

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear friends, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, generous support and participation in every activity of Transfiguration parish family. The real meaning of Christmas actually is Emmanuel, God-with us – God coming down to us; God coming alongside us; God seeking us out; God revealing Himself to us. Christmas is special because it reminds us concretely that God is indeed with us. In every circumstance of life, even when we are frightened or lonely or in sorrow, God is with us. So, let's go to the heart of Christmas and embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. St. John gives the main reason for our Christmas joy in his gospel (3: 16): "For God loved the world so much that He gave His Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but may have eternal life." God showed His love for sinful men by sharing His love with us in the form of Jesus in Bethlehem. We need to allow the Savior to be reborn in our lives. Let us remember the famous lines of Alexander Pope: "What do I profit if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world during this Christmas, but is not born in my heart?" Let us allow Him to be reborn in our lives during Christmas 2016 and every day of the New Year 2017. Let us show the good will and generosity of sharing Jesus, our Savior reborn in our hearts, with others by love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and humble service. We need look for Jesus in unlikely places and persons. The message of Christmas is that we can truly find Jesus if we look in the right places – in the streets, in slums, in asylums, in orphanages, in nursing homes, starting in our own homes, workplaces and town.

God challenges us to be like the shepherds who overcame their fear in order to seek out Jesus, or like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to find Him. Then we will have the true experience of Christmas – the joy of the Savior. We need to reserve a room for Jesus in our heart. Christmas asks us a tough question. Do we close the doors of our hearts to Jesus looking for a place to be reborn in our lives? We need to reverence each human life, and to treat others respectfully as the living residences of the incarnate God.

May Jesus be reborn in your heart and life during Christmas 2016 and every day of the New Year 2017. May He radiate His presence from within you as sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service, a compassionate heart and overflowing generosity.

May the Holy Child of Bethlehem bless you with health in body and soul and grant you a peaceful and blessed New Year 2017.

Fr. George Parayil



December 26th – January 1st

Monday	9:30 am	Orlindo & Regina Bertoia
Tuesday	9:30 am	Charles Kelly & family
Wednesday	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Russell Bronson Robert & Amelie Lee Chong Wilma Nicolucci Donato DiMeo John & Assunta Minnella Don Carter John & Mary McAdam Maria Teresa DaSilva Norisha Perrier (L) Special Blessings for John Hilmer (L) Special Blessings for Salvina Pace (L) Special Intention
Thursday	9:30 am	Vincenzo DePaola
Friday	9:30	Helen & John McErlain
Saturday	9:30 am 5:30 pm	Jack Keenan Frederick Barrell
Sunday	7:45 am 9:00 am	Isabel McLeod Alcina Do Rosario Tavares Manuel Inacio Tavares Carmine Maietta Vincenzo & Maria DeMarco Rosa Zampella
	10:30 am	Parishioners of Transfiguration & Matthew Dishart
	12:00 pm	Doris Pearl Trafford MacGregor

Replacement of Church Boilers

The total money collected for the Boiler Replacement Project is \$33,523.40 thus far. Thank you for your donations and generosity to Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish! We need \$40,753.22 to complete the project. Donation envelopes marked "Church Maintenance Fund" are available in the vestibule or in the parish office.



PARISH ENVELOPES

Envelopes for the year 2017 are available in the vestibule this Sunday.

They are **displayed numerically** so please make sure you know your number when you come to pick up your envelopes. Please **DO NOT** start using your envelopes until the New Year and at that time throw away any remaining 2016 envelopes. If you would like to register and receive donation envelopes, please come to the parish office and fill out a registration form.

Thank you for your generosity.



Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Ramon Olegario, Neda Metkovic,
Danica Ostojic, Theresa Burns,
Pat G., Susan Gonzales,
Jara Menjivon, Noemy Pereira,
Clint Viegas, Mary Lim
Lourdes & Samuel Cordeiro,
Special intention

**TRANSFIGURATION PARISH
JUST GOT FORMED**

FORMED is a web-based digital platform developed by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press and designed to help adults grow in their faith at all levels – how we think, how we pray and how we live. Father George has generously decided to give this gift of FORMED to Transfiguration parish. What this means is that access is FREE to all parishioners and your families anytime, anywhere, 24/7 - on demand - on your computers, tablets or smartphones. Think of it as a Netflix for Catholics!

**Register at FORMED.org
Parishioners, enter code: MF473B**

**TRANS CHURCH
ANNUAL PASSION PLAY**

Transfiguration Youth are beginning to prepare for the church's annual Passion Play. All youth interested in either acting or assisting in various behind the scene roles are welcome to participate. The play is a fun way for students to gain volunteer hours while at the same time meet other youth in the parish.

Please come into the parish office and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you when we have rehearsal dates.



If you are interested in joining any ministries of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, please contact Fr. George Parayil.

TRANS CHURCH WEBSITE

Our church has a new website, please visit www.transchurch.ca

CHAPEL CLOSING

Our chapel will close at 4:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31st and will re-open on January 2nd.

HOLIDAY PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will close at 3:00 p.m. on December 31st and will re-open on January 2nd.



NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 31st

5:30 p.m.

JANUARY 1st

7:45 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Italian

10:30 a.m.

12 Noon

NO EVENING MASS

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan to assist you in your support of our parish church through your regular parish offerings . Pre-Authorized Giving creates a win/win situation for you and our parish.

When you participate in the plan your offering will be withdrawn on or about the 20th of the month. This amount will then be deposited to the parish's account.

To enroll, decide on the amount you want to give, pick up a brochure and fill it out, attach a void cheque and return it to the parish office.

**TCDSB KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION**

Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 at 10 am

Imagine the Possibilities:

Junior Kindergarten in the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides children with a variety of learning experiences in a caring, faith based environment.

Parents can apply online beginning at 10 a.m. on January 18 at SOAR.tcdsb.org and follow up with a visit to the school to present required documents.

Or they can register at their local school with the required documents beginning January 18, 2017 at 10 a.m.

WEB: www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration
PHONE: 416-222-8282 ext. 5314