



Entry of Christ into Jerusalem by Jan van Orley

March
28
2021

Palm Sunday of the
Lord's Passion
Year B



TRANSFIGURATION

Dear Friends,

A blessed Palm Sunday to you all! Lift high the doors to your hearts! And let the King of Glory enter! He comes to save you from death and sin! And to bring you Home.

As you enter into this holiest of weeks, please remember our many extra opportunities for confession taking place. Even if you have already made your Lenten confession, I would still encourage you to avail yourself of the graces of the sacrament this week, which is an excellent and proven way to open oneself up to the true joy of Easter. (Please also note that we will NOT have confessions on Easter Sunday or Easter Monday. Our current confession schedule will resume at 12:00 noon on Easter Tuesday).

Last weekend I promised some further catechesis on communion rails and the dignity of the sanctuary. Here goes...

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), which is kind of like the "How to" manual for celebrating Mass, indicates explicitly that the sanctuary, that is, the place where the Eucharistic Sacrifice is offered by the priest in union with the People of God (i.e., where the altar is located) should be set apart and distinct from the rest of the church (GIRM #295). There is no denying that our sanctuary is already quite distinct from the rest of the church, and the addition of our communion rail will only serve to highlight what is already obvious – this is a special place. But why is it so special?

In every Catholic church in the world there exists an altar of sacrifice, whereupon Christ, in the form of bread and wine, is offered to the Father for the salvation of the world. This is not to say that He is offered again and again, but that the one sacrifice of Calvary is made sacramentally present in the Holy Mass. This is why Catholics have altars, and not just tables, though certainly the Mass is also a meal. But it is a sacrificial meal – a meal that celebrates and makes final a covenant between two parties – God and man.

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

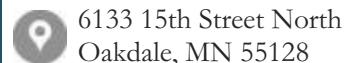
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Brian Lynch 651-738-2646
frlynch@transfigurationmn.org

DEACON

Deacon Dan Brewer 651-738-2646
dbrewer@transfigurationmn.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Erin Ethier 651-501-2209
eehier@transfigurationmn.org

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR / PARISH SECRETARY

Martha Praska 651-738-2646
mpraska@transfigurationmn.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kathy Weed 651-738-2646
kweed@transfigurationmn.org

FINANCE ASSISTANT & TADS

Kim Connolly 651-501-2208
kconnolly@transfigurationmn.org

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Andy Jacobson 651-501-2216
principal@transfigurationmn.org

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Mary Demko 651-501-2224
mdemko@transfigurationmn.org

LITURGY COORDINATOR

Shantel Schallenkamp 651-501-2206
sschallenkamp@transfigurationmn.org

DIRECTOR OF PARISH FORMATION

Justin Kortuem 651-501-2207
jkortuem@transfigurationmn.org

CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR

Justin Shay 651-501-2219
jshay@transfigurationmn.org

PARISH LIFE & YOUTH FORMATION COORDINATOR

Melissa Phinney 651-501-2202
mphinney@transfigurationmn.org

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Michelle Jwanouskos
bulletin@transfigurationmn.org

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Phil Stoffel 651-501-2245
pststoffel@transfigurationmn.org

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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.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekend Collection Totals:	Amount Collected	Budget
July through February 2021	\$ 862,596	\$ 881,800
March 2021	63,047	63,000
Fiscal Year Total as of 03/21/2021	925,643	944,800
Surplus/(Deficit)		(19,157)
Percent above(below) budget		-2.03%

Big-Ticket Capital Improvement Fund

Big Ticket Balance as of February 28, 2020	\$ 22,833
Amount Collected March 2021	4,430
Balance in Big-Ticket Savings Account	\$ 27,263

Long-Term Debt for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021

Principal payments July 2020 through February 2021	\$ 164,503
Interest Paid on Long-Term Debt since July 1, 2020	129,260
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of February 28, 2020	4,109,281
Principal payments through March 2021	24,591
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of March 21, 2021	4,084,690

PASTOR'S COLUMN

(continued from page 1)

A sanctuary, literally “a holy place,” is holy because it is a place of radical love, the radical love of Golgotha. An altar, and the space that holds it, is profoundly sacred ground. Indeed, it is another Calvary. We need signs and symbols to remind us of this, like beautiful murals, stained glass, and special furniture, not to mention the importance of the beauty of the altar itself. I am proud of our sanctuary, though I think we should always be looking for ways to continue to beautify it and to make its meaning ever more clear. I am hopeful that our communion rail will contribute to this clarity in a meaningful way.

Another critically important feature of our sanctuary, which is not true of every Catholic church, is the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. We use veils at Transfiguration to cover the tabernacle, as this is actually the primary symbol of the Lord’s Eucharistic presence, even as we are more accustomed to the red sanctuary light.

The Lord chooses to dwell with His people in the little form of bread, and like a child He longs to be spoken to and listened to and loved. The tabernacle is to be approached with devotion and tenderness and a reverential familiarity. But the Little Host is still the Almighty, and the communion rail reminds of the need to speak with Him on our knees, as creature to creator. One image I hope to see for many years after the rail’s installation is parents kneeling with their children after Mass, praying with them and explaining to them the Mystery of the Little God in the tabernacle. I hope that the rail reminds all of the presence of the One who is both our Lord and our Friend.

As for that promised history...the history of communion rails is murkier than one might expect, and it's difficult to know exactly when they started to be incorporated into Latin Rite churches. It probably is somehow connected to the history of rood screens, ornate wooden barriers that separate the nave of medieval English churches from their sanctuaries (or chancel). The beautiful gate-like structure would establish clearly that the sanctuary was set apart for a sacred action, namely, the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Long before the era of “active participation,” the screens did separate in a rather dramatic way the congregation from the clerics. Oftentimes the rood screens would feature a looming image of the Crucified. Some local churches still feature this remnant of the rood screen, notably Nativity in Saint Paul.

Similarly in the Orthodox and Eastern Rite Churches, magnificent iconostases, which are whole walls made of icons, continue to separate the sanctuary and the nave of their churches. While the prayers of the priests and deacons can often be heard by the congregation, a great deal of the sacred action cannot be seen. While this is a very far cry from the low communion rail, which hides nothing, it certainly does create a holy division between the sanctuary and the rest of the church.

While the history of the rail might be obscure and difficult to describe exactly, I do want to offer one observation about its use that only recently occurred to me. The reception of Holy Communion is a communal act – it is a sacred, sacrificial meal wherein the Church, that is, her members, become one through their union with Christ in the Host. Our usual manner of receiving communion these days, in a line, one by one, is actually rather individualistic when you think about it. Me and Jesus. But a communion rail, whether one is standing or kneeling, brings the people of God together in a rather dramatic way. Sinner next to sinner – together, fed by the Father of all. Brothers and sisters, whether we like it or not. Seems like we kind of need that reminder these days.

In Christ, the Transfigured and Transfiguring One,

Fr. Erickson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, March 29

8:00 a.m. – Mass
6:30-8:00 p.m. – Holy Week Confessions
7:00-8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Tuesday, March 30

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. – Holy Week Confessions

Wednesday, March 31

8:00 a.m. – Mass
6:30-8:00 p.m. – Holy Week Confessions
8:00-10:00 p.m. – Men’s Basketball

Thursday, April 1 – Holy Thursday

~ No morning Mass, confessions, or adoration

8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer
7:00 p.m. – Mass of the Lord’s Supper *
Church will remain open until 9:00 p.m.

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Holy Week Confessions
3:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service & Veneration of the Cross
7:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 3 – Holy Saturday

8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer
8:30-10:00 a.m. – Holy Week Confessions
8:00 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter *

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday

~ No confessions or 6:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass
10:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass *

* Incense

Note: There will be no confessions offered on Easter Monday, April 5.

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



TRANSFIGURATION 3

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!



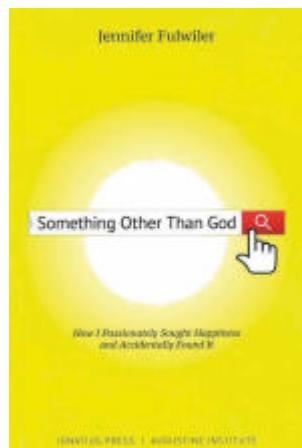
Not only is **April 4** Easter Sunday, but it is also everyone's favorite post-Mass event.

On Sunday, April 4, following the 8:30 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.

Kiosk Highlight

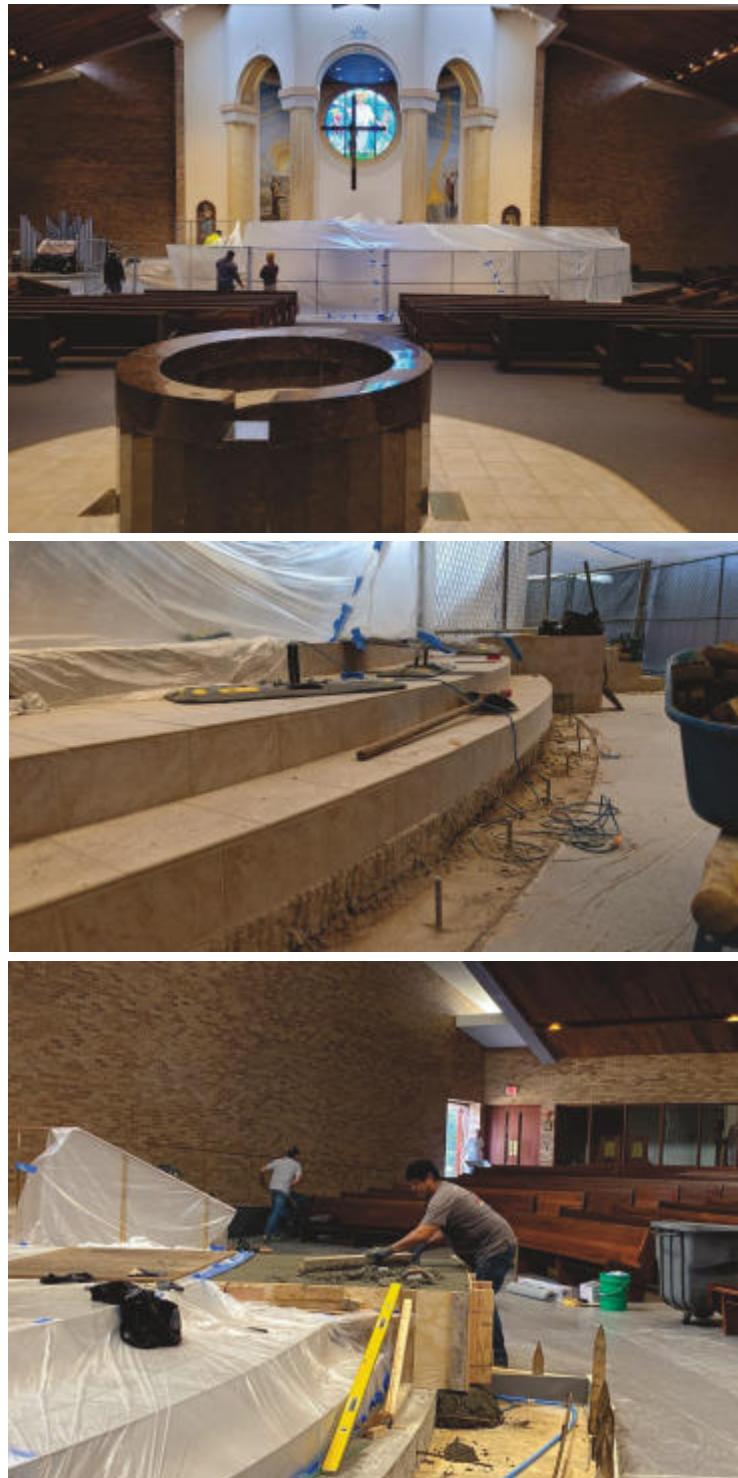
Something Other than God: How I Passionately Sought Happiness and Accidentally Found It,
by Jennifer Fulwiler

Jennifer Fulwiler had it all: a life of travel, a husband with a stack of Ivy League degrees, a swanky condo in the heart of Austin, and a beautiful first-born son. Then, one night, the questions she had been holding at bay by a life of fun and excitement came flooding over her. Raised in an atheist home in Bible Belt Texas, Jennifer mocked Christianity from her childhood. One fateful experience as an eleven-year-old caused her to experience the fear of mortality, which she only managed to ward off by focusing on the next big plan for her life. Once she began to allow herself to pose those questions again, she set out on a blog-writing and book-reading quest for the truth about suffering, evil, death, and whether Jesus Christ is who he said he was. A moving memoir of her conversion, Jennifer Fulwiler is poignantly, often hilariously, honest in *Something Other than God*.



Communion Rail Project

Some may have noticed the steps to the sanctuary look a little different. As you have been reading in Father's bulletin articles and hearing in the announcements, our communion rail project has begun. While there are still a few more weeks before the project is completed, we appreciate your patience during the construction process.



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.

Holy Week

The week leading up to Easter is the holiest week of our liturgical calendar, beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing until Easter Vigil. This is the week in which we celebrate the great Paschal Mystery, the Passion and Death of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and His victorious Resurrection, triumphing over sin and death.

On Holy Thursday, we begin Triduum, the Three Great Days. At **7:00 p.m. on Holy Thursday** we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, and on **Good Friday at 3:00 p.m.**, we recount the Passion of the Lord (including Veneration of the Cross). The Triduum concludes on **Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. with the Easter Vigil**, in which we will recount much of Salvation History and the significance of this night when Our Savior overcame sin to give us new life.

See the calendar on page 3 for Mass times, additional confession times, and other Holy Week events.

Divine Mercy Sunday



On the first Sunday after Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We are made aware of Jesus's boundless mercy and love as we ponder the giving of His life for us on the Cross. In the 1930s, our Lord spoke to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in a series of revelations, and it was during one of these revelations that He called for the Sunday after Easter to be a special feast day of mercy. On April 30, 2000, at the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope Saint John Paul II officially declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

One practice of the faithful is to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet for nine days, beginning on Good Friday and ending with the celebration of Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter Sunday. For more information on Divine Mercy Sunday and the Novena, please visit: www.thedivinemercy.org.

More details of the Divine Mercy Celebration on Sunday, April 11, can be found on our parish website.

The Significance of Easter

Easter Sunday is the day on which Our Lord Jesus Christ triumphed over death and redeemed us from sin - making it the most important day of our faith.

"[A]nd if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins."

~ 1 Corinthians 15:17

Thankfully, Christ DID die for our sins and He rose again! However, we as Catholics do not just celebrate Easter on one day - the liturgical season of Easter lasts until Pentecost, and each Sunday liturgy recalls that first Easter Sunday. The first week of Easter is known as the Octave of Easter and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Mass Intentions

Masses will be offered for each of these intentions.

Sunday, March 28

Marie Warner †
Mike, Jessica & Baby Freiermuth
The People of Transfiguration

Monday, March 29

Mary Sue Lind †

Tuesday, March 30

Thomas L. Thorsten †
Jessie and Robert Johnston †

Wednesday, March 31

Doru Posteaca †

Thursday, April 1 – Holy Thursday

The Priests of this Diocese

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

Good Friday – No Mass

Saturday, April 3 – Holy Saturday

Tom & Marlys Cleaveland Family,
Living and Deceased

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday

Fr. Dale Reiff †
The People of Transfiguration



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.

Scholarship Opportunity for Young Women

Are you a graduating senior or do you know a graduating senior? Looking for a way to help pay for college?

The Transfiguration Council of Catholic Women (TCCW) is committed to supporting the continued education of a Catholic woman as she embraces our mission of spirituality, leadership, and service. In keeping with our mission, the TCCW is offering the *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Award*, a one-time \$1,000 monetary award for a young woman graduating high school and furthering her education, and who is also a member of Transfiguration Catholic Church. The \$1000 award is given as a \$900 scholarship with the additional \$100 designated to the winner’s charity of choice.

For more information and an application, visit www.transfigurationmn.org/TCCW.

Applications are due by Sunday, April 18.

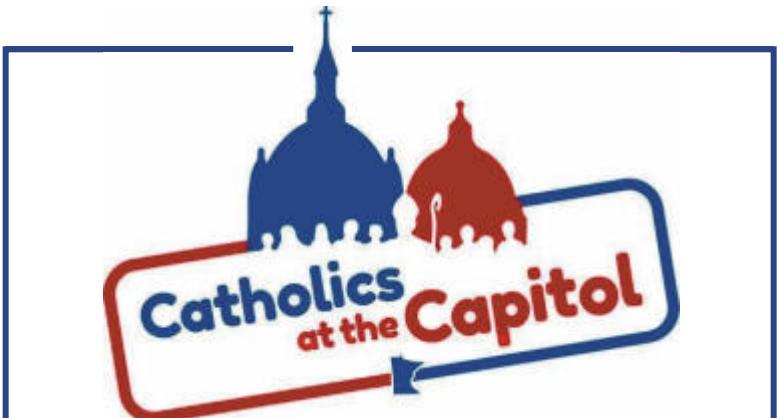
The Prayer Battle

Do you find that you get distracted during prayer?
Do you experience a spiritual dryness?
Have you wondered how can the saints help us?



Join us **April 10 at 9:00 a.m.** for a talk by Fr. Erickson at our **monthly parish formation**. He will be speaking on “*Christian Prayer: The Battle of Prayer and the Prayer of the Communion of Saints.*”

Following the talk there will be time of Adoration and confession.



Thursday, April 15 On Mission for Life and Dignity!

“A good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of himself, so that those who govern can govern.” ~ Pope Francis

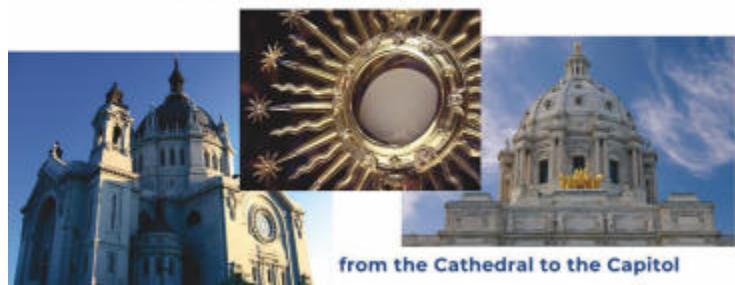
There is no time more important than now to speak up for life and dignity. Join Catholics from across Minnesota for this year’s Catholics at the Capitol, a special day of prayer, education, and advocacy in St. Paul.

Be formed in the faith, beginning the day with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Be informed on the issues, as we hear from inspiring speakers like international pro-life advocate Obianuju Ekeocha and Archbishop José Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the archbishop of Los Angeles. And be sent on mission, joining a Eucharistic procession from the cathedral to the capitol before sharing your Catholic convictions with your elected officials.

The day begins with 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral on April 15. For a complete schedule and to register, please visit: catholicsatthecapitol.org. Together, we can protect life and dignity.

Be SENT on Mission...

JOIN IN A EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION



OUR SCHOOL

Living Stations of the Cross



Transfiguration students continue to prepare for the Living Stations of the Cross. Typically, they would present these Stations in-person; however, with current restrictions they are unable to do so. Good news! You will still be able to watch live! This year we will be broadcasting the Living Stations of the Cross on our YouTube channel beginning at 2:00 p.m. on March 31. Please tune in watch the amazing presentation by our students. It will remain on our channel afterwards if you are unable to watch it live.



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