

December
25/26
2021
- YEAR C

Adoration of the shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst



TRANSFIGURATION



Joy to the world,
The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!

A blessed Christmas to you all, and a sincere word of welcome to all visitors on this graced weekend. May the Little King of Bethlehem, found even now in the tabernacles of the Church, fill your hearts with joy and peace. May He transfigure your life and all those you love, so that you may glow with His beauty and strength.

Transfiguration exists to bring all those in the East Metro to Christ, the Source and Summit of our daily and eternal lives. We believe that the Lord has called us to be an evangelical community, that is, a community of mission. We do not exist for ourselves – we exist to make Jesus known and loved by all, particularly those within our neighborhood and in our community. Our devotion to the East Metro is not of course because we feel the Gospel is only for those in our own part of town. Rather, we understand that the Lord has established our parish in a particular place with particular needs and challenges and joys, and it is to these realities we must bring Jesus. And we feel that we must bring Jesus because it is He alone who can satisfy and save us and our neighbors.

continued on page 6

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

Church: www.transfigurationmn.org

School: www.transfigurationmn.org/school

STAFF INFORMATION

CLERGY

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

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

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

FORMATION STAFF

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

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

LITURGY & MUSIC

Shantel Schallenkamp, Liturgy Coordinator
651-501-2206 - sshallenkamp@transfigurationmn.org

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Erin Ethier, Parish Administrator
651-501-2209 - eethier@transfigurationmn.org

Kim Connolly, Finance Assistant
651-501-2208 - kconnolly@transfigurationmn.org

Sue Hilo, Operations Assistant
651-501-2224 - shilo@transfigurationmn.org

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

Martha Praska, Secretary &
Safe Environment Coordinator
651-738-2646 - mpraska@transfigurationmn.org

Phil Stoffel, Director of Maintenance
651-501-2245 - pstoffel@transfigurationmn.org

Kathy Weed, Administrative Assistant
651-738-2646 - kweed@transfigurationmn.org

SCHOOL

Eileen Douglass, Principal
651-501-2216 - edouglass@transfigurationmn.org

Kristen Thomas, Preschool Director
651-501-2239 - kthomas@transfigurationmn.org

AFTER HOURS PASTORAL
EMERGENCY NUMBER
651-501-2250

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

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Becoming Catholic (R.C.I.A.)

If you are interested in becoming Catholic please join our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults offerings that take place on **Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

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.

Funerals

Transfiguration will celebrate a Mass of Christian Burial for **Richard Morgan** on Monday, Dec. 20 at 11am. Please Keep Richard and his family in your prayers.



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Transfiguration Catholic School is the east metro's leading Catholic educational choice, forming students in Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence and Great Love.

See our insert for more information about our school open houses.

Social Media

See more of the happenings at Transfiguration by following us on our social media platforms.



Follow us @ [facebook.com/Transfigurationmn](https://www.facebook.com/Transfigurationmn)



Tune into *Transfiguration in Oakdale* on your favorite podcast app



See what's going on @ [Instagram.com/Transfig39](https://www.instagram.com/Transfig39)



Listen to past homilies and watch other videos by going to [Transfigurationmn.org/](https://www.transfigurationmn.org/)

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

-MATTHEW 17:4

Interested in joining Transfiguration? We would love to have you join us!

Call 651-738-2646 to learn more about our Parish and how to get involved. Welcome!

Men's Night's



Looking to have a fun time out with the guys?
Then join the men of Transfiguration for our men's nights! We gather together regularly to celebrate the gift of brotherhood and have a great time doing so!

In the past we have had smoker poker, whiskey tasting, Vikings watch party, and other fun activities. Who knows, you may find that this kind of brotherhood is something you never knew you needed.

Our next men's night will be here at Transfiguration on **February 9 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be feasting on BBQ smoked ribs and hanging out! Invite your buddies, coworkers, brothers, father, cousins, and neighbors for an awesome night and bring your appetite for this one!



Women's Night's



All ladies 21 and over are invited to join us for our first Women's Night of 2022 on **January 19 at 7:00 p.m.** January 19 will be "Prize Bingo." Come play bingo for a chance to win fabulous prizes! The evening is FREE thanks to the Transfiguration Council of Catholic Women (TCCW) who sponsor the women's nights at Transfiguration. You do not need to be a parishioner or Catholic to come and enjoy this fun evening. Food and beverages will be provided throughout the night. If you have any questions, please contact **Melissa Phinney** at mphinney@transfigurationmn.org or 651-501-2202.



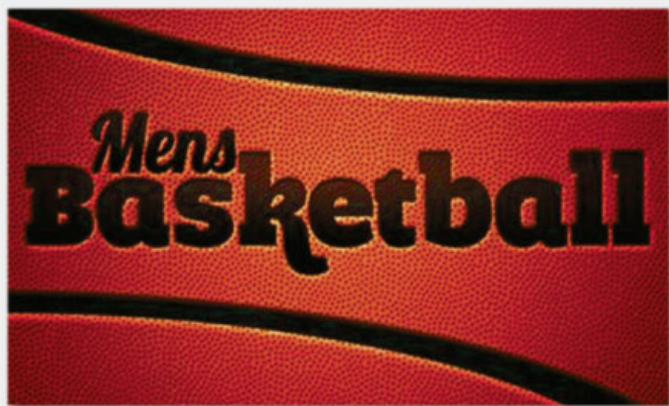
Men's Small Groups



Looking for a group of men to share your faith with and hold you accountable to becoming the man God created you to be? Looking for some support in your vocation as a father and husband? Looking for virtuous brotherhood but have not found it elsewhere? If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions then a men’s small group might be just the thing you are looking for. Transfiguration has two men’s small groups that meet every other Saturday morning from **6:30-8:00 a.m.** for prayer, study, and mutual support.

These groups are filled with great men who will be a benefit not only to you, but to your family. You might even find friends to help you with weekend projects at your house. Our next session is **January 1.**

No need to RSVP. Contact **Justin Kortuem** at jkortuem@transfigurationmn.org for more information



and to be included in the upcoming communications. Many of the men in these groups also play basketball in our school gym at **8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.** This is a great time to compete and exercise good sportsmanship together. All are men are welcome, so come join us and bring a friend! Bring a light shirt and a dark shirt and

Women's Small Groups



Experience community at Transfiguration through a Women's Bible Study

Another glass of wine, just one more episode on Netflix, a little more scrolling on Instagram... Women are numbing out at ever-increasing rates. Why? What is it about our lives that makes us feel so overwhelmed? What might change if we figured out how to build lives that we like?

Ordering Your Priorities: Building a Life Well Lived is an immensely practical Bible study that will help you put the most important things first. We'll begin by paying attention to the One who made us, because He can best tell us what we need for our lives to run well.

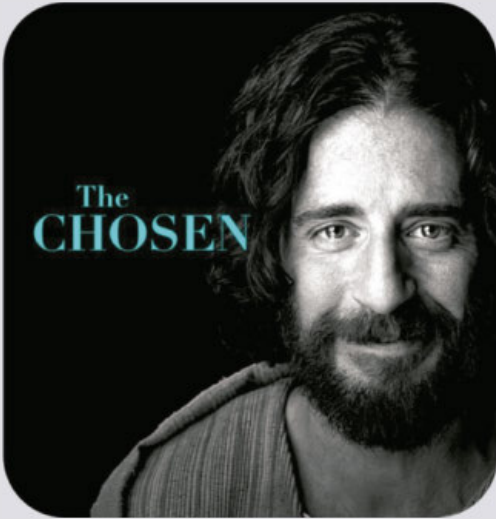
Ordering Your Priorities, an eight-lesson Bible study, is ideal if you...

- Are ready to discover not only what matters most in life but also how to prioritize those things,
- Long to feel satisfied at the end of the day, knowing that you've loved your family not just in your heart but also in your schedule,
- Want to create a life you don't need to escape from.

Groups will begin meeting at the end of January and sign up information will be available after Christmas. Please contact **Lynn Osborne** at losborne43@gmail.com or **Erin Ethier** at 651-501-2209 or eethier@transfigurationmn.org for more information.



Parish Movie Night



Come on out to Transfiguration **January 21 at 7:00 p.m.** to watch the world renowned “**The Chosen**” TV series that chronicles the life of Jesus and his disciples. We will have popcorn, pizza and drinks. Spread the word and invite your neighbors, strangers, family, and friends!

Save the Date New Member Dinner

Join us for our annual New Member Dinner **Saturday, January 15 at 5:00 p.m.** to welcome all new members who have joined us this past year. This dinner is an annual event where we take time to recognize all who have joined the parish in the last year and welcome them into the community. The evening includes a social hour, music, dinner, drinks, games, and a short program. All our welcome to join us for this exciting evening. Space is limited, so we encourage you to register earlier.



We are also in the need of table hosts. This \$200 donation per table will help cover the cost of food and drinks for the evening.

New members will be receiving an invite for this special night. Registration for new members and table hosts are now open. Registration for the rest of the parish will be open starting **January 5**. Family and non-parishioners are also welcome.

Please visit our website or scan the QR code to register. If you have any questions, please contact **Melissa Phinney** at mphinney@transfigurationmn.org or 651-501-2202.



Monthly Parish Picnic



All are invited to join us for a monthly picnic at 11:30 a.m.. Bring your own brunch and join us. The local parish is meant to be a community of believers that not only worship together, but also share life together. Come and get to know other parishioners and build lasting relationships!
Our next two picnics are **January 23 and February 20**.

Young Adult Christmas Party



Christmas doesn't end on December 25; in fact, the season is just beginning! Our young adult group (ages 21-39) at Transfiguration will be celebrating Christmas with a PARTY on **January 8 at 5:00 p.m.** This will be an evening of community with fun activities. Dinner is provided, but feel free to bring a dessert to share. All young adults (single, married, kids, no kids) are invited to join. You do not need to be a parishioner to attend, so invite your friends!

Mass Intentions

Masses will be offered for each of these intentions.

Sunday, December 26

Greg & Loretta Dittrich
Dr. Dave and Bev Spencer †
The People of Transfiguration

Monday, December 27

Christine & Brian Shriver

Tuesday, December 28

Victims of Abortion

Helen Gorman †

Wednesday, December 29

Fr. James Hall †

Thursday, December 30

Mike Sorensen †

Friday, December 31

Poor Souls

Saturday, January 1

Virginia & Walter Ricker †
All Mothers

Sunday, January 2

Art Sousa †
The People of Transfiguration

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve - Offices Closed

No 8:00 a.m. Mass or Adoration

4:00 p.m. – Holy Mass (Incense)

10:00 p.m. – Holy Mass (Incense)

Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day

8:30 a.m. – Holy Mass

10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (Incense)

***No 4:00 p.m. Mass or Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Sunday, December 26: Feast of the Holy Family

7:30-7:55 a.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation

8:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (High Altar)

10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (**Incense**)

***No 6:00 p.m. Mass**

Monday, December 27-Offices Closed

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

Tuesday, December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

Noon-12:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation

Noon-1:00 p.m. – Private Prayer/Adoration

***No 5:00 p.m. Mass**

Wednesday, December 29

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. – Adoration with prayer intention for our parish school (in chapel)

8:00-10:00 p.m. – Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 30-Offices Close at 1:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

Noon-12:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation

Noon-1:00 p.m. – Private Prayer/Adoration

7:00-8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Friday, December 31-Offices Closed

***No Adoration**

8:00 a.m. - Holy Mass

Saturday, January 1: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

6:30-8:00 a.m. – Men's Small Group

8:00 a.m. - Holy Mass

3:15-3:50 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:00 p.m.. – Holy Mass

Sunday, January 2: The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30-7:55 a.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation

8:30 a.m. – Holy Mass

9:30 a.m. – Blessing of Expectant Mothers

10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (High Altar) (Incense)

11:30 a.m. – Blessing of Expectant Mothers

6:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

Stay Informed with *MyParish*

The most up-to-date information about Transfiguration can be found using the ***MyParish App***. Access the app by scanning the QR code on the right.



PASTOR'S COLUMN (continued from page 1)

There is no other One for whom to wait - He alone is the One sent to save. Without Him we are lost; with Him we will live forever.

In these particularly challenging times, it is my hope and prayer that Transfiguration continues to grow into a place of real refuge and real challenge. Refuge, because it is a place of joy, friendship, prayer and sacramental beauty; challenge, because the Lord has not come to merely comfort us. He has come to set us on fire for love of His Father and His people, particularly the poor and weak. And, frankly, to be set on fire is painful! But without His purifying love, and the changes He demands of us, we will die of cold – cold hearts, cold dreams, cold aspirations – with little life and doomed to die in our small mindedness and pettiness. Draw near to Him in the manger, the Eucharist and the poor. He will both console you and call you. He will transfigure you!

I believe the Lord is calling Transfiguration to be a place of profound community, where we look after each other, know each other, and both support and challenge each other in our walk with the Lord. There is just no way to live the Catholic Faith alone – it must be lived with others. Hence, we offer many opportunities to gather together. But we also must be a place of worship and sacrifice. Indeed, every Catholic parish exists primarily to celebrate the sacraments, preeminently the Holy Mass, the source and summit of the Christian Faith. And so we take the celebration of the sacraments seriously here, and attempt to celebrate them with dignity and devotion. What is more, the parish is a place of encounter with the Word of God, and so we seek to preach boldly and clearly the full teachings of our life-giving Catholic Faith. We are not ashamed of the Gospel.

If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope you will consider Transfiguration. In addition, if you have grade-school aged children, I hope you will consider our parochial school, which features grade-levels pre-k through 8. We are building a culture of Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Great Love, and would love for you and your children to join us. And all at an affordable price!

A blessed Christmas to all. Jesus Christ has come to save us. Come, let us adore Him!

In Christ, the Transfigured and Transfiguring One,
Fr. Erickson



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As we near the end of 2021, now is the time to consider a gift to our *Together in Gratitude, Forward in Hope* campaign. We are grateful for the support we have received so far but for us to reach our \$2.5 million goal to significantly reduce our debt, we need all families to participate. A gift in any amount will help us reach our goal.

What are the tax benefits to making a gift before the end of the year?

For parishioners who itemize deductions on their annual tax return, gifts made by December 31 can be claimed as a charitable tax deduction on your 2021 tax return.

What are some of the ways to make a year-end gift?

The most common way to give is a cash donation and is as simple as writing a check, authorizing a charge on your credit card or automatic withdrawal. A donor can total up their cash gifts to any qualifying organization for 2021 and claim a deduction for up to 50% of their adjusted gross income.

As of December 2015, a law was signed that make IRA charitable rollovers permanent. This charitable giving tool allows donors to contribute directly from their IRA. Some provisions include:

Individuals must be age 70 ½ or older to make a tax-free gift from their IRA.

The maximum amount an individual can contribute in a taxable year is \$100,000.

Charitable distributions must be made to a qualified charity like a parish, Catholic school or diocese.

The distributions must be made directly from the donor's IRA to the charity.

The distribution does not give the donor a charitable tax deduction, but it does lower the donor's adjust gross income and may save in ordinary income taxes.

Thank you for your continued support of Transfiguration.

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