

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

November 23, 2025

Mission Statement: "Transfiguring Our Community Through Faith"



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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

MUSIC MINISTRY

Director: Alexander Katsman

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

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

PARISH OFFICE

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

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

Sharon Sangco, Business & Facilities Manager

Sharon@TransfigCV.org

Honeylet Bautista, Bookkeeper - Rectory.Office@TransfigCV.org

Elmer Serrano, Secretary - 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

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, Dec. 4, 2025
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Speaker: Kathy Roberts
Topic: TBA

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

Transfiguration Christmas Concert

The Music Ministry of the Church of the Transfiguration and Director Alexander Katsman would like to invite you to our annual Christmas Concert on **Friday, December 12th at 7:00 pm.** Please hear our Choir and Soloists singing carols and contemporary Christmas music. Reception to follow.

Please Note

Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 27. Our Mass schedule is at 10:00 am. Thank you.

Lectors Needed

We need lectors for weekday and weekend masses. No experience necessary and training will be provided. If you feel the Lord is calling you to this ministry, please contact Mike Dresen: Weekday@TransfigCV.org or Barb Mehan Weekend@TransfigCV.org.

Coffee and Donuts



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



We extend a warm welcome to new parishioners. Please pick up a registration form at the vestibule of the church and return it to the Parish Office. This helps us to serve you better.

Remember Transfiguration Church in your Will and Living Trust

Assistive Listening System Availability

Transfiguration offers assistive listening devices for use during Mass. If you would like to use an assistive listening device with our sound system, please arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass and see the musicians. We have over the ear headphones available for your use, or a t-coil lanyard for parishioners with t-coil equipped hearing aids. You are also welcome to bring your own headphones for use with the assistive listening receiver.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas, "the bad thief." I am as close to Jesus as he was, and I ask for all the wrong things.

The King Who Hangs Beside Us

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name "Gestas." In contrast to Dismas, "the good thief" who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. "Are you not the Christ?" he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I'm lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don't rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don't do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don't say, "Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you."

"Are you not the Christ?" I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: "Get me down. Take this cross away. I don't want it. I can't take it."

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

FAITH FORMATION

Hello Faith Formation Families,
We're excited to announce that registration for the 2026 Transfiguration CYO Girls Basketball season is now open!

To register, please email Transfigurationcyo@backspin360.com. We are also looking for coaches! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us at Transfigurationcyogirls@gmail.com
Registration deadline: December 1st
Thank you for your continued support of our Faith Formation and CYO programs.
We look forward to another great season!



Diocese of Oakland

MINISTRIES of HOPE

WAYS to GIVE

MAIL: Send check or money order to:
Bishop's Ministries Appeal
Diocese of Oakland, 2121 Harrison Street,
Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612

ONLINE: Scan the QR code or visit
oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal
to make a gift by credit card.



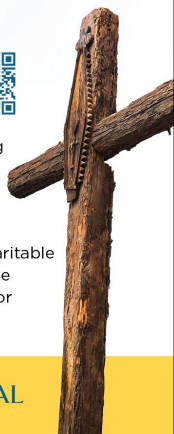
EMAIL: BishopsMinistriesAppeal@oakdiocese.org

CALL: 510-267-8358

ADDITIONAL GIFT OPTIONS:

Gifts of stock, IRA distributions, bequests, and charitable gift annuities can be coordinated by contacting the Office for Mission Advancement at 510-267-8358 or BishopsMinistriesAppeal@oakdiocese.org.

2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL



November 23, 2025 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Luke 23:35-43

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That word — remember — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise." He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "You will be with me."

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— Father John Muir

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Psalm — 122

Second Reading — Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel — Luke 23:35-43

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 (Nov 22, 2025—Nov 28, 2025)

Sat.	4:00 p.m.	Spcl Int Cristina de Jesus and Family
Sun.	7:30 a.m.	For The People
	9:00 a.m.	Ed Bosch
	11:00 a.m.	Jeanie Peixoto
Mon.	8:00 a.m.	Mike Mehan
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Ed Bosch
Wed.	8:00 a.m.	Judy Fewster
Thur.	8:00 a.m.	For The People
Fri.	8:00 a.m.	Jeanie Peixoto



Monday evening, Nov. 24, 2025 in the Marian room, **7:00-8:00 p.m.** Please arrange Zoom connectivity with Mike Dresen at biblestudy@transfigcv.org if attending remotely. Free will offering.

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.

Christmas Flower Collection

We will have a collection for flowers to decorate our church for Christmas. Envelopes are available in the vestibule area. Thank you!

Stewardship Corner

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

Dress A Girl Ministry

Come join us to cut, iron, accessorize or sew simple sundresses. No experience required. Supplies provided. For further information contact Yolanda Arredondo at 510 303-4023. Hope you can join.