

January 2012



THE CHURCH OF THE  
TRANSFIGURATION

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Church of the Transfiguration,

First of all may I wish you all a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year even though we are nearing the end of the first month! Secondly I wish to thank all those who helped make the Christmas services here so memorable. The Midnight Mass was crowded with a wonderful spirit abroad. The church looked absolutely lovely and the music was suitably splendid. I was really proud of the great team effort that occurs behind these big occasions. I need to mention that all this was achieved without any drama or unpleasantness but rather with a willing and enthusiastic spirit. I thank God for this. This was repeated at the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 when we celebrated the Solemn Mass including scenes from “Amahl and the Night Visitors” by Menotti and all followed by an Epiphany Party in the Rectory. Again many people helped make this another memorable occasion. So, thanks to all who contributed in so many ways.

Well now the New Year is underway; the greens have been removed; the crèche safely stowed for another year; the Christmas trees have been undecorated and trashed; and only the best of the poinsettias are still on display. On Sunday, January 29 at 11am we will have the first of our “Mass for All Ages” for the year with its child friendly sermon and shorter and more participatory form. These occasional masses enrich our overall experience of the mass by seeing it celebrated in the round with the priest facing the people.

On Sunday, February 5 we will keep the Feast of Candlemas (transferred from February 2). This is the final of the three great feasts of Light (Christmas, Epiphany, and Candlemas) when we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple where he is proclaimed by Simeon to be the "Light to lighten the Gentiles." At Candlemas I intend to commission the new vestry for 2012: Wardens: Ann Ravenstine and Alex Ellwood; Vestry: Alissa Abrams, Carol Bowie(Clerk), Paul Cardozo, Elizabeth Carr (Treasurer), Bucky Farnor, Horace Felix, Carter Keithley, Rosemary Mackey, and Caroline Palmour.

I am happy to give notice that on Sunday, February 19, at the 11am service I will be celebrating my Fortieth Anniversary of Priesthood (February 20, 1972). Bishop Richard Grein, the XIVth Bishop of New York has graciously agreed to preach at that service.

Again on a positive note I am pleased to report an excellent response to our 2012 Pledge Campaign. So far (and there are still several pledges to be received) we have received 67 pledges (of which 7 are new) for a total of \$207,672. This is most gratifying and I thank all who have made this possible. This increase in a time of economic uncertainty is particularly notable.

All this augurs well for a good year ahead.

With my prayerful and loving good wishes and blessings,



+Andrew St John,  
Rector