

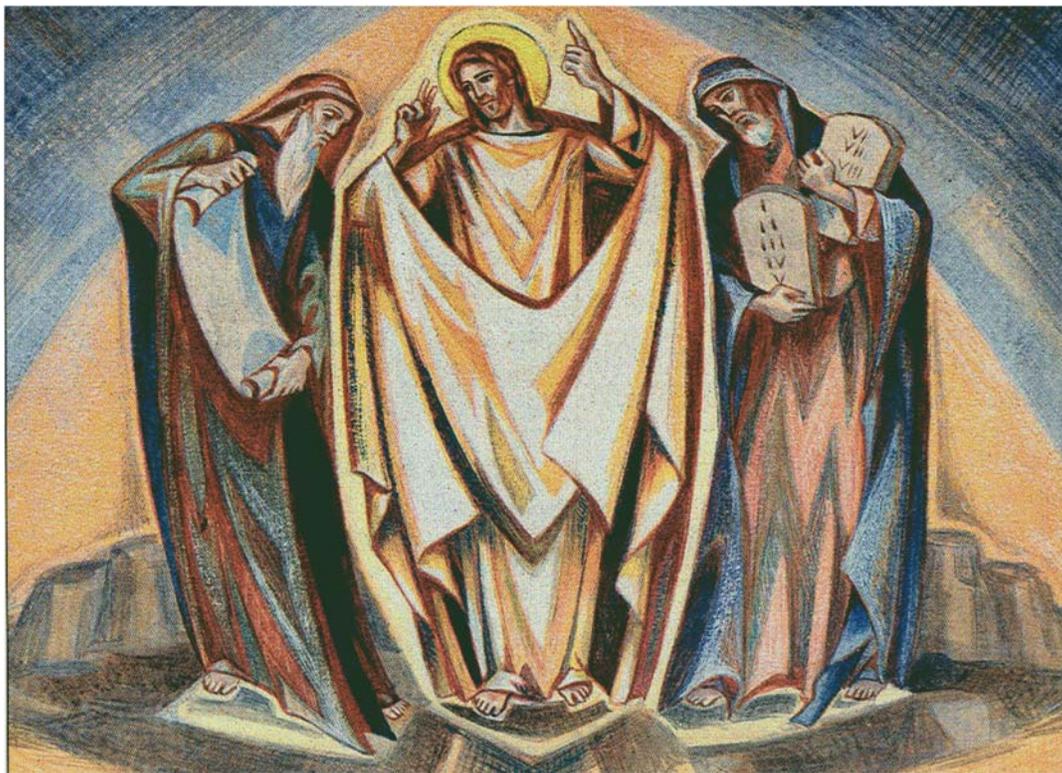
Church of the Transfiguration

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

(510) 538-7941 Fax (510) 538-7983 E-mail: transfig_office@sbcglobal.net Website: www.transfigchurch.com

May 24, 2020

Mission Statement: "Transfiguring Our Community Through Faith"



Rev. Mario L. Borges, Pastor • Rev. Terence O'Malley, Parochial Administrator
Deacon Martin J. Leach • Deacon John A. Mignano • Deacon Timothy L. Moore • Deacon Burton J. Rigley

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturdays 4:00 p.m.
Sundays 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. (Except First Fridays - 9:30 a.m.)
Communion Service - Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:00-3:45 p.m.

BAPTISMS: Pre-baptismal class is required. Class is held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory. Please call the Parish Office, (510) 538-7941, to register.

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

WEDDING COORDINATOR: Mel Speed
(510) 909-9334 or melspeed@live.com

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Deacon Martin J. Leach
(510) 537-1502 or Transfig_Office@sbcglobal.net

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Please call the parish office.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Director, Alexander Katsman
(510) 538-7941, Ext. 302 or Transfig_Music@sbcglobal.net

LITURGICAL MINISTRY:

Eucharistic Ministers, Elmer & Puri Serrano
Email: eserrano76@gmail.com
Lectors, Barbara Mehan
Email: barbmehan@sbcglobal.net
Altar Servers, Clarence Decano

FINANCE COUNCIL: Chairman, Mark Zaleski

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS: Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), 60 Plus or Minus Club, Cursillo Group

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY: Call (510) 274-0830 for assistance. Call Mike Dresen (510) 813-6854 for more information about this ministry.

SICK & HOMEBOUND MINISTRY:

Mary Kay Kelder, (510) 582-7253

WINGS "Women in God's Spirit": Peggy Maurer, (510) 538-5671

YOUTH MINISTRY: Alfonso Corona III
transfig.oasis@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: (510) 538-7941 **Fax:** (510) 538-7983
Hours: 8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday
(Closed between 12:00 & 1:00 p.m.)
Friday, 9:00a.m. — 12:00 Noon - Saturday & Sunday—Closed

Secretary, Elmer Serrano
Secretary/Bookkeeper, Phyllis Moore



The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

He was lifted up,
and a cloud took him from their sight.
— Acts 1:9



Ascension of the Lord

The Gospel reading is from a beautiful prayer/message of Jesus to God the Father. Today's passage has two distinct portions. In the first section, Jesus is summoning courage and strength as he knows "the hour has come". He has done everything that he can to glorify God on earth and is saying that he is ready to return to God, to the glory he "before the world began." If one remembers, the Gospel of John starts with "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God".

Try to imagine what missed emotions Jesus must have had at this time, He came, he was human, he did God's will, he laughed, he cried, he got angry, he suffered, he had successes and he had setbacks. He had taken the plan as far as he could. Now it was time to let go. To let someone else take over. On the one hand there must be sorrow and sadness in letting go, but he is also ready to "come home". Think of what it is like when you have not seen a parent or family for a long time. There is much anticipation and excitement, as well as a bit of anxiety. It is hard to fathom where Jesus may be going, and what that reality would even look like. Perhaps it may sound strange but this author is envisioning a second-generation CEO who is giving a farewell speech. He is acknowledging what went before him when the company was founded, what he accomplished during his time there, and now recognizes that it is time for new energy and vision to take the company to the next level.

I REVEALED YOUR NAME

Transitions are not easy, and take a great deal of preparation. In the second half of today's Gospel passage, Jesus earnestly prays for his followers, for all those who were mentioned in the reading from Acts. "They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word." This bumbling band of misfits who originally said yes to Jesus' call were ready. They started out as spiritual infants, as apprentices with entry level positions, but now they were grown. They were the management. Jesus had taught them all he could. They were ready to take over, and to take his message to all the world. Jesus, the CEO, Jesus the Cosmic Christ, was ready to pass the baton. It was time for this next phase of ministry to "Go live." "They are in the world, while I am coming to you."

Copyright © 2020, J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

Stewardship Corner

The collection total for the weekend of:

May 16th & May 17th — \$4,270.00

Catholic Charities — \$435.00

(compared to \$12,000 average weekly stewardship goal)

Thank you for continuing in your stewardship role of providing for the upkeep of our parish community.

"PUSHED" OUT ON MISSION

There is a delightful character in the original Dr. Dolittle Tales called the "Pushmi-Pullyu." It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the "push me" and the other is the "pull you." Today's feast is a bit like that in the life of the church. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or "pushes" the church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus himself in Matthew's Gospel, as he sends them out to baptize. He also tells them, "I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that "pulls" us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

St. Vincent de Paul Collection

Transfiguration's St Vincent de Paul chapter continues to provide support, albeit at a distance, during this pandemic to those in need in our parish. In fact, the number of people calling for assistance has increased significantly since mid-March. We **THANK YOU** for your ongoing support as we continue to help those who count on our assistance.

Please Note



The Ascension of the Lord will be observed this Sunday, May 24, 2020.

For your convenience the following are the Transfiguration Church electronic links:

Transfiguration website: www.transfigchurch.com

Electronic Bulletin: www.e-churchbulletins.com/bulletins/523293.pdf

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Church-of-the-Transfiguration-115417251810536/>

On-Line Donation: https://www.sagepayments.net/efcart/forms/donate.asp?M_id=798399645711

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

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Psalm: 47 — Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21;
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab;
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;
Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab;
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7;
Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or
Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35,
27-28, 29-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord;
World Communications Day

Monday: St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII;
St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi;
Memorial Day

Tuesday: St. Philip Neri

Wednesday: St. Augustine of Canterbury;
Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at
sunset

Thursday: Julian Calendar Ascension

Friday: St. Paul VI



Please Note

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

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

—Association of Catholic Priests in Ireland

Weekly Offering



Thank you for your continued support of Transfiguration Church as it struggles to fulfill its financial obligations due to the corona virus pandemic.

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

Catholic Communication Campaign This Weekend

This campaign connects people with Christ, here and around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. And fifty percent of funds collected remain in our diocese to fund local communication efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

Reflection/The Ascension of the Lord

by: Nicholas Santos, S.J./Creighton University

If we were in the place of the disciples, I am sure that we would have been standing there looking at the sky or perhaps even longer than they were. It surely must have been a mesmerizing sight, much like watching a satellite being launched into space. But the disciples were reminded, as we are, that Jesus will return in the same way as he ascended into heaven. This return, is not necessarily the second coming, but rather a fulfillment of the first coming itself. The feast of the Ascension can appear at first sight to be of Jesus' return to the Father and of leaving his disciples. But on deeper reflection we see that Jesus never left his disciples. He continues to be present with them, now in a more profound way. After the resurrection and before the Ascension, Jesus appears to specific people at specific places and times. Now, with the Ascension, Jesus becomes present to all in a profound and deep way. The Ascension reminds us of our trinitarian baptism, an acknowledgment of God above (Father), with us and by our side (Son) and within us (Holy Spirit).

On this feast of the Ascension it might be helpful to remind ourselves, as Saint Ignatius does in the Spiritual Exercises, of Christ, our Divine Majesty and Eternal King. Using Ignatian imagination we can imagine what our world would be like if Christ were the King. What if Christ were the President, or Governor, or Mayor? What would change? What would be different? And, how can we in our own, small way, work to bring about that change or be that difference. Then, indeed will we be responding to the call of Christ, helping him to realize God's kingdom here on earth. Yes, even in the midst of the COVID-19 situation that we are in right now.

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. From there, click on the "Donate Now" button to be taken to a secure website to complete the setup of your offering.

Announcement

Transfiguration Church Masses continue to be suspended due to the corona virus pandemic. Please follow the Sunday Mass scheduled at 12 noon via Facebook. Thank you.

LAUDATO SI'
OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

GLOBAL INEQUALITY

#51. Inequity affects not only individuals but entire countries; it compels us to consider an ethics of international relations. A true “ecological debt” exists, particularly between the global north and south, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment, and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time. The export of raw materials to satisfy markets in the industrialized north has caused harm locally, as for example in mercury pollution in gold mining or sulphur dioxide pollution in copper mining. There is a pressing need to calculate the use of environmental space throughout the world for depositing gas residues which have been accumulating for two centuries and have created a situation which currently affects all the countries of the world. The warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where a rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming. There is also the damage caused by the export of solid waste and toxic liquids to developing countries, and by the pollution produced by companies which operate in less developed countries in ways they could never do at home, in the countries in which they raise their capital: “We note that often the businesses which operate this way are multinationals. They do here what they would never do in developed countries or the so-called first world. Generally, after ceasing their activity and withdrawing, they leave behind great human and environmental liabilities such as unemployment, abandoned towns, the depletion of natural reserves, deforestation, the impoverishment of agriculture and local stock breeding, open pits, riven hills, polluted rivers and a handful of social works which are no longer sustainable”.

Fr. Terry's Remarks:

This week in Laudato Si, Pope Francis recalls not just the great progress that we made over the last 150 years, during which humanity made huge strides in many areas of human endeavor. Unfortunately, the cost has also been huge for certain peoples, states and landscapes. We are inclined to blame the very people who are suffering from the worst effects of our rapid progress. And the deterioration continues, when we dump solid waste and toxic liquids on these same places and peoples. But we are able to shrug off blame, as so many of our biggest companies are multi national. So, "its not just us." But our very progress is also bringing us closer and more interdependent and it is becoming more difficult for us to plug our ears, close our eyes and harden our hearts. This week, let us ask God to compassionate our hearts and open our minds.