

# TRANSFIGURATION

Dear Friends,

It is providential that the tragic anniversary of Roe Vs. Wade, which we commemorate this weekend (January 22), falls during the same week as the national holiday dedicated to the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was an ardent

supporter of the rights of the downtrodden, and urged all people of good will to work together to peacefully but zealously challenge institutional injustice. We do well to remember him and all that he did to awaken consciences to the scourge of racism. Should we not have his same righteous indignation and commitment to change in the face of the institutional injustice that is legalized abortion? Without question the answer is a resounding yes.

I must admit that I find it difficult to understand the position of those who refuse to acknowledge the humanity manifested by the, well, baby bump. Furthermore, how is it possible to logically defend the position that the rights of the unborn child are tied to the circumstance of the parents, or contingent on their own decision as to the birth-worthiness of their child? I know well that tragedies often afflict families and couples and single moms. The arrival of an unexpected pregnancy, and particularly a crisis pregnancy, can bring with it emotional and financial burdens that are at times crushing. The option of abortion is frequently chosen by those who truly feel that there are no other options. And this is a terrible mark against our nation, our neighborhoods, and yes, our parish communities. Our commitment to the pro-life cause must be marked by a concern for the mother and her circumstance, and not simply the birth of her beautiful child.

continued on page 3

## January

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
-YEAR C

## 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

#### **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 - sschallenkamp@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

## **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.

Praise God for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ given in Baptism to *Lawrence John Gagliardi*, son of Samuel and Anastasia Gagliardi, who was Baptized here on January 16, 2022.

## Weddings

If you would like to celebrate your wedding at Transfiguration, please contact the parish office at least nine months in advance. Congratulations to *Zachary & Justine Wistl* who were joined in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on January 22, 2022!

#### **Funerals**

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for *Robert Sisinni* on Tuesday, Jan 18. Please keep Robert and the Sisinni family in your prayers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for *Robert Palecek* on Thursday, Jan 20. Please keep Robert and the Palecek family in your prayers.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Long-Term Debt for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022						
Interest paid on LT Debt since 7/1/21				\$	67,220	
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of December 30, 2021				\$ 3,120,229		
Monthly Payment - January 10th				\$	13,037	
Additional Principal Payments - January 2022				\$	161,780	
Balance on Long-Term Debt as of January 9, 2022				\$ 2,945,412		
Together In Gratitude, Forward in Hope Campaign						
Campaign Pledge Goal		\$	2,500,0		500,000	
Pledges received as of January 18, 2022			2,720,468		720,468	
Pledges received as a percent of goal				109%		
Weekend Collection Totals:	Amount Collected		Budget			
January 2022	\$ 54,0	54,024		58,000		
Fiscal Year Total as of 01/16/2022	702,	702,703		732,000		
Surplus/(Deficit)				(29,297)		
Percent above(below) budget			-4.00%			
Big-Ticket Capital Improvement Fund						
Big Ticket Balance as of December 30, 2021			\$	111,742		
Amount Collected January 2022					1,348	
Balance in Big-Ticket Savings Account			\$		113,090	

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### Sunday, January 23

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

8:30 a.m. - Holy Mass

9:30-11:30 - Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (Incense)

11:30 a.m. - Parish Picnic

6:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

#### Monday, January 24

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

7:00-8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

#### Tuesday, January 25

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

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

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

5:00 p.m. - Holy Mass

#### Wednesday, January 26

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, January 27

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

7:00-8:30 p.m. - R.C.I.A.

#### Friday, January 28

8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass

9:00-1:00 p.m. – Adoration with prayer intention

for the parish debt reduction

#### Saturday, January 29

6:30-8:00 a.m. – Men's Small Groups

8:00 a.m. - Holy Mass

3:15-3:45 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:00 p.m. – Holy Vigil Mass

#### Sunday, January 30

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

8:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (High Altar)

10:30 a.m. - Holy Mass (Incense)

6:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

## Sunday **Mass Readings**

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Responsory: Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 **Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

**Gospel:** Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## PASTOR'S COLUMN (continued from page 1)

But the tragedy of the abortion decision, and the sympathy and concern that the poor deserve from us, does not mitigate the absolute horror of the deliberate taking of an unborn child's life. And make no mistake – it IS a child, and abortion is a horror, for all involved.

It is my firm conviction that the rights of the unborn is the greatest social justice issue of our time. No, it is not the only issue, but it is the most pressing, not only because of the humanity of the child in the womb but also because of what that child represents – the most defenseless and dependent among us. If the voiceless child can be snuffed out because of their inconvenience, why not the disabled who depend on the state for care? Why not the poor who have no advocate or financial power or influence? Why not the elderly, whose working days are long done and who now rely upon the promises of the past that challenge the fiscal brightness of the future? Insert into this rhetorical question your favorite marginalized community, and the terrible lesson remains. If the unborn child is not safe, no one is, and power, whether it be political, financial, or the raw will of the majority, determines right.

But again, to be "pro-birth" is not enough. We must also work for those conditions that support women and men who are faced with awful decisions. We must be a truly pro-life community. For this reason, I am so very proud of the work done by Options for Women East on White Bear Ave, a crisis pregnancy clinic supported by so many within our parish.

I myself am honored to serve in a small role on the clinic's board, acting as chaplain. But the center is much more than a place to resolve crises. It is a place of love and concern for the stranger, the sorrowful and the afraid. In short, it is a place of Christian discipleship, and for this reason, it works, saving the lives of babies and mothers both. I urge you to consider lending your financial support to this critical apostolate, and to finding out more about the tremendous good that it does.

There are many who chide us to accept the blasphemously absurd "right" to abortion, and would remind us that it is the law of the land and that we should simply accept it. I am more than sure that Dr. King heard the same arguments as he preached the equality of all people, and before him, the abolitionist who dared to question the moral foundation of chattel slavery. Thank God these arguments were rejected by those driven by a noble cause – liberty and justice for all, born and unborn.

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.

## Men's Night BBQ



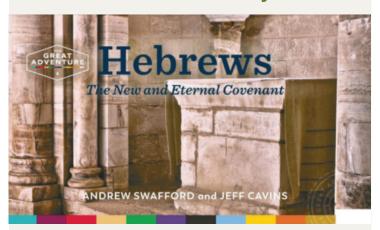
Our next men's night will be here at Transfiguration on **February 9 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be feasting on BBQ smoked ribs, drinks, and playing your favorite card games! Invite your buddies, coworkers, brothers, father, cousins, and neighbors for an awesome night and bring your appetite for this one!

## **Transfiguration Podcast**



Have you listened to our parish podcast *Transfiguration in Oakdale*? Whether you are on your daily commute, hitting the gym or the trails, or just sitting at home, we've got you covered with awesome content to keep you engaged and informed. Check out our recent uploads on your favorite podcast app and look for new episodes every Sunday!

## **New Bible Study!**



**Hebrews Bible Study** is an 8 week study that embarks on a guided tour of the "Holy of Holies" of biblical theology in *Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant,* an eight-part Bible study presented by

**Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins!** In this study, Catholics will be able to see, appreciate, and take hold of the riches God has given them in the New Covenant. Highlighting the critical distinctions between the Old and New Covenants, Hebrews will help Catholics get to know the generosity of the Father's

heart in a deeper way than ever before. Our study will be on Tuesday mornings, from 9-10:30 a.m in the Gathering Space. The study will start on February 15. Registration can be found at the parish or on our website or by scanning the QR code.



## Men's 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? Then we have something for you. Transfiguration has men's groups that meet every other Saturday morning from **6:30-8:00 a.m.** for prayer, study, and mutual support. Join our next session **January 29.** 

We also have a group that meets for lunch every other Thursday at Noon. Our next lunch is January 27. No need to RSVP. For information including locations, contact Justin Kortuem at jkortuem@transfigurationmn.org for more information and to be included in the upcoming communications.

## 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.

## **Archdiocesan World Day of the Sick At Transfiguration**

On this 30th anniversary of the establishment of the World Day of the Sick by Saint John Paul II, Transfiguration will host the annual **Archdiocesan World Day of the Sick Mass** on **February 11**, The Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, with Archbishop Hebda presiding and preaching. Mass will be held at 5:15 p.m. with a reception and talk to follow given by Deacon Stephen Najarian on the Christian meaning of human suffering. The event will also be livestreamed on the Transfiguration YouTube channel. Sponsored by Curatio, an apostolate of Catholic Health Care Professionals, as well as the Order of Malta, the Mass is especially for the sick, caregivers, chaplains and health care workers, but ALL are welcome. No RSVP is necessary.

## "Lord, how good it is for us to be here!"

## 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.

Groups will begin meeting on February 1 and 2 and sign up information is available online (scan QR code with your phone) or forms are available in the gathering space. Please contact Lynn Osborne at losborne43@gmail.com or Erin Ethier at 651-501-2209 or eethier@transfigurationmn.org for more information.



### **Mass Intentions**

Masses will be offered for each of these intentions.

#### Sunday, January 23

Albert and Caroline Eberhard †
The People of Transfiguration
Eleanor Grudnoske †

#### Monday, January 24

Babies Born on this Day

#### Tuesday, January 25

Archbishop Bernard Hebda Harold Brandel †

#### Wednesday, January 26

Deceased Members of the Bixby Family

#### Thursday, January 27

Marie and Ray Warner †

#### Friday, January 28

Carolyn Plasch †

#### Saturday, January 29

Clara Christ †

Jerry Boland †

#### Sunday, January 30

The People of Transfiguration Aguida Bico † Agrita Majeres



### 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.

## **Help Those in Need**



Please support the mission of

Options for Women East of empowering women and their families during their entire pregnancy journey.

This weekend, January 22-23, baby bottles and envelopes will be available to take home with you to fill with cash, checks, or change. You may place your donations in the large baby bottle located in the gathering space on the weekends and in the parish office during the week. Donations will be accepted through February 13.

## **Substitute Teachers Needed**

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

Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, & Great Love.

All persons interested in leading our students in these pillars as a substitute teacher, please contact our school office at tiger@transfigurationmn.org

"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live." - Pope John Paul II.

## Youth Group -5th-12th Grade



Having a strong community can help students thrive as they grow in their faith. At Transfiguration, our Youth Group seeks to create an atmosphere of community and where students can grow in their personal relationship with Jesus. Youth Group is not just catechesis, we also spend time with friends enjoying games and good food. Youth Group is for both Middle and High School students and meets the First and Third Wednesday of each month from 3:30-5:00 p.m. We will also be allowing 5th graders to join us the First Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be February 2.

All parents need to fill out the 2022 permission form available on our website or by scanning the QR code below.

For more information contact Melissa Phinney at <a href="mailto:mphinney@transfigurationmn.org">mphinney@transfigurationmn.org</a>.

Youth Group Vision Statement: Create an atmosphere of community and a place where students can grow in their personal relationship with Jesus.



## FROM ERIN EITHER, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

#### 2021 Year-End Statements

Year-end contribution statements will be mailed by Thursday, January 27. Please don't contact the parish office for your statement until after January 31. It takes a considerable amount of time to make sure that transactions are accurately reported for the over 1,000 registered households and friends of the parish that have supported Transfiguration during the year. If you do not receive your statement or have questions on the contents, please contact the parish office at 651-738-2646.

### 2022 Annual Financial Stewardship Drive

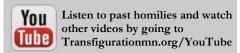
The 2022 Financial Stewardship Pledge forms will be included with the year-end contribution statement mailing. Completing and returning the annual pledge form assists parish leadership in projecting annual revenue and preparing an annual operating budget that is balanced. It isn't a binding agreement, merely an indication of what you plan to give to Transfiguration. Please take some time to reflect on the gifts that God has provided to you in order to determine how you can share your many gifts with our Parish as we seek to bring all those in the east metro to Jesus.

Additional Financial Stewardship forms are available in the Gathering Space after Masses or from the parish office. If you aren't registered in the parish, we would love to have you officially join our community! Please speak to a staff member at the Gathering Space desk to learn about all that Transfiguration has to offer you and your family.















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