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**12608 MADISON AVENUE • LAKEWOOD, OH 44107**

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**PASTOR**

Rev. Theodore J. Haag, O.F.M.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

**CONFESSIONS**

First Saturday of the Month: 3:15 to 3:45 p.m.  
Or call the Parish Office for an appointment.

**PARISH OFFICE**

Hours: Monday thru Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Phone: (216) 521-7288, (216) 521-9091  
Fax: (216) 521-7005  
E-mail: [transfiguration@ohiocoxmail.com](mailto:transfiguration@ohiocoxmail.com)

**COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

Distributions are held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on the fourth Wednesday of the month from January to October and on the third Wednesday of the month in November and December. The Food Pantry is located in the lower level of the Rectory.

**BAPTISMS**

Call the Parish Office to schedule.

**WEDDINGS**

Ordinarily, arrangements must be made six months in advance, according to diocesan policy. Consult clergy. Pre-marriage classes must be attended.

**COMMUNION CALLS**

Please call the Parish Office if you or anyone you know would like the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, Confession, or Communion.

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Please stop in the Parish Office during office hours to register.

**LAKEWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY (LCA)**

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Fax: (216) 521-0515  
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*In a spirit of oneness, we, the members of Transfiguration Parish, a Roman Catholic community, are called to serve God through his Son, Jesus Christ, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

*We dedicate ourselves to the transformation of our lives and society through worship, evangelization, love of neighbor, and ministry to those in need.*

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## Mass Intentions

- Saturday, July 31**  
4:00 p.m. †Joe & †Ann Boyle
- Sunday, August 1 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9:00 a.m. †Steve & †Betty Zahuranec
- Saturday, August 7**  
4:00 p.m. †Diane Smith
- Sunday, August 8 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9:00 a.m. †Peg Goda



**Sponsors of the Sanctuary Lamp Candles for the Week of August 1st:** 1 candle for Husband, †Stephen from Joanne Szendrey; and 1 candle for Health and Blessings for Elizabeth and Douglas G. and 1 candle for Health and Blessings for Barbara and Frank W. from Patricia H.

**Candles:** The large red and blue globe candle inserts are \$4 each. The small votive candles are 25 cents each.

**Collection** for last weekend was \$4,125. God bless all for your support. All donations are appreciated.

**Special Collection:** Next weekend, August 7th/8th, a special collection will be taken for the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. See the insert in this week's bulletin for more information.

**50/50:** Only \$5 per 50/50 envelope makes you eligible for half of the money collected during the month through the 50/50 envelopes. There is a 50/50 envelope in your packet of envelopes each month, and there are extra envelopes by the church doors. Our parish benefits from the profits.



**Community Food Pantry:** At this time, the Community Food Pantry is fully stocked, and we are not in need of any food items. Cash donations are always accepted and can be dropped in the collection basket. The Community Food Pantry is located in the lower level of the Rectory. The next distribution will be held on Wed., Aug. 25th, from 10 a.m. to noon. The volunteers scheduled are Donna Gluvna and Pat Liegl.

**Big News:** The FEST 2021 will be held next Sun., Aug. 8th, from noon to 8 p.m. followed by Mass with Bishop Malesic at Brookside Reservation at 3900 John Nagy Blvd. in Cleveland. The Catholic Order of Foresters (COF) Ct. 1630 of Transfiguration Parish will be at The FEST. Go to [thefest.us](http://thefest.us) for tickets. Please stop by the COF booth so that our members can be reimbursed for their attendance tickets. No ticket is needed for the Mass. Hope to see you there!

## GOSPEL MEDITATION 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You cannot see the forest for the trees” is a widely known saying that can bring wisdom to our understanding of our journey. Often, our sight becomes limited to what is immediately before us. We lose touch with lessons and experiences from the past and promises and hope for the future. As human beings, we have the privilege of being able to choose things. What I like and don't like, want, and don't want can be major preoccupations of our minds and hearts. Our preferences and desires begin to define us more than the simple fact of our being. Who we are matters more than what we are or what we have. If we don't move beyond the external and superficial stuff to what really is of essence, we risk becoming very unsettled, disoriented, angry, and unhappy. We fail to see the bigger picture of hope and promise that lies ahead and the Divine Presence that has sustained and carried us before.

We like it when the “now” time of our lives satisfy us. Even the people who witnessed Jesus feed the five thousand got confused and distracted. It felt good when thousands of people were able to eat. They wanted to know what they could do to get this to happen again! But Jesus quickly reminds them that this is not the point of this sign. As much as the now time of our lives is of concern, it is not what is ultimately important. We need to learn the difference between being and doing, drawing more strength from who we are and who God is rather than what is happening around us and the choices we can make. Jesus is the true bread that came down from heaven. Jesus is the very incarnate presence of God who sustains life and assures us that we will not perish. This is not easy to understand and feel. We have to practice being in the presence of ourselves, others, creation, and God. We are brought to a holy place when we encounter the sacredness of being. This is real prayer.

Then, we learn to trust. It is when we cease trusting that we start to become afraid, uncertain, apprehensive, and doubtful, and overly self-concerned. We even start to grumble. God has our back. That is the essential powerful message of the living bread come down from heaven. God, who is alpha is also omega, the beginning and the end, and has everything in between in his care as well. A woman once remarked that her most powerful God moment happened when she and her husband cuddled with their new baby for a time. Without exchanging words and using only the affection communicated through sight and touch, they rested in being with each other. This brought them to the sacred, where they realized that a greater Being was with them. It was real. They knew that they were part of something bigger, intimate, and profound. When we rest in the Living Source of life, we will find that our souls are no longer hungry or thirsty.

**Fr. Ted's Corner . . . Mission Cooperation Program . . .**

As you know, and as I mentioned in our bulletin last week, each year the parishes of the Diocese of Cleveland participate in the Mission Cooperation Program - hosting a representative from a missionary society serving in either foreign countries or in missionary dioceses of the United States. A special collection is taken up on that occasion to support the work of the particular mission society and the work of all missionaries locally and throughout the world. This year, our parish is welcoming the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. At the time arrangements were being made for this event (back in February), it was still uncertain as to what restrictions and precautions might still be in place. Consequently, the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary believed it would be best to simply provide to our parishioners information and materials regarding their missionary work along with a letter and their request for support. They would not be present at the parish nor would they be speaking at the weekend Masses. The materials they provided for the appeal are an insert in the bulletin this weekend. A special collection for the support of these Sisters and their good work (as described in their letter) will be taken up at the Masses next weekend (August 7th/8th). We will miss their presence with us, but will be united with them in our prayer for them and in our generous response to their appeal - supporting that good work which we ourselves cannot do, and so, sharing in those efforts to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and build up the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth.

**The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord . . .** As I mentioned also in last weekend's bulletin, we will celebrate our parish feast day at our Masses next weekend. Although we will not be able to celebrate as we have in recent years (with an afternoon prayer service and ice cream social), still (I hope) we will celebrate as best we can this very important annual feast day. As I have said before, I believe that it is a good and a very important thing that we take the time together to celebrate the feast which gives its name to our community - and to take time as well to reflect on what that name means for us, as individuals and as a community - members of Transfiguration Parish. So much has happened in these past months - experiences and events that have changed us and changed our world. In so many ways we have been "transformed" and "transfigured" by these experiences and events. Has it been for the better? Have we become more isolated, more selfish, more pessimistic? Have we found new ways to connect with others, tried to be more patient and understanding, more compassionate and caring in the ways in which we have had opportunities to do so? Have we appreciated more and taken less for granted those relationships which are so important in our lives? In these past months, in the midst of so much suffering, when our confidence in the goodness and the providence of God may have been shaken, have we turned to God in prayer, opened our hearts to God's transforming grace, and grown in faith and hope and charity? Have we looked upon the face of our

transfigured Christ, so that, transfigured with him and by him, we in turn might shine on the world in which we live with the glorious light of Christ's presence and transforming splendor of his love?

Once again, our celebration next weekend will be a good opportunity for all of us in our Transfiguration Parish family to strengthen those bonds that have brought us together and that keep us together in this parish community - the bonds that, hopefully, have been a source of strength and support for us in all the events of these past months - bonds that will help us to continue to grow together in that life and faith we share in Christ Jesus, our transfigured and transfiguring Lord.

Be assured of my daily prayers for blessings of peace and everything good - in the week ahead and always.



Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."—Jn 6:35

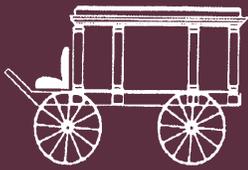
**Nine Nights of Night Prayer:**

Everyone across the eight-county Catholic Diocese of Cleveland is invited to participate in praying the Night Prayer of the Church at nine different parishes in the

Diocese on nine consecutive evenings from Sat., Aug. 7th, to Sun., Aug. 15th, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Nine churches will be open for night prayer from 8:15-9:00 p.m. each of those nights. The two parishes in our area taking part in this opportunity are St. Luke at 1212 Bunts Rd. in Lakewood and St. John Cantius at 906 College Ave. in Cleveland. Go to <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/nightprayer> for the other seven parishes participating in this event. Night prayer is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray always." Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world.



**Save the Date:** The Knights of Columbus, Lakewood Council 2643, will hold an Open House on Thurs., Aug. 26th, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke Parish in McBride Hall. The featured speaker will be Fr. Kevin Elbert, Pastor of St. Luke Parish. Since 1982 membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18 years of age or older who are practicing Catholics in union with the Holy See. Everyone is welcome to attend this family-friendly gathering.



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