessings that we received with our neighbors. Just as Peter, James and John did when the time was right.

Peter wished to memorialize the Transfiguration with three permanent tents, but the only memorial Jesus wants is a memorial in the hearts of His individual followers.