

TRANSFIGURATION CLOSING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Church of the Transfiguration Documents & Records

All documents and records will be transferred to the office at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Church of the Transfiguration Finances

1. Church of the Transfiguration remains financially stable.
2. Our specialized accounts, which were seeded by fundraisers and donations (such as Bread of Life and Dress-A-Girl), will remain with their respective ministries.
3. All financial contributions (via collections/envelopes/donations) to Transfiguration prior to closure will fund ongoing maintenance and salaries.
4. Upon the church's closure, all assets will be handled strictly according to diocesan guidelines.
5. Transfiguration has seven paid staff members, including our Music Director and Director of Religious Education. They will receive their regular pay until the church closes. To honor this commitment, we rely on your continued support through our weekly collections.

Church of the Transfiguration Assets

1. Church of the Transfiguration and its assets belong to the Diocese.
2. Arrangements are being made to contact the family of artist **Isabel Piczek** so they can take photographs of the mural.
3. The Business Manager and Finance Committee are creating a **comprehensive inventory** of all church property, tracking every single item down to the smallest detail. They are meticulously cataloging every physical asset owned by Church of the Transfiguration.
4. Diocesan Merger and Property Disposition Plan: All actions will strictly adhere to both Canon Law and secular law.
5. Plans are being put in place to ensure that all **Grotto Bricks** are returned to their respective donors.
6. **Time Capsule:** Once our official closing date is confirmed, we will schedule the extraction and opening of the time capsule.

Church of the Transfiguration Ministries and CYO

1. Parish Integration and Community Building: Discussions between our two parishes have officially begun regarding our councils, parishioners, and future community life.
2. Ministry Fair by Our Lady of Grace at Church of the Transfiguration. This will be part of the discussions.
3. The transition and management of current **ministry storage spaces** will be part of merger negotiation.

TRANSFIGURATION CLOSING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Questions related to the closure of Church of the Transfiguration

1. **Transparency – Our Parish will be more transparent than the diocese.**
2. **Timeline of Closure:** The final timeline for the church's closure remains undisclosed at this time.
3. **Closure Criteria and Conditions:** As outlined in the Bishop's letter, the decision to close is based on several key factors: declining attendance, an all-time low in the number of available priests, ongoing financial challenges, and the bankruptcy process. We do not know whether the fact that Our Lady of Grace (OLG) operates a school was factored into the closure criteria.
4. Who specifically participated in the recommendation process? The **MAP (Mission Alignment Process)** was initiated a few years back and this is a result of ongoing MAP. Representatives of each proposed Parish Cluster and the Pastor at the time were on the Map Committee for the cluster. The Diocese hired an external consultant to guide the different Cluster committees.
5. Were parish finances reviewed independently? The **MAP (Mission Alignment Process)** did this.
6. Was parish growth potential considered? The **MAP (Mission Alignment Process)** considered facts, not potential.
7. Were **alternative models** considered short of suppression? We don't know.
8. **Impact of Weekly Contributions to stop the closure:** While increasing our weekly donations helps us meet our current obligations, it will not change the outcome for our parish. Based on the information we have received, the decision to close Transfiguration is final and irreversible.
9. **Priest and Deacon Transition Plan:** Our priests are already integrated into Our Lady of Grace (OLG). We hope our deacons will transition to OLG as well; however, this is currently being negotiated between the deacons and the Bishop.
10. **Grief Support Groups:** We are exploring the formation of small, intentional groups to help our community process our collective grief and navigate this difficult transition together. **Noted and action will be taken.**
11. **Establishing a New Community Identity:** Following the closure of Transfiguration and the merger with Our Lady of Grace (OLG), we will need to initiate a process to choose a **new name** that reflects our combined community. 2 suggestions were "Our Lady of the Transfiguration" and "Parish of the Holy Family". **This is not in our hands. We can request a name change.**
12. **Engage Parish Closure Expert:** Can we leverage specialized consultants to handle the logistics and administrative process for winding down Transfiguration. **Noted.**
13. **Parishioner Impact Studies:** We do not have any information regarding whether a survey or analysis is being conducted to assess potential changes in parishioner retention or attendance due to the closure.

TRANSFIGURATION CLOSING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

14. **Inquiries Regarding the Cathedral:** It is unknown at this time if the Cathedral is under consideration for closure.
15. Given that these parish closures appear inevitable, could the diocese provide a detailed, fact-based report on the status of our facilities? Sharing clear data—such as historical attendance graphs and detailed financial trends—would help our community understand this decision. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati's "Beacons of Light" initiative is an excellent example of this kind of transparency. **We can request this information, but that is all.**
16. Is there an avenue to request a one-year stay of execution on the closure? A 12-month deferral would grant our community the necessary time to develop a long-range strategic plan designed to completely absolve the diocese of any financial responsibility for Transfiguration. **We are not looking to pursue any adversarial or legal routes that would drain our funds into attorney fees.**
17. **Call to Priesthood:** Not part of the closure discussion.
18. **Clergy Misconduct and Accountability Policies:** When will the diocese address long-standing concerns regarding clergy sexual misconduct, and what specific steps are being taken to end the practice of reassignment for priests with credible allegations? **Not part of the closure discussion.**
19. **Global Vatican Responsibility for Financial Liabilities:** Given that clergy misconduct is a systemic, global issue, what steps are being taken to request financial assistance or legal cost coverage from the Vatican, rather than placing the entire economic burden on local parishes? **Not part of the closure discussion.**
20. **Will there be more closures?** We don't know.
21. **Final Parish celebration:** YES!!!!