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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.

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 1:30 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.

#### **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




A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."—Lk 3:4

- Saturday, December 4**  
4:00 p.m. †Steve & †Mary Biros
- Sunday, December 5**      **Second Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 a.m. †Theresa Svajhart
- Monday, December 6**  
8:30 a.m. Special Intention of Mary Alice Schaefer
- Tuesday, December 7**  
6:30 p.m. †Henry Fristik
- Wednesday, December 8**  
8:30 a.m. †Verne Hudec
- Friday, December 10**  
8:30 a.m. †Robert Kleinweber
- Saturday, December 11**  
4:00 p.m. †Steve & †Betty Zahuranec
- Sunday, December 12**      **Third Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 a.m. †Alice Ann Glaser

## GOSPEL MEDITATION Second Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

**Sponsor of the 3 Sanctuary Lamp Candles for the Week of December 5th:** Mark and Sue Dvoroznak: 1 candle for Blessings on Ray Gruss; 1 candle in Memory of Bill Winter; and 1 candle in Memory of Tony Avsec. Thank you.

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

**Collection** for the weekend of Nov. 20th/21st was \$3,818. The collection for the weekend of Nov. 27th/28th was \$2,423. God bless all for your support. All donations are appreciated.

**Special Collection** next weekend, Dec. 11th/12th, is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to this special collection.

**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.

**Community Food Pantry:** The next distribution will be held on Wed., Dec. 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The volunteers scheduled are Mike and Rosemary Gray. Cash donations are always accepted and can be dropped in the collection basket. We do not accept clothing donations.

**Fr. Ted's Corner . . . Giving Tuesday . . .** I am very happy to say that it was, once again, a very beneficial day for our parish community - and I am very pleased, and extremely grateful. From 26 online and offline donations, we received \$2,795.00 on *Giving Tuesday*! As I mentioned previously, these donations will be used to support the needs of our parish - helping to provide the resources necessary to meet the financial responsibilities and challenges that are ours (especially in this unusual and often difficult time), and so maintain a vibrant parish community - not only for our own benefit but also for the good of those to whom we give witness and those whom we serve. A portion of those donations will also be used this year for a special project - the restoration of the parish's statue of the Risen Christ. **Many and sincerest thanks** to all those who donated to this worthwhile event. Thank you for your generosity. May God bless and reward your kindness.

**Our Giving Tree . . .** As I mentioned previously in this column, in this Advent time the *Giving Tree* has been an opportunity for us, in kindness and caring, to provide some "comfort and joy" - to brighten a little the holiday season of those who come to us in need. Although we are not able to carry on that tradition in the same way as we have done before, we still want to provide an opportunity for our community to share that kindness and care in this very special time of year. Our gifts to others - the charitable organizations that we usually support, and the individuals and families who come to us for assistance - will be primarily in the form of "gift cards." Last year, we made a donation for the residents of Saint Augustine Towers in the amount \$1,000.00. We also made a donation to the Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services in the amount of \$1,000.00. Individuals who came to us in need on behalf of their families received \$50.00 gift cards; and those who came to our parish Food Pantry in the month of December also received a \$25.00 gift card along with their food. Over \$3,000.00 in gift cards was distributed to such individuals through our *Giving Tree* last year. Our ministry to those in need will be similar this year. And so a reminder that, if you would like to make a donation to help us provide those gift cards, you can do that by placing your donation in an envelope, marking it "*Giving Tree*" and then sending it to or dropping it off at the Rectory, or placing it in the collection basket on Sunday. Your goodness and generosity will be a blessing and a benefit not just for those who seek our assistance but also a blessing and a benefit for our whole parish community as we have this occasion to be mindful once again of how good God is to us in every way - how we are surrounded by so many good things and have the opportunity, not just at Christmas but all through the year, to share those good things with others, generous instruments of God's compassion and love.

**Mass Schedule . . .** The Mass schedule for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and for the Christmas time is provided here.

Since Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, the Diocese of Cleveland has asked that parishes not schedule an anticipated Mass for Sunday, December 26th. The reasons for that decision and request were based on Christmas being a day that, for most persons, is spent with family and the presumption

that few people would actually attend a Mass on Christmas evening. There was also concern that there would be confusion regarding the obligation to attend Mass on both Christmas Day and on Sunday (the Feast of the Holy Family) - and which Mass would fulfill which obligation. Consequently, there will be no 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 25th.

The *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God* (January 1st) also falls on a Saturday this year. Since it falls on a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass is dispensed this year. Consequently, there will be no Vigil Mass on Friday, December 31st; there will be a morning Mass on Saturday, January 1st.

Some of the same circumstances and considerations exist regarding the anticipated Mass for Sunday, January 2nd, as is true for the previous week. However, the Diocese of Cleveland made no recommendations in that case. I don't know if persons would attend a 4:00 p.m. Mass on New Year's Day in anticipation of Sunday, January 2nd, the Solemnity of the Epiphany. And so, at this time, no decision has been made regarding the scheduling of that Mass. A schedule for that weekend will be provided at a later time.

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Tuesday, December 7th - Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8th - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

**Friday, December 24th**

**No 8:30 a.m. morning Mass**

**The Solemnity of Christmas**

Friday, December 24th - Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 25th - Mass at 9:00 a.m.

**The Feast of the Holy Family**

Saturday, December 25th - **No 4:00 p.m. Mass**

Sunday, December 26th - Mass at 9:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 31st**

Regular morning Mass at 8:30 a.m.

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Not a Holyday of Obligation

**No Vigil Mass**

Saturday, January 1st - Mass at 9:00 a.m.

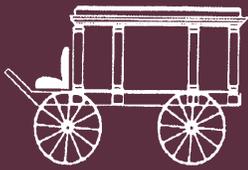
**The Solemnity of the Epiphany**

Mass schedule still to be determined.

I have used up all my space. I had hoped to provide more information regarding the Synod Listening Sessions. I will do that next week. Until then, let us continue to respond to the spirit of this Advent Season - growing in a confident faith and a joyful hope, longing for the coming of Christ and his Kingdom, and preparing a welcome place for that coming in our hearts and in our world - strengthened each day with blessings of peace and everything good.



**Oplatky (Christmas wafers)** are available for 35 cents each and can be purchased at the Parish Office on Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through Wed., Dec. 22nd.



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## ATTORNEY AT LAW

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