



# TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD PARISH



**December 22, 2019**

**23 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904**

**Phone: 732-572-0977 • Fax: 732-572-7497**

**Website: [transfiguration-parish.com](http://transfiguration-parish.com)**

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**Religious Education Email: [edisonparish@verizon.net](mailto:edisonparish@verizon.net)**

*St. Paul the Apostle Church*  
**Corner of 6th & Raritan Avenue**  
**Highland Park, NJ 08904**

*Guardian Angels Church*  
**37 Plainfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08817**

## Vision Statement

**The vision of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is to have an enlightening and transforming experience of God through a greater faith and knowledge of Jesus.**

## *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*

### **St. Paul the Apostle**

Sunday – 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

Daily Mass: Mon. Wed. through Fri. – 8:00 a.m.,

Tuesday: No Mass

Sacrament of Penance By Appointment

### **Guardian Angels**

Saturday Vigil—4:00 p.m. Sunday – 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

Daily Mass: Mon., Weds. through Sat. 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday: No Mass

Sacrament of Penance Saturday 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

## **HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION AS ANNOUNCED IN BULLETIN**

Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help are prayed at the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass each

Wednesday in Our Lady of the Eucharist Chapel, Parish Center.

Novenas – Miraculous Medal and St. Jude – Monday 9 a.m. Transfiguration Chapel, Guardian Angels

## Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Transfiguration Chapel, Guardian Angels

Rev. Abraham Lotha, PhD, Pastor

Fr. Pauly Thekkan, in Residence, Deacon Edward Krupa

Carol Terzino, Administrative Assistant

Parish Office Hours—Monday through Thursday—9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Friday—9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

# Merry Christmas!!!

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, December 23**

**St. Paul's Worship Site**

**8:00 a.m. Lou Antonelli†**  
Requested by: Betty Lou & Dan Varady  
**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**9:00 a.m. Mary I. Garvey†**  
Requested by: Monica Foulkes

**Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

**St. Paul the Apostle Worship Site**

**No Mass**

**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**4:00 p.m. Intention of the Parishioners**

**10:00 p.m. Intention of the Parishioners**

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

**St. Paul's Worship Site**

**10:00 a.m. Intention of the Parishioners**

**12:30 p.m. Intention of the Parishioners (Spanish)**

**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**9:00 a.m. Intention of the Parishioners**

**11:15 a.m. Intention of the Parishioners**

**Thursday, December 26 - St. Stephen**

**St. Paul's Worship Site**

**8:00 a.m. No Mass**

**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**9:00 a.m. Francis John Kosztynt†**

Requested by: Teresa Kotlinsla

**Friday, December 27 - St. John**

**St. Paul's Worship Site**

**8:00 a.m. Edelberto Oliver†**

Requested by: Roger Requejo

**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**9:00 a.m. Terry McComiskey†**

Requested by: Cathy McComiskey

**Saturday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents**

**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**9:00 a.m. Peter Sheridan, Jr.†**

**4:00 p.m. Anthony J. Pojnar†**

Requested by: wife, Jennie

**Sunday, December 29 - The Holy Family**

**St. Paul's Worship Site**

**8:00 a.m. Cornelia & Joseph Xuereb†**

Requested by: Guiliano & Ellie Ferrara

**10:00 a.m. Roland Hannah†**

Requested by: wife, Mary

**12:30 p.m. Joseph Cranley (birthday)**

Requested by: Cranley Family

**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**9:00 a.m. Sr. Frances Smith, SC**

**11:15 a.m. Rose Siat†**

Requested by: Jerome & Theresa Rizzo

**† - Rest in Peace - Elizabeth Antonelli, Joanne Green and Jane Arrisi**

**May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.**

**Donations for Memorial & Intentions 2020**

We thank the donors for their generosity towards these needs of the parish for 2020.

Wine—\$1,500—in memory of William & Arlene Eichler

Hosts—\$1,000—anonymous

Hosts (Low Gluten)—\$75.00 anonymous

Palm Leaves—\$250 anonymous

Candles & Candle Oil—\$1,500 anonymous

**LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE**

**Guardian Angels Worship Site**

**Tuesday, December 24 4:00 p.m.**

**Lector:** M. Day, K. Farrar

**Eucharistic Minister:** V. Reyes, H. Tenchavez

M. Carro, A. Hoey

**Tuesday, December 24 10:00 p.m.**

**Lector:** Anissa Varkoly

**Eucharistic Minister:** Gloria Rada, Norma Padernal

**Wednesday, December 25 9:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** Grace Ciotta

**Eucharistic Minister:** M. White, R. Santos

**Wednesday, December 25 11:15 p.m.**

**Lector:** Michelle Pickett

**Eucharistic Minister:** Judy Barta, Carla Guerreiro

**Saturday, December 28 4:00 p.m.**

**Lector:** John Melnick

**Eucharistic Minister:** M. Carro, A. Hoey

V. Reyes, N. Padernal

**Ushers:** R. Marlow, T. Cherepon, M. Cherepon

**Sunday, December 29 9:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** Mike White

**Eucharistic Minister:** Rodel Santos, Grace Ciotta

**Ushers:** A. Damone, J. Markano, C. Suzberic

**Sunday, December 29 11:15 a.m.**

**Lector:** Karen Mohamed

**Eucharistic Minister:** G. Rada, H. Tenchavez

**Ushers:** J. Donnelly, H. Melendez, P. Weir

**St. Paul the Apostle Worship Site**

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day 10:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** Matthew Grogan

**Sunday, December 29 8:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** M. Cranley, J. Cranley

**Eucharistic Minister:** Betty Lou Varady, Judith Hackett

**Ushers:** J. Garlatti, Peter Hackett

**Sunday, December 29 10:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** Eva Szmuto

**Eucharistic Minister:** Melanie & Shawn O'Connell

**Ushers:** J. McGarry, G. Emmett, J. Adadevoh, J. Swamy

***Please pray for the sick and homebound,***

Peggy Abecker

Ben Andrulowich

Ruth Bach

Rita Beckhorn

Barbara Bilinski

Alfred Broderick

Robert Broderick

Carol Byrne

Charles Byrne

Pat Daley

Steven Dempsey

Migdalia Diaz

Dee Donnelly

Felipe Elimanco

Mark Iannacone

Sr. Donna Kane

Brittany Knapp

John Kriegl

Kathy & Joseph Lamela

Nicholas Lawrence

Anthony Lepore

Adam Lubonski

Donovan Mak

Carmen (Pete) Manero

Joan McArdle

Paul Millar

Dolores Neumann

Stephanie P.

Paul Pachucki

Ellen Pelosi

Kathy Young Phillips

Antonia Sacristan

Robert F. Santoro

Jack Santos

Mickey Schiavone

Arthur Schnarr

Marge Shirley

Camille Silverman

Joseph Skalla

Cathy Roesinger Sloane

Steve & Alice Marie Sloss

Christina Stevenson

Helen Szaranowski

Jean Toth

Frank Valendo

Joe Valendo

William B. Zalek

Dear brothers and sisters,

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

This year we began Advent by 'cutting out the noises of the season' for a focused spiritual preparation for Christmas. I hope you are able to celebrate Christmas with a renewed experience of God's love for you.

How do we accept God's love and gift at Christmas? There have been many times when I felt reluctant to accept help from others because of pride and vulnerability. I look back at those moments and realize how much my life would have been easier if only I had accepted help from others. At Christmas, God sends his Son to show His love for us. If God can share in our humanity, I can at least show my humility and accept His love graciously. After all, I can use some help from God.

May you enjoy God's gift to you at Christmas. God bless.

Fr. Abraham

**Christmas Schedule**

**Tues., December 24 Christmas Eve at Guardian Angels**

**Masses at 4pm and 10pm**

**Christmas Carols 9:30 p.m.**

**Wed., December 25 Christmas Day Masses**

**10am and 12:30pm St. Paul's**

**9am and 11:15am Guardian Angels**

**Thurs., December 26: 9 a.m. Mass at Guardian Angles**

**No Mass at St. Paul's**

**Year End Party**

Saturday, December 28th, 6:00 p.m., Year End Party at Guardian Angels Church Hall. Ticket \$25.00. Food, Music and Dance.

**Ordination Anniversary: Thank You**

Thank you to all the parishioners for your wishes, prayers and generosity on the occasion of our Ordination Anniversary. Thanks especially to the Development and Social Committees, Trustees, Councils, Knights of Columbus, Ministries, Volunteers and all Parishioners for their support. May God bless you all. Fr. Abraham and Fr. Pauly.

**Consecration To The Holy Family**

The Knights of Columbus Council 6306 invites each family and member of The Transfiguration of the Lord Parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family during the weekend of 12/28 - 12/29/19. This is to help revitalize our parish by urging our parish families to devote themselves to the ideal model of family love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event, it is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church. Holy Family Prayer Cards will be distributed at Masses on the weekend of 12/28 and 29. The Knights will host hospitality at Guardian Angels on Sunday 12/29 from 9am-12:30pm.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, Dec. 28:** 6 pm to 10 pm: Year-End Party

**OFFERINGS**

Sunday Offertory 12/15/19 - \$6,684

Shop Rite: \$1,600—Profit \$100

Bring a Dollar to Church - \$187

Retirement Fund Religious - \$1,889

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Donations—\$1,127

**Guardian Angels Parking Lot Part 2**

**Total Cost—\$14,532**

As of 12/15/19

Bring a Dollar \$2,817

Shop Rite 1,300

Balance from Tricky Tray 6,376

Other Donations 329

Edison Pizza 85

Legion of Mary 50

Anonymous 1,150

Spanish Community 265

Rosary Altar 1,000

**Total \$13,372**

**LAS POSADAS**

Las Posadas is a novena celebrated chiefly in Latin America, Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba and by Hispanics in the United States, beginning on December 16 and ending on Dec. 24. The novena represents the nine-month pregnancy of Mary, the mother of Jesus, celebrated by his followers, by praying the Holy Rosary. This year, for the first time, the Spanish Community of our parish will have Las Posadas. It will begin on Monday December 16 and end on Dec. 24. The program will be at 6:30 pm in the church and on some days in different homes. All parishioners are welcome.

**Preparing for Christmas after the loss of a Loved One**

Such a loss! Such a keen and tearing pain. Even when I am in a crowded room, there is a loneliness I never knew existed. Comforting God, I have turned to you so many times for solace, and I come again. While the world is bright and sparkling, my heart feels leaden and has an emptiness that cannot be filled. Lord, how can I enter into this season of joy? In my head I celebrate your birth into this world, but in my everyday life, I am filled with a grief that runs so very deep You blessed me with a loving relationship and now it is gone from my life How can I be faithful to that love and the memory of that love and my sorrow in this season of "Rejoice!"" Tears are so close to the surface all the time and helpful friends who want to "keep me busy" don't seem to really understand that I need to embrace my grief. I am afraid of letting go of the sadness and losing the deep love connection I had Instead of entering into the Rejoice of Christmas, I long for the sorrow of Lent. I beg you Lord, show me how the two are connected. I ponder the name Emmanuel and know that it means "God with us." With us. With me in this world, in this sorrow. If I look beyond my pain, I know that you, too, suffered so much in this world. I never understood so clearly before that Emmanuel is what your nativity is really about. You are in my world, in my pain. Thank you, Lord, for the loved one you blessed my life with. Grant me now in my grief, a peace. Give me a comfort that might not make the tears go away, but that lets me feel your presence as you take up a place deep in my heart, with me. (Taken from *Praying Advent*, on Creighton University's *Online Ministries* web site. Used with permission.)

**Nuestra Visión Parroquial**

**La visión de la Parróquia de la Transfiguración del Señor es vivir una experiencia de Dios que nos ilumine y nos transforme a causa de un mejor conocimiento de Jesús y una fé mayor en Él.**

**Las ofrendas del domingo 8 de december fueron \$449 de acuerdo a la posibilidad de sus recursos y medios.**

**Debido a la presentación anticipada del boletín para imprimir, esta sección se actualizará el próximo fin de semana.**

**Coordinadores**

**Lectores:** Nestor Collazo

**Ministros eucarísticos:** Maria Pinelo

**Servidores de altar:** Elizabeth Martinez

**El sacramento del bautismo**

El bautismo es la celebración a través de la cual un niño es llevado a la fe de la Iglesia Católica. Los padres deben estar registrados y practicando miembros de la parroquia. Los padres están obligados a asistir a una clase pre-bautismal. Los padrinos deben ser católicos practicantes y poder obtener un certificado de elegibilidad de su parroquia.

**Membresia Parroquial**

Nuevos residents de la comunidad son bienvenidos a registrarse como feligreses. Tambien les pedimos que cualquier cambio de direccion, correo electronico o numero de tele-

**Sacramento del matrimonio**

El sacramento del matrimonio requiere un tiempo de preparación espiritual, intelectual y emocional. Las parejas deben concertar con la oficina parroquial un año antes de la fecha de la boda. Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para una cita con el pastor antes de hacer cualquier otro plan de boda.

**RCIA**

Cualquiera que se sienta llamado por Dios para convertirse en miembro de la Iglesia Católica participa en el programa RICA. Una serie de instrucciones y ceremonias litúrgicas diseñadas para dar buena información en la fe católica.

**Misa Intención Especial**

Favor de tener presente que usted puede ofrecer una misa para sus seres queridos o una intención especial. Vea el boletín para las fechas disponibles en abril.

**Cuidado pastoral de los enfermos**

Cualquier feligrés que esté enfermo, envejecido o incapacitado puede recibir la eucaristía en casa. Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia.

**Educación Religiosa**

La clases se reunen de 11:00 am a 12:10 pm en el centro de la parroquia aquí en Highland Park. Se requiere asistencia consistente.

**"El Manantial"  
Edición Digital**

Visita el link <https://www.catholicspirit.com/e-edition> y entérate en español de las noticias de nuestra comunidad en la Diócesis de Metuchen.

Apoya esta publicación y comparte este link con tus amigos, en tu parroquia, en los grupos de oración, en los ministerios y con toda la comunidad.

**Fecha**

12/22/19

12/25/19

12/29/19

**Lectores**

Rene Sanchez

Sergio Pinelo

Elizabeth Martinez

**Ministros eucarísticos**

12/22/19

12/29/19

Sergio & Maria Pinelo

Guadalupe Dias & Pilar Garcia

***FELIZ NAVIDAD !***

Gracias a todos por su presencia y ayuda durante el año. Nuestra comunidad continúa creciendo en fe y compañerismo. Que el niño Jesús nos acerque a él y a los demás.

**LAS POSADAS**

Las Posadas es una Novena, celebrada en Latino America, Mexico, Guatemala y en los Estados Unidos por la comunidad hispana. Comienza el 16 de Diciembre y termina el 24 de Diciembre. La Novena (Las Posadas) representa los 9 meses de gestación de Nuestra Madre la Virgen Maria, madre de nuestro Salvador. Es celebrado por los Cristianos catolicos, resando el Santo Rosario. Este año por primera vez haremos las posadas en nuestra Comunidad Hispana. Lo haremos en la Iglesia y en diferentes casas. A las 6:30 pm .

**POSADAS DE NAVIDAD DE LA IGLESIA DE SAN PABLO 2019**

#	FECHA	NOMBRE	LUGAR	DIRECCION
1	DOMINGO 16 DICIEMBRE	JULIO CHRISTOPHERINA	EN LA IGLESIA	
2	MARTES 17 DICIEMBRE	MARIA GUADALUPE	EN LA IGLESIA	
3	MIERCOLES 18 DICIEMBRE	SABRILE IRINI	EN SU CASA	1711 RAVEN AVENUE APT 100 HIGHLAND PARK NJ 08904
4	JUEVES 19 DICIEMBRE	EUSEBIO INPOSA	EN LA IGLESIA	
5	VIERNES 20 DICIEMBRE	FLORIAN JUANA	EN LA IGLESIA	
6	SABADO 21 DICIEMBRE	MARITZA	EN SU CASA	219 GRAHAM STREET HIGHLAND PARK NJ 08904
7	DOMINGO 22 DICIEMBRE	RICARDO	EN SU CASA	APT 206 FRANKLIN STREET HIGHLAND PARK NJ 08904
8	LUNES 23 DICIEMBRE	BLENA VENTURA	EN SU CASA	24 DUFFY AVENUE HIGHLAND PARK NJ 08904
9	MARTES 24 DICIEMBRE	BERTHA PASTRANA	EN LA IGLESIA	

**Question for Children:** When you pray, how do you hear God's voice in response?

**Question for Youth:** God speaks to us in our intuitions and imagination, as he did to Joseph in this dream. What is your experience of hearing God speak in this way? What is God asking of you?

**Question for Adults:** What experiences do you have of God "speaking to you" and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?

### Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry meets Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. Anyone who was recently Confirmed is welcome.

### **Amoris Laetitia: The erotic dimension of love**

**154.** We also know that, within marriage itself, sex can become a source of suffering and manipulation. Hence it must be clearly reaffirmed that "a conjugal act imposed on one's spouse without regard to his or her condition, or personal and reasonable wishes in the matter, is no true act of love, and therefore offends the moral order in its particular application to the intimate relationship of husband and wife". The acts proper to the sexual union of husband and wife correspond to the nature of sexuality as willed by God when they take place in "a manner which is truly human". Saint Paul insists: "Let no one transgress and wrong his brother or sister in this matter" (1 Th 4:6). Even though Paul was writing in the context of a patriarchal culture in which women were considered completely subordinate to men, he nonetheless taught that sex must involve communication between the spouses: he brings up the possibility of post-pone sexual relations for a period, but "by agreement" (1 Cor 7:5).

### **PARISH LEADERSHIP - EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY**



JUDY BARTA grew up in Edison and began coming to Guardian Angels as a child. She has been a parish member her whole life. She came to church with her mom, sisters, & brother. Her siblings were married in the church before moving away to other parishes. "My faith is an important part of my life and I have enjoyed being a parish member all these years since it was founded, from Father Flynn to the present." Judy serves the parish as a Eucharistic Minister.

### **Winter Concert: Thank you**

The Winter Concert went exceptionally well. Thanks to Enriqueta Somarriba, Maria Brea and Susana Leiva for the wonderful music. Thanks to the many parishioners who attended the concert.



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### **ADMIRABLE SIGNUM:**

APOSTOLIC LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

ON THE MEANING & IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him. With this Letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grandparents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived. The origin of the Christmas crèche is found above all in certain details of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, as related in the Gospels. The evangelist Luke says simply that Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (2:7). Because Jesus was laid in a manger, the nativity scene is known in Italian as a *presepe*, from the Latin word *praesepium*, meaning "manger". Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as "the bread come down from heaven" (Jn 6:41). Saint Augustine, with other Church Fathers, was impressed by this symbolism: "Laid in a manger, he became our food" (*Sermon* 189, 4). Indeed, the nativity scene evokes a number of the mysteries of Jesus' life and brings them close to our own daily lives. But let us go back to the origins of the Christmas crèche so familiar to us. We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio, near Rieti. Saint Francis stopped there, most likely on his way back from Rome where on 29 November 1223 he had received the confirmation of his Rule from Pope Honorius III. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. It may also be that the "Poor Man of Assisi" had been struck by the mosaics in the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major depicting the birth of Jesus, close to the place where, according to an ancient tradition, the wooden panels of the manger are preserved. The *Franciscan Sources* describe in detail what then took place in Greccio. Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realize his desire "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay". At this, his faithful friend went immediately to prepare all that the Saint had asked. On 25 December, friars came to Greccio from various parts, together with people from the farmsteads in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up that holy night. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. The priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. At Greccio there were no statues; the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present. This is how our tradition began: with everyone gathered in joy around the cave, with no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery. Thomas of Celano, the first biographer of Saint Francis, notes that this simple and moving scene was accompanied by the gift of a marvelous vision: one of those present saw the Baby Jesus himself lying in the manger. From the nativity scene of that Christmas in 1223, "everyone went home with joy". (to be continued)

### **Church Humor** : Who is the real Virgin?

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grannie by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"



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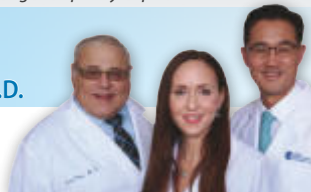
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