



12608 MADISON AVENUE • LAKEWOOD, OH 44107

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

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)

A Joint Educational Ministry of St. Clement, St. James, St. Luke, and Transfiguration Parishes
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Fax: (216) 521-0515
Website: lakewoodcatholicacademy.com

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.

Mass Intentions 

- Saturday, August 21**
4:00 p.m. †Sabina Krymowski
- Sunday, August 22 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**
9:00 a.m. †Stanley Senkovic
- Saturday, August 28**
4:00 p.m. †Steve & †Helen Beno
- Sunday, August 29 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
9:00 a.m. †Theresa Svajhart



Sponsors of the Sanctuary Lamp Candles for the Week of August 22nd: 1 candle for †Edward Jambrozy from Family; and 1 candle for Health and Blessings for C. Cookson Children and Families and 1 candle for Health and Blessings for R. Clark, Sr., and R. Snock Families 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, including Assumption envelopes, was \$3,873. God bless all for your support. All donations are appreciated.

Special Collection This Weekend: Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cleveland are changing the lives of children and their families. Thanks to the generosity of people like you who know the value of a Catholic education, last year more than 3,500 students received need-based tuition assistance. When you give to the *Faith & Values Appeal* to support tuition assistance for a Catholic school student, you are giving a gift that will live on in the lives of those served in our schools. Please pray that the generosity of our parishioners will continue to support the formation of our youth in Catholic schools where faith makes a difference. Go to CatholicCommunity.org/education to donate online or call 216-696-6525, x1530.

50/50: Only \$5 per 50/50 envelope makes you eligible for half of the money collected 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.



“The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.” As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.—Jn 6:63c-64a, 65-66



GOSPEL MEDITATION
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.” We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these “gods” because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with “who is God” and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised “more.” But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only “feels” true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God’s kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters. We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It’s a choice we all have to make.

Fr. Ted's Corner . . . Safety Recommendations from Bishop Malesic . . . Last week Bishop Malesic sent to all the parishes in the diocese an update and reminders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic . . . *As COVID-19 seems to be resurging and new variants of the virus emerge in Northeast Ohio, it is necessary once again to offer recommendations and reminders based on the latest guidance from federal, state, and local public health agencies for the safety of all who worship at Catholic parishes throughout the Diocese of Cleveland.*

Pope Francis reminds everyone that "Vaccines are an essential tool in this fight" against the virus. Those who are eligible should talk to their health care provider and seriously consider getting vaccinated to protect their health, the health of others, and to ease the increased burdens on our healthcare system and those who work there, many of them who are heroes to us.

All ministries of the Diocese of Cleveland, including parishes, schools, PSR, youth ministry, and the like, are collaborating with and considering the various recommendations of public health authorities as they continue in their efforts to reduce the risk of COVID-19 for those they serve.

All persons - whether vaccinated or unvaccinated - should consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Frequent hand washing and practicing social distancing also are strongly encouraged. Health professionals say that these steps, along with regular disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, will help prevent the spread of the disease.

It is inevitable that people will make different choices about masking and other public health recommendations. Everyone is reminded to show kindness and respect to one another, especially those who may be taking an approach different from their own. Individuals and families must decide for themselves how best to respond to the current situation taking into consideration information from credible health authorities while following our Lord's command, "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

Those who are ill, have significant health risk factors, or care for someone who is immune-compromised or ill, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety about contracting the coronavirus in a large group of persons are not obliged to attend Mass.

Remember that the situation continues to be fluid. Stay connected to information coming from national, state, and local health authorities and stay home and get tested for COVID when you are not feeling well. Following these recommendations will go a long way in helping to keep you and others around you safe.

Jesus reminded his Apostles in the Gospel of Matthew to "take courage and do not be afraid" when facing the storm. Jesus remains with us today and through our faith in him and our love for one another, we too can endure the trying challenges facing us today.

Thanks to all who have done their part to reduce the risk of infection for themselves and others. May God bless and watch over us in our time of need.

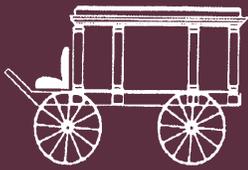
A Change in Ministry . . . On Monday of this past week I concluded my ministry as chaplain at the Village at Marymount. I have been considering this move for some time. In these past years, after becoming pastor at Transfiguration Parish, it certainly has been a challenge to balance both ministries – much more so than I expected. Simply because there was often not enough time (or enough energy), I felt that I was always “behind” at both places – that there was always more that I wish I could do. That has always been a source of stress. And added to that has been the stress of the pandemic this past year and all the many and varied challenges which that has presented both here at the parish and especially at Marymount. These, and also more personal concerns (continuing to bear the sadness of the sudden death of my niece last August, and ongoing concerns about the care and well-being of my Mom), have all combined so that I have been feeling more and more that I simply don't have the energy any longer to continue at both ministries - and feeling also the need to make a change, by letting go of my ministry as chaplain for the Village at Marymount. I have considered this and prayed about this for many months. It has not been an easy decision to make, and I have made it reluctantly. It was hard news to share with them - and it was difficult news for them to receive. Still, I believe that it is the right decision for my own health and well-being at this time.

I am glad and grateful to have been a part of the community at the Village at Marymount these past seven years - to have had the opportunities to be of service to that community, in all of its various parts – the residents of Marymount Place and the Villa Saint Joseph, the Sisters, the staff, and all those with whom I have worked. I will truly miss being with those whom I have come to know and with whom I have formed friendships over these past years. I know well my weakness and inadequacy – and am grateful for their patience and forbearance, for all the kind support and thoughtful encouragement - all the blessings I have received in countless ways from those who live and work there.

There is no chaplain to replace me at Marymount. I have promised that I will keep in touch with that community as I am able. I will keep them certainly in my prayers - and I would ask you to do the same, especially during this time of transition. And, as always, let us continue to pray for one another as well - through all the challenges these days bring - for the strengthening of our faith and hope and love, for trust in the providence of God, for courage and comfort, for safety and well-being in body and spirit, for blessings of peace and everything good – always.



Open House: 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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