



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.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 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)

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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.

Mass Intentions 

- Saturday, September 4**
4:00 p.m. †Peter Kascak
- Sunday, September 5 23rd Sun. in Ordinary Time**
9:00 a.m. †Michael & †Mary Kuzila
- Monday, September 6 Labor Day**
8:30 a.m. †William & †Mary Barrett
- Wednesday, September 8**
8:30 a.m. †Steve Jerkins
- Friday, September 10**
8:30 a.m. †Catherine Likavec
- Saturday, September 11**
4:00 p.m. †Shirley Potchatek Fallon & Living & Deceased Members of the SS. C&M Class of 1961
- Sunday, September 12 24th Sun. in Ordinary Time**
9:00 a.m. †Frank Glaser



Then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, “*Ephphatha!*”—that is, “Be opened!” And immediately the man’s ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.—Mk 7:34-35



GOSPEL MEDITATION
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are “supposed” to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn’t take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life’s unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it’s really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life’s incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God’s story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, “be opened!” Be healed and allow your stories to change.

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Sponsor of the 3 Sanctuary Lamp Candles for the Week of September 5th: Ann Costo: Prayers for Deceased Family Members.

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 \$2,358. God bless all for your support. All donations are appreciated.

Special Collection: This weekend a special collection will be taken on behalf of the people of Haiti which was devastated by an earthquake and by Tropical Storm Grace.



Labor Day Mass: Please note that Mass on Labor Day, Mon., Sept. 6th, will be at 8:30 a.m. Also, the Parish Office will be closed in observance of this legal holiday.

50/50: The July/August winner was Colleen Starkey who won \$170. 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 in need of jelly or jam. Cash donations are always accepted, too, 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., Sept. 22nd, from 10 a.m. to noon. The volunteers scheduled are Joe Nanni and Bill Newkirk.

Fr. Ted's Corner . . . From Bishop Malesic . . . We have received this week a new message regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Bishop Malesic has asked us to communicate this information to the parish . . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The latest information from federal, state, and local public health agencies informs us that the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is surging in our area, causing increased illness and hospitalizations at levels not seen since the spring. For the safety of all who worship at Catholic parishes throughout the Diocese of Cleveland, I strongly encourage you - whether vaccinated or not vaccinated - to wear a face mask while attending Mass indoors. All who want to attend Mass, and who are otherwise vulnerable, should feel safe and welcome inside our sacred spaces. Please use charity and patience with those who do not wish to comply with this strongly stated request. You also might want to consider wearing a face mask for other indoor gatherings, especially for those not yet fully vaccinated. Wearing masks outdoors is not generally required except for activities involving close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

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.

Pope Francis recently offered a message of hope and unity to the world in an effort to continue increasing confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines, specifically in communities disproportionately affected by the virus. "Thanks to God's grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19," the Pope said. "Getting the vaccines that are authorized by the respective authorities is an act of love. I pray to God that each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love; no matter how small, love is always grand."

I am fully vaccinated and recommend the same for my family and friends. In consideration of others, I also am wearing a mask during the distribution of holy Communion, and I strongly encourage those distributing holy Communion at Mass to wear a mask while distributing as well.

Remember that the situation seems to be ever changing. This request to wear face masks is temporary and will be changed once this current level of increased coronavirus cases is over. 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.

We are all tired of this pandemic, but we must not forget that we are called to care for the health of others in times of crisis and must continue to protect our healthcare system and medical workers.

May God bless and watch over us in our time of need.

Bishop Edward C. Malesic

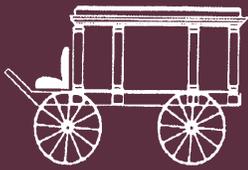
The Dedication of Our Parish Church . . . As we have in recent years, so also next weekend, at our parish weekend Masses, we will once again celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of our parish church - which was dedicated on September 7th, 1931. As I have done in previous years, and as we prepare to celebrate this special occasion once again, I share a quote from a book by Thomas Simons entitled, *Holy People, Holy Place: Rites for the Church's House . . .* *The celebration of the anniversary of the dedication of the parish church building is an often forgotten opportunity to celebrate the life of the local church and re-emphasize the importance of the gathering place for God's holy people. It is an occasion in which sacred identity and local history become tangible. The continuity of the faith from generation to generation is celebrated.* And so that is what I hope we will do together next weekend - celebrate this gathering place for God's holy people; celebrating who we have been, who we are, and who we are called to be; celebrating that faith and worship that has continued in this holy place for many generations. And I hope that this occasion will not only celebrate the dedication of our church but also call us to rededicate ourselves and our lives as members of this community of faith. The prayers we will use at Mass next weekend remind us that God's presence in this house of prayer makes it a place of blessing, a place where God gives us every grace so that we might continue to build and to be ourselves the temple where God is always found - "***creating its beauty from the holiness of our lives.***"

Have a good Labor Day holiday (don't know where the summer went so fast!). And have a blessed week - filled with blessings of peace and everything good.



Life in the Spirit Seminar: The Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group invites you to a Life in the Spirit Seminar to be held on eight consecutive Tuesday evenings, Sept. 14th through Nov. 2nd, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Primary School Bldg. (behind Linus Hall) at Our Lady of Angels Parish at 3644 Rocky River Dr. in Cleveland (signs will be up!). Our lives are filled with many choices to make every day - difficult choices. Come and see how God's Spirit guides us. We tap into the power and freedom that is offered to us. There is so much more for your life! There is no charge for this seminar. Please call Verna at 216-251-3560 or Tom at 216-252-5724 for more information and to make a reservation.

Hospice of the Western Reserve Volunteers Needed: Are you looking for a way to help individuals in your community? We serve palliative and hospice care patients/families wherever they call home: private home/apartment, nursing home, independent or assisted living facilities, hospice inpatient unit, and some patients may be in the hospital. We have a wide range of volunteer opportunities to fit your talents, interests, and schedule. We are also in need of Dietary or Receptionist Assistance at Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake and volunteers to make calls to patients/families. For more information, please call 216-255-9090 or fill out an online application at hospicewr.org/volunteer.



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