

Greetings,

I come to do your will, O God.

(Hebrews 10:7)



Talking about Jesus' coming to earth, the author of Hebrews draws from one of King David's psalms (Psalm 40:6-8). David had been delivered from some great affliction, and he wrote this psalm to give thanks to God. But look at how he gave thanks. Essentially, he says, "It is not through an offering that I will please you, but through my desire to do your will."

David understood that obedience brings God more delight than sacrifice. Sacrifice is a good thing because it is a sign of gratitude and devotion. But it can be easy to put money in the collection basket or fast from sweets for a day and still not have a change of heart. Obedience to God, on the other hand, requires something deeper—especially when his greatest command is "Love one another" (John 13:34).

So how does this relate to Christmas? Well, without fully knowing it, David was expressing the way that humanity would be reconciled with God. Jesus said, "I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me" (John 6:38). He did what David, or anyone else, could not do. And through his obedience, he reunited us with God. He broke down the dividing wall that our disobedience had set up.

Of course, Jesus calls us to obey as well, but he has given us an overabundance of his grace and his Holy Spirit to help us.

Doesn't it feel good when you say no to temptation—especially a strong one? Don't you feel a sense of vigor and hope? That's not just you congratulating yourself—it's the angels rejoicing over you! It's your heavenly Father cheering you on, releasing more grace into your heart. It's the Holy Spirit joining with your spirit to rejoice in your Father's love (Galatians 4:6).

God never stops blessing us. He never stops rejoicing when we step out in faith and trust to follow his will. He never stops pouring out his grace and peace.

"Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will!"

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Christmas Schedule

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Children's Mass –Thursday, December 24th at 5:15 PM

Midnight Mass – Thursday, December 24th
(Christmas Carols at 11:30 PM)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Friday, December 25th at 9:00 AM

NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Friday, January 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"Baby Jesus, Watch over Us!"



Join Transfiguration's Adult Choir and Mr. Oscar Pratt, Director for their Annual Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 20th at 7PM**. Enjoy an evening full of Christmas and Sacred Songs that help keep the spirit of Christ in Christmas. Bring the entire family. Donation: \$15 for Adults and \$7 for Children and Youth.

St. Vincent dePaul Bundle Sunday

On **Sunday, December 20** our Parish is having a Bundle Sunday for the Society of St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Stores. Please bring your usable clothing and usable household items on this day. Their truck will be at our church parking lot. Please help in their endless efforts to assist the needy. They are in great need of furniture and large appliances. Call them for pick-up of any heavy items at 323.224.6280 or 800/97-HELP-1.

Thank you

The beautiful flowers on the altar this week were donated by *Gloria McClaurin* in memory of her beloved father Preston, mother Rosa, and nephew Dante Thompson.

Line Dancing Christmas Holiday Vacation

We will break for the Christmas holiday on Wednesday, December 23 and 30. The return date is Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

Christmas Flower Offering

We are asking that you be as generous as possible with your giving. Envelopes are at the church exit. We will place the envelopes on the altar for prayer in Memory of, or in Honor of, your love ones.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

Parents who practice good stewardship draw upon their time and talents to pass on their gift of faith, to educate, to nurture, and to protect their children.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Mi 5:1-4a, Ps 80:2-19, Lk 1:39-45
Monday	Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:24-28, Lk1:46-56
Wednesday	Mal 3:1-24, Lk 1:57-66
Thursday	2 Sm 7:1-16, Lk 1:67-79 Is 62:1-5, Mt 1:1-25 Is 9:1-6, Lk 2:1-14
Friday	Is 52:7-10, Jn 1:1-18
Saturday	Acts 6:8-10, Mt 10:17-22
Sunday	Sir 3:2-14, Ps 128:1-5, Lk 2:41-52

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 19

5:15 PM Soul of Roxelina Richard

Sunday December 20

8:00 AM Intention of all Parishioners

10:00 AM Souls of Preston, Rosa, and Dante Thompson

12:15 PM Intention of Mary Jené

Thursday December 24

5:15 PM Soul of Angula Bates

Midnight Souls of Yvonne, Jackeline, Dilcia & Wilfred Morgan, Jr.

Friday December 25

9:00 AM Souls of Yvonne, Jackeline, Dilcia & Wilfred Morgan, Jr.

WEEKLY OFFERING

December 13, 2015

\$7,109.03 Tithe and Offering
405.00 Building Fund
65.00 "We Care"



Sunday and Christmas TV Mass FOR THE HOMEBOUND

KDOC Channel 56 at 9:00 AM

Is someone you love unable to join us at church during this holy time of Advent and Christmas? For the faithful at home or in healthcare settings, the Heart of the Nation TV Mass brings spiritual comfort and the blessings of joyful hope in the coming of our newborn Savior. Mass is also online at <http://www.HeartoftheNation.org>. For those who can get to church, the TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Sunday or Christmas Mass obligation.

Men, Mark your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 22, 23, and 24, 2016. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM. Friday. Our retreat opens at 6:15 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 1:00 PM. **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.**

This year's Retreat theme: **"No Greater Love"**

For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214 or Maurice Simon at 323.296.1501.

2016 Calendars are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.

Birthday Wishes to:



DOROTHY STANLEY

97 years on December 15th

LENA NEWELL

97 years on December 21st

Blessings, from your Transfiguration Church Family!

PRAY FOR THE SICK



Hold my hand in weakness Lord God, you are my strength. Hold my hand in my weakness and teach my heart to fly. With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life. Amen.



Virgie Aguilar, LaVern Agnew, Brian Argusta, Joyce Barnett, Rose Ball, Veronica Bearce, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Daniel Boone, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Harry Charles, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Rita Cormire, Edward Cousin, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Nigel Dunn, Connie Farlice, Dwight Fauria, Ferdinand Foye, Betty Flowers, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Sister Mary Michaeline Gahwolf, Judy Felton-Gardner, Mavis Gibbs, Refugio Godinez, Nancy Goosby, Mary Hall, Barbara Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Mary Jené, Aaron Jittu, Joan Johnson, Robert Jordan, Briana Katz, Leah Kelley, Walita Keyes, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vyldred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Martina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Michelle Raines, Emma Rausch, Dottie Rodriguez, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Reanna Semien, George Simon, Sr., Jeremiah Skyes, Lionel Smith, Sr., Darnell Stang, Michele Starks, Annie Starks, Wilbur Starks, Alice Tenette, Leila Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Patricia Williams, Peggy Wright and Ralph Wright.