



The Assumption of Mary by Balthasar Beschey

August
15
2021

The Solemnity of the
Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

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.



TRANSFIGURATION



Dear Friends,

We celebrate this weekend the great mystery of the Assumption of Mary body and soul into heaven. Because of our mama Mary's special role in the history of salvation, it is fitting that she should share in the glory of her Son and Savior, Jesus Christ. Note that while Jesus *ascended* into heaven, our Lady was *assumed*. These words have slightly different connotations, and the distinction is important. Unlike Christ, Mary is a creature, though a perfect one and without stain of sin. But it is through the merits of Her Son, Jesus, that Mary shares in the eternal splendor of heaven. May this woman, our queen, our mother and our sister, intercede for us always.

Speaking of Mary...

We say goodbye to Mary Demko this weekend, wishing her only the best as she begins her new role at Holy Family Academy on Monday. Mary has been a very important part of Transfiguration for nearly 9 years, and to say that she will be missed is a gross understatement. While serving as Director of Sacred Music here she has made our parish better by her sacrifices and her expertise, and we all owe her our gratitude and prayers. Please greet her after the **8:30 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.** Masses and promise her your prayers. And tell her not to be a stranger! The search for our new Director of Sacred Music continues.

In other news...

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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

Eileen Douglass 651-501-2216
edouglass@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

PARISH LIFE AND FAMILY FORMATION COORDINATOR

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

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Daniel Orsinger 651-501-2201
dorsinger@transfigurationmn.org

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

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

AFTER HOURS PASTORAL

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VICTIM/SURVIVOR SITE & HOTLINE

safe-environment.archspm.org 651-291-4475

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms

Praise God for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ given to

Fox Oliver Harrison, son of Ian and Vanessa Harrison, who was baptized here on August 8.

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.

Deaths & Funerals

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, August 13 for Thomas John Kelly. Please keep Thomas and his family in your prayers.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekend Collection Totals:	Amount Collected	Budget
August 2021	\$ 47,839	\$ 48,00
Fiscal Year Total as of August 8, 2021	137076	\$ 140,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,924)
Percent above (below) budget		-2.09%
Big-Ticket Capital Improvement Fund		
Big Ticket Balance as of July 31, 2021		\$ 60,393
Amount Collected August, 2021		\$ 3,390
		-
Balance in Big-Ticket Savings Account		\$ 63,783
Long-Term Debt for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022		
Interest Paid on Long-Term Debt since July 1, 2021		13,396
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of July 31, 2020		\$ 3,949,257
Principal payments through August 2021		\$ 1,789
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of July 25, 2021		\$ 3,947,468

“Lord, how good it is for us to be here!”

(MATTHEW 17:4)



Sunday, August 15 – The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30-7:55 a.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation*
 8:30 a.m. – Holy Mass
 10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (high altar) (incense)
 6:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

Monday, August 16

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass
 7:00-8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 17

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass
 Noon-12:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation*
 Noon-1:00 p.m. – Private Prayer/Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament
 5:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

Wednesday, August 18

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass
 8:00-10:00 p.m. – Men's Basketball

Thursday, August 19

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass
 Noon-12:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation*
 Noon-1:00 p.m. – Private Prayer/Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament
 7:00-8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Friday, August 20

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

Saturday, August 21

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass
 3:15-3:50 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation*
 4:00 p.m. – Holy Vigil Mass

Sunday, August 22 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30-7:55 a.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation*
 8:30 a.m. – Holy Mass
 10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (incense)
 6:00 p.m. – Holy Mass (high altar)

***All times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are subject to change.**

Please check for daily time changes on our parish website: transfigurationmn.org

I have grown increasingly concerned with the tone and coercive efforts of many organizations, including entities of government, to demand the reception of a currently available COVID-19 vaccine by all eligible citizens. Acknowledging the concerns of many regarding the spread of the Delta variant and the grave moral duty to contribute to the authentic good of the wider community, it is still disturbing to me that so many have accepted a tone of derision towards those who have chosen not to receive the vaccine. Indeed, it seems as though outright mockery and anger are now considered virtuous when directed towards those who have chosen to not receive it.

Holy Mother Church has of course declared that under the current circumstance, the reception of available COVID-19 vaccines is morally permissible, though the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines should be chosen over the Johnson vaccine when possible. But the reception of the vaccine is not morally obligatory, and the Church has also been clear that the rights of conscience must be honored. I have been disheartened by the messages of some well-intentioned shepherds who have indicated that getting one of the currently available vaccines is an unqualified act of mercy and Christian charity. This kind of statement can lead one to believe that the decision *not* to take the vaccine is an act of negligence, selfishness and perhaps even sinful. I refuse to accept this premise.

I also happen to believe that private organizations and entities have the right to make decisions that they feel are best for them and society, within reasonable limits. Employees have rights, but so do employers and business owners. The rights of conscience go both ways, not just when we agree with the decision. But some protections must be in place for those who choose to opt out of vaccination for legitimate reasons, in keeping with human dignity and the God-given rights of conscience. And so I hope and pray that those responsible for granting requested exemptions due to health and religious concerns will be steadfast and fair in granting them.

On **September 14**, the *Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross*, Mass will be offered at **7:00 p.m.** for all health care workers and all those whose livelihoods are affected by vaccine mandates. I want to be clear that my desire to offer this Mass is in no way a political statement, nor a sign of ignorance about how gravely many have suffered due to COVID, including the loss of cherished loved ones. This is not a simple issue. But many within our community are grappling with questions of conscience, and our Church needs to be a support to them. Resources to assist those in requesting religious exemptions will also be available in the bulletin and on our website in the coming weeks.

Let us entrust to our Blessed Mother all our concerns and fears, our frustrations and our struggles. May she pray for all those who suffer gravely due to illness and isolation. May she grant wisdom to our leaders and those burdened by the need to make challenging decisions. May she comfort all those who have mourned the death of loved ones in this challenging time, and all those who have served valiantly in hospitals and healthcare facilities. May she intercede for our unity and our peace as a Christian people, so that we might be the healing presence that Christ calls us to be in our grieving and fractured world.

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.

Grief Share

Have you heard about the GriefShare Support Group? Sessions will be **Tuesday evenings 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Normoyle Room beginning **September 7, 2021.**

This 13-week program includes video presentations and group discussions to aide in the grieving process of losing a loved one. Participants need not be parishioners.

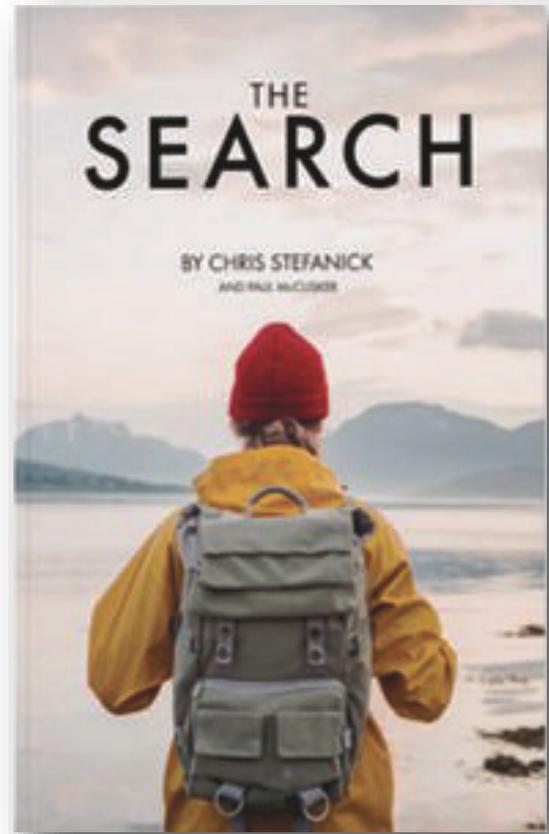
For more information, please contact Martha Praska: mpraska@transfigurationmn.org

Transfiguration Podcast



Tune into our parish podcast *Transfiguration in Oakdale* each week! Whether you are on your daily commute, hitting the gym or the trails, or just sitting at home, we got you covered with some awesome content to keep you engaged and informed. Check out our recent uploads on your favorite podcast app!

Kiosk Highlight



Book – The Search by Chris Stefanick

The Search is a powerful new Catholic evangelization experience. It will help those who are curious about the Faith but not ready to commit. *The Search* recasts the vision for what life's all about to those who've walked away—those who are asking big questions. We need to answer them well, so they see the Catholic Faith as it truly is.

**“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”
Matthew 28:19**

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.

Family Formation and Confirmation

Do you have a student in grades 1-6 who does not attend Transfiguration School or a student who is need of Confirmation? Both programs will begin **September 19**. We will have two sessions per month following the **8:30 a.m.** Mass time. The third Sunday of each month (with the exception of **January and April**) will be **from 9:30-11:30 a.m.**, following that there will be a family brunch in the gathering space. The second session will rotate throughout the month (dates will be finalized prior to the first meeting) and will be from **9:30-10:30 a.m.** Please watch our bulletin and website for registration information. Contact **Melissa Phinney** at mphinney@transfigurationmn.org with any questions.

Open Enrollment in Our Catholic School



At Transfiguration, our students are taught to exhibit the Three Pillars of our School:

- *Christian Discipleship*
- *Academic Excellence*
- *Great Love*



In addition to traditional classroom learning, students attend Mass weekly, have the opportunity for confession and adoration, cultivate a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, and much more.

Please contact tiger@transfigurationmn.org to set up a virtual tour and to learn about our affordable tuition.

Mass Intentions

Masses will be offered for each of these intentions.

Sunday, August 15 – Assumption of Mary

JoAnn Preiner †
Bernadette Losinski †
The People of Transfiguration

Monday, August 16

John B. Dewberry †

Tuesday, August 17

Gerald Caven †
Paulina and Michael Schmitz †

Wednesday, August 18

Poor Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, August 19

John and Ann Frascone †

Friday, August 20

Marie Warner †

Saturday, August 21

Patricia Monson †
The People of Transfiguration

Sunday, August 22

Ed and Kathy Gorman
Poor Souls in Purgatory
Joan Prill

Group Rosary

All are invited to pray a group Rosary with other parishioners in the Church following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesdays. There is a lot to be thankful for, and a lot to pray for, and bringing our prayers together under the protection and guidance of Our Blessed Mother is a perfect opportunity to offer such prayers and invite others to join in praying with you.



FROM ERIN ETHIER, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Festival Raffle Tickets Results

We sold 582 tickets for the Feast Day Festival raffle, netting the parish \$14,100 from this year's raffle. Stay tuned for final results from the fun-filled day in a future bulletin!

See page 6 for the raffle winners and more fun photos of the festivities from the Feast Day Festival!



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