The Transfiguration by Titian

February 28 2021

2nd Sunday of Lent
Year B

TRANSFIGURATION

Dear Friends,

So… how are those Lenten resolutions coming along? Regardless of your successes or failures, try to remember that Lent is all about learning how to love, not self-improvement for its own sake. Giving up our favorite TV show or coffee is all well and good, but if these sacrifices make us more irritable or difficult to be around, what's the point? That's not to say we should try to find sacrifices that are easy or without challenge. But we always need to be reminded of the motive and meaning of our efforts – to love more generously, to follow Christ more faithfully, and to persevere in that charity by which we will all be judged at the end of our lives.

One concrete, practical way to grow in love is by intentionally getting to know your fellow parishioners, neighbors and colleagues. Simply put, we cannot truly love unless we have some knowledge of the other, in their humanity and complexity. There is no "abstract" Christian love. It is always directed to and in communion with another actual person. And that's exactly why real love is hard – it involves other human beings, who are broken, and petty and slow to understand – you know, like us!

And so in the spirit of the season, I am encouraging every Transfiguration parishioner to participate in what I am calling "Transfiguring Conversations." As I've said before, don't be alarmed by its title, or assume that this is a new parish program. It's much simpler than that – just gather with a small group of people and engage in three conversations about important matters. That's it. Really – that's it.

continued on page 3

Why do we exist?

Transfiguration exists to lead all those in the East Metro to Christ, the Source and Summit of our daily and eternal lives.

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

Daily Masses

Monday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Be sure to check the weekly calendar for holiday changes.

Church Office Info

6133 15th Street North
Oakdale, MN 55128

Monday-Thursday:
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Phone: 651-738-2646
After-hours Emergency:
651-501-2250
mpraska@transfigurationmn.org
bulletin@transfigurationmn.org

School Office Info

Office: 651-501-2220
Attendance Line: 651-501-2255
tiger@transfigurationmn.org

STAFF INFORMATION

PASTOR
Fr. John Paul Erickson 651-738-2646
frerickson@transfigurationmn.org

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AFTER HOURS PASTORAL EMERGENCY NUMBER: 651-501-2250

VICTIM/SURVIVOR SITE & HOTLINE
safe-environment.archspm.org 651-291-4475

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms

If you have a child needing to be baptized or if you are expecting a child soon, please call the parish office at 651-738-2646 to make arrangements for an individual Baptism class.

Weddings

If you would like to celebrate your wedding at Transfiguration, please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Interested in becoming Catholic? We invite anyone who has questions about the Faith, or who may be interested in becoming Catholic, to contact our parish office at 651-738-2646.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We are pleased to welcome ***Julie Golden*** of Oakdale, MN, as a new member to our Parish.

Obituaries

An obituary page is available on the parish website.
It can be found at www.transfigurationmn.org/obits

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekend Collection Totals:	Amount Collected	Budget
July through January 2021	$ 759,430	$ 783,000
February 2021	90,076	85,800
Fiscal Year Total as of 2/21/2021	849,506	868,800
Surplus/(Deficit)		(19,294)
Percent above(below) budget		-2.22%

Big-Ticket Capital Improvement Fund	
Big Ticket Balance as of January 31, 2020	$ 13,439
Amount Collected February 2021	6,402
Balance in Big-Ticket Savings Account	$ 19,841

Long-Term Debt for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021	
Principal payments July 2020 through January 2021	$ 149,917
Interest Paid on Long-Term Debt since July 1, 2020	116,304
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of January 31, 2020	4,123,867
Principal payments through February 2021	14,376
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of February 21, 2021	4,109,491

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, March 1 – No School
8:00 a.m. – Mass
5:30-6:00 p.m. – Confessions*
6:30-8:00 p.m. – WWP Bible Study
7:00-8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Tuesday, March 2
8:00 a.m. – Mass
Noon-12:30 p.m. – Confessions*
Noon-1:00 p.m. – Private Prayer/Adoration
5:00 p.m. – Mass
6:30-8:00 p.m. – WWP Bible Study

Wednesday, March 3
8:00 a.m. – Mass
9:00-10:30 a.m. – WWP Bible Study
1:00-2:30 p.m. – WWP Bible Study
8:00-10:00 p.m. – Men's Basketball

Thursday, March 4
8:00 a.m. – Mass
Noon-12:30 p.m. – Confessions*
Noon-1:00 p.m. – Private Prayer/Adoration
7:00-8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Friday, March 5 – No School
8:00 a.m. – Mass
7:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross (church)

Saturday, March 6
8:00 a.m. – Mass
9:00 a.m. – Parish Formation
4:00 p.m. – Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 7 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
A blessing for expectant mothers and those praying for a gift of a child will be given after both the 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses
7:30-7:55 a.m. – Confessions*
8:30 a.m. – Holy Mass
10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (incense)
6:00 p.m. – Holy Mass (high altar)

* Except when noted, confessions will be offered:
- Sundays 7:30-7:55 a.m.
- Mondays 5:30-6:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays noon-12:30 p.m.

All times subject to change.
Please check our parish website daily for time changes.

"Lord, how good it is for us to be here!"
(Matthew 17:4)

PASTOR'S COLUMN

(continued from page 1)

The three topics of conversation are as follows -

1. **What prayer intentions do you have?**
2. **How did you meet the Lord and begin the path of discipleship with Him?**
3. **What gifts and talents do you have for the furthering of the Kingdom of God?**

The overall time commitment is minimal: 3 meetings in total, all of which can be held on consecutive weeks, with each meeting lasting approximately 1-1/2 hours. The suggested group size is anywhere from 3 to 8, which will of course affect the length of the individual meetings. As I noted above, this is not a parish program, and so there is no need to wait for any coordination by parish staff. Still, we would be very grateful to know if you have begun a group on your own, and would encourage you to notify Melissa Phinney once you start, whose contact information can be found on page 2 of this bulletin. We want to know how far this effort has spread. We also have resources for your use if you are not familiar with small groups or have any questions at all about what the conversations might look like.

I am also of course aware that there many who may not feel real comfortable initiating these conversations themselves, but would very much like to participate all the same. If this is the case, please contact Melissa Phinney, who will put you in touch with parishioners who are serving as captains of this effort and assembling groups. We want as many people as possible to make the Transfiguring Conversations a part of their Lenten discipline. There is also a sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk in the gathering space. Simply record your name and contact information and a parish captain will contact you with the meeting details.

While you are of course welcome to meet via ZOOM or in your own homes, Transfiguration is also available for your use, depending on your availability and needs. Please note that Transfiguration does have COVID-19 protocols in place that will be practiced for all meetings on campus. If you choose to meet in your home, please consult the MN Department of Health website for guidance on meeting with other households in your home.

While it is true that the Transfiguring Conversations are a particular effort of Transfiguration this Lent, it really forms a part of what we are trying to accomplish here in general – to galvanize a community of personal invitation to Jesus. You see, the Transfiguring Conversations are about more than just getting to know your neighbor. They are even more fundamentally about getting to know Jesus, the Lord Who is known in the details of our lives and in the lives of others. And once we have reflected upon this Jesus and His presence, they are about giving strength to every parishioner to speak more confidently about the Lord with family and friends, so that all those in the east metro, and beyond, may encounter the Lord who loves them and Who alone can save them.

I believe that the Lord will bless this effort at communion and evangelization, and I am eager to see the fruits of this labor. May they be abundant.

In Christ, the Transfigured and Transfiguring One,

Fr. Erickson

ACCESSIBLE, AVAILABLE, MULTIPLE POINTS OF ENTRY

We are committed to providing many opportunities for as many people as possible to encounter the Lord through programs and offerings that are accessible, friendly, and convenient.

Donut Sunday!

It is the post-Mass moment everyone has been waiting for…we all have missed it…now it is coming back… the return of DONUT SUNDAY!

On **Sunday, March 7**, following the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, we will have individually-wrapped donuts available in the gathering space. As much as we do enjoy the time of community conversation while eating our donuts, COVID-19 protocols prevent people from congregating in the gathering space to eat together. A special thanks to TCCW for volunteering to assist with donut distribution this first time back!

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church at 7:00 p.m. every Friday during Lent *except for March 19*.

Remaining Dates:

- Friday, March 5
- Friday, March 12
- Friday, March 26
- Good Friday, April 2

Catholic Services Appeal Foundation

SERVE · SUPPORT · STRENGTHEN

Thank you for your support of the 2020 Catholic Services Appeal! In 2020, 269 Transfiguration parishioners contributed $73,646 to the campaign that helps so many in need in our local communities and Catholic schools. The 2021 Appeal Commitment weekend is February 20 and 21, and we hope to widen support from our parish in 2021. Previous donors will receive materials in the mail soon, and we will have information available in the coming weeks so you can help support this important ministry of our local Church.

Together in Hope: The Catholic Services Appeal Foundation partners with fellow Catholics to share Christ's love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life and strengthen the Faith. Your gift will bring hope by helping provide:

- Thousands with life-giving care via hospital chaplains.
- 12,000 people each week with fresh groceries and hygiene items.
- 635 people with housing each month.
- 28,000 Catholic school students with in-person learning.
- 1,300 families with pro-life support.
- Over 50 seminarians studying to be future priests of our Archdiocese with tuition assistance and housing expenses.

Please visit www.csafspm.org to learn more or www.GiveCSAF.org to donate today!

TRANSFIGURING SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

We recognize that the Sunday Mass is the true source and summit of our liturgical life in the Church, and we are committed to providing transcendent and transfiguring worship that also builds up our community as one.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament throughout the Retreat (except during Masses); additional devotions and confession times are listed below.

Friday, March 19 – 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.	Opening Mass in honor of the Feast of St. Joseph
8:00 p.m.	Adoration
9:00 p.m.	Confessions 9:00-9:40 p.m./Night Prayer at 9:45 p.m.

Saturday, March 20 – 7:00 a.m. – Midnight

7:00 a.m.	Adoration/Morning Prayer/Confessions 7:30-8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.	Talk given by Father Erickson
Noon	Rosary
2:00 p.m.	Talk given by Father Erickson
3:00 p.m.	Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Confessions
4:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
9:00 p.m.	Rosary
10:00 p.m.	Night Prayer

Sunday, March 21 – 12:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

3:00 a.m.	Divine Mercy Chaplet
7:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	Confessions from 7:30-7:55 a.m.
8:30 a.m.	Sunday Mass
10:30 a.m.	Sunday Mass
11:45 a.m.	Final Exposition and Solemn Benediction

Note: The 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass will still be held on March 21.

Mass Intentions

Masses will be offered for each of these intentions.

Sunday, February 28
Lilia Espinosa †
Jeanne V. Heintz †
The People of Transfiguration

Monday, March 1
Virginia & Walter Ricker †

Tuesday, March 2
Edgar Pacheco †
Deceased Members of the C.R. Johnston Family †

Wednesday, March 3
Poor Souls In Purgatory

Thursday, March 4
Steven G. Splittstoesser †

Friday, March 5
Bernadette Losinski †

Saturday, March 6
Bruce Haug †
Bette Jayne Haak

Sunday, March 7
Floyd Sellner †
The People of Transfiguration
Flo Roering †

PRO-FAMILY CULTURE

We are committed to being a truly "pro-family" culture, a culture that recognizes parents' primary role in the education of their children, encourages and promotes a radical openness to life, and strives to support families in their efforts to be holy and to form their beloved children into saints.

Parish Formation

Join us **Saturday, March 6**, at 9:00 a.m., for our monthly parish formation. The event begins with a talk by Fr. Erickson, "Christian Forms of Prayer," and concludes with adoration and confession.

Parish Formation is open to the public and all talks are live streamed.

Blessing of Expectant Mothers

Blessings for expectant mothers and those praying for a child will be held **Sunday, March 7**, after the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses. Those wishing to receive the blessing may stay in their pews following Mass and remain there for the blessing, which Father will give from the sanctuary. We praise God for His gracious gift of life and ask for the intercession of His Mother in answering the prayers of those who await the gift of a child!

Friday Fish Fry

Dates: March 12 and 26
Time: 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Cost: Adults $10 / Seniors $8 (65 and older) / 12 & under $5, or $30 per household (cash and check only)
Place: In-person: Transfiguration Gymnasium *
Curbside pickup: School Entrance **

Includes: Fried or baked fish, grilled cheese, coleslaw, french fries, tater tots, baked potatoes, dessert, and beverage.

VOLUNTEERS: We are still looking for volunteers to cook, setup, tear-down, and sell tickets. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. If you can help, please sign up through our website.

* In-person seating is done per family and orders will be taken for the whole table.

** Curbside pickup is at the school entrance. Remain in your car; someone will come to take your order and bring the food to your car.

First Reconciliation Retreat

On Saturday, February 20, our second graders from both school and family formation participated in their First Reconciliation Retreat. Each child, accompanied by his/her parents, completed the self-guided retreat, which included four prayerful activities based on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd materials.

The children recalled the gifts given to them at Baptism and how their light within grows a bit dimmer when they fall into sin. Other activities included Scripture readings of the parables and questions to ponder as a time of prayer and meditation for the second graders. Following their self-guided retreat, the children then made their First Reconciliation. Please continue to pray for our second graders as they prepare to receive their First Eucharist this April.

Marie M., 2nd grader

I have been looking forward to this day for a long time! The best part of the retreat was asking questions, reading the maxims and smelling the holy chrism. We prepared for our 1st Reconciliation by practicing the Act of Contrition with Miss Hanson, and at CGS we learned about sin and the four steps of going through confession.

Chris and Angie M. Parents of 2nd grader

The first reconciliation retreat was a great opportunity to walk with our son on a milestone Sacrament. I loved the incorporation of Scripture in the very helpful preparation activities. It was clear that a lot of thought and intention went into the sacrament process and retreat. In addition, the outpouring of love from the priests, teachers and staff was beautiful.

OUR SCHOOL

Gifts of Hope

At Transfiguration, our students focus on the three pillars of **Academic Excellence, Christian Discipleship, and Great Love.** Recently our Student Council prepared 70 donation bags of essential items, including a hat, gloves, socks, sanitizer, toothbrush, toothpaste, hand lotion and a prayer card. Additional toothbrushes, toothpaste and hand sanitizer will be donated to the Union Gospel Mission. Participating in activities such as this for the local community allows our students to practice the Lenten discipline of almsgiving.

The Student Council would like to thank the Transfiguration community for their continued generosity. Thank you to Salute Dental and Woodbury Pediatric Dentistry for their donations.

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