

Church of the Transfiguration

4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, CA 94552-4908

(510) 538-7941 Fax (510) 538-7983 E-mail: Rectory.Office@TransfigCV.org website: www.TransfigChurch.com

December 22, 2024

Mission Statement: "Transfiguring Our Community Through Faith"



Rev. Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, OFM Conv, Pastor

Fr. Kevin Schindler-McGraw, OFM Conv, Parochial Vicar; Fr. Luke Vu, OFM Conv, Parochial Vicar;
Deacon Martin J. Leach • Deacon John A. Mignano • Deacon Timothy L. Moore • Deacon Burton J. Rigley

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturdays 4:00 pm

Sundays 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Mon-Fri 8:00 am (Except First Fridays - 9:30 am)

LIVE STREAM MASS ON

www.Transfigchurch.com and Facebook

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm

BAPTISMS

Please call the Parish Office to register.

MATRIMONY

Six months advance notice required. Please call the parish office.

FUNERALS

Please contact the funeral home of your choice and then the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, YOUTH MINISTRY & RCIA

Director of Religious Education: Wendy Estrada

(510) 537-1502 ReligiousEd@TransfigCV.org

SICK & HOMEBOUND MINISTRY:

Mary Kay Kelder, (510) 582-7253

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Eucharistic Ministers

Coordinators: Elmer & Puri Serrano

eserrano76@gmail.com

Lectors for Weekend Masses

Coordinator: Barbara Mehan

Lector.Weekend@TransfigCV.org

Lectors for Weekday Masses

Coordinator: Mike Dresen

Lector.Weekday@TransfigCV.org

Altar Servers

Coordinator: Vivian Zaleski

Altar.Server@TransfigCV.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Director: Alexander Katsman

(510) 538-7941, Ext. 302 Music@TransfigCV.org

PARISH OFFICE

Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Wednesday (until further notice)

(Closed for lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm)

Secretary, Elmer Serrano - Rectory.Office@TransfigCV.org

Bookkeeper, Phyllis Moore - Rectory.Office@TransfigCV.org

Saint Vincent de Paul Help Line: 510-274-0830

For Clergy visit during Out of Hours and Emergencies, please call 510-537-0806 Ext. 109

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do not know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's there.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

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Stewardship Corner

The collections total from last weekend will be reported in the next bulletin

Altar Servers Needed!!!

We are in need of boys or girls as Altar Servers in all of the Masses. Your child must be at least 10 yrs old and have received first Holy Communion. They must also be mature enough to pay attention and follow along in the Mass. If you are interested in having your child participate in this wonderful service, please contact Vivian Zaleski at Altar.Server@TransfigCV.org.

A Message from the Pastor



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December 22, 2024

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We will be celebrating The Birth of Christ in a few days. On December 24th Our Children's Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 PM as well as Our Mass at Midnight (12:00AM). On December 25th, our Mass Schedule reflects our Sunday Schedule of Masses. On Christmas Day, Masses will be celebrated at 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM. As we celebrate The Incarnation of the Lord, let us thank the Lord for having set aside His Divinity and taking upon Himself our humanity. Let us truly cherish the gift of Jesus, The Word Made Flesh, born for us in Bethlehem. Gazing upon mangers prepared here in our church and in our homes, let us remember that The Birth of Jesus is not just the story of the birth of a baby born to a woman over 2000 years ago. Gazing upon the image of the Christ Child in our manger, we celebrate the fact that GOD has born into the world like us in all things but sin and He shared in our human experience that each of us are drawn ever closer to Him that we might share in the Divine Life of God. So, as we celebrate The Great Event of Jesus' Birth, let each of us bow down in humble prayer before the Image of Christ the Lord. Let us thank Him for the precious gift of life offered to us, embraced by us, and lived each day as we continue on our journey of faith until we are forever with God in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Christmas Day and throughout the Christmas Season, let us find time to think about the Mystery of Christmas — the Mystery of the Incarnation Amid the Celebrations taking place with family and friends and here is our Church, make an effort to tell the Lord how precious the His Life is for us. With our homes and our Church being beautifully decorated, let us make sure that our hearts are prepared for the Birth of Jesus. My brothers and sisters in Christ, the mystery of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ is an absolutely essential part of our redemption and salvation. Never tire reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation, the Birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh. The more we reflect upon the Incarnation, the more we come to know the greatness of our God.

GOD has become human in the person of Jesus. All for the purpose of lifting us up to the level of sharing in divine life.

A Blessed Christmas to you and your family and the entire Faith Community of The Church of the Transfiguration

Fr. Raphael, Friars and Staff

**Thank you for advertising in our bulletin.
We appreciate your support!**

December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that “there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

— Father John Muir
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Please Note

The Rectory Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday. Merry Christmas to all!!!

Coffee and Donuts



Mario & Lili Fabian will be hosting coffee and donuts this Sunday after the 9:00 a.m Mass. Stop by and enjoy the fellowship.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)

WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages Spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, Catechesis, life sharing and community.

Our meeting will be at the Transfiguration Church Hall.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

For further information or, if you would like to attend, please contact: Rose Anne Ryken
RARYKEN39@gmail.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Micah 5:1—4a

Psalm — 80

Second Reading — Hebrews 10:5—10

Gospel — Luke 1:39—45

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

May your words, O Lord, be in my thoughts, on my lips, and in my heart. May they guide my life and keep me near to you.

Mass Intentions (Dec. 21, 2024—Dec. 27, 2024)

Sat.	4:00 p.m.	C.V. Joseph
Sun.	7:30 a.m.	For The People
	9:00 a.m.	Kunjamma Joseph
	11:00 a.m.	Jean Lucille Wilgus
Mon.	8:00 a.m.	Spcl Int Manuel and Maria Costa and Family
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	For The People
Wed.	7:30 a.m.	For The People
	9:00 a.m.	For The People
	11:00 a.m.	For The People
Thur.	8:00 a.m.	Spcl Int Tina Chaix
Fri.	8:00 a.m.	Spcl Int Terry Mendoza

Fr. Kevin's 40th Ordination Anniversary



“Under the Sea”

Crab Feed: January 25th

Crab feed tickets are on sale.

Ticket Price: \$70

50/50 tickets are \$5 each. You don’t have to be present to win.

We are accepting cash or in-kind donations for raffle baskets. Please note that in-kind donations have to be new (unused).

Credit, Debit and Electronic Check Offerings

If you would like to make your Sunday offering by credit or debit card or, electronic check, please go to our website: transfigchurch.com and click on the “Donate” tab. Please call the office for further assistance if needed.