



The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

Transfiguring Times

Thursday, May 21, 2026

The Rector's Metamorpho-News

Dearly transfigured people of God,

"Pity the nation that is full of religions and empty of faith," the Lebanese poet, Kahlil Gibran, said. As we approach Pentecost, I think this is a powerful phrase upon which we can reflect. At Pentecost, the disciples of Jesus gathered in Jerusalem from many cultures, nations, and languages and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Although they represented a rich diversity, they were united in sharing the gift of the same Holy Spirit. While speaking different languages, they somehow understood one another through this shared faith. Each of these people came from nations that undoubtedly paid tribute to many national gods, to empires, and to imperialism, but at Jerusalem these followers of Jesus experienced the Spirit of faith that transcended those self-imposed limitations. Before Christ, many nations (peoples) performed rituals to appease 'gods' that were linked to their national identities, vying for earthly power and to prove they were superior to the 'gods' of other nations. These national religious cults also often demanded sacrifice of one's enemies or the enslavement of foreigners.

With the coming of Christ, Jesus taught that everyone is our neighbor and that there is

one God who is the Creator of all people and who is loving, merciful, and just. At Pentecost, Jesus sent to us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who brings us together in a mystical unity. As the Church, we have not always lived into this vocation nor have we always been wise stewards of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As human beings, we have failed; we have hurt others and even pursued earthly power while masking that lust with a mask of religiosity. At this Pentecost, let us remember the original gathering of believers in 33 AD in Jerusalem. They were not pledged to a single nation, to a single language, or to a single government. They were people created by God the Father united by their shared faith in Jesus Christ through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Let us remember that it is the fullness of faith that we seek as believers. Let us love one another as a Christian family around the globe as Christ first loved us.

Blessings,

Fr. Caleb



Ethiopian Orthodox Icon: The Day of Pentecost

NOTE: The Rector will be on vacation from the evening of May 21 to Monday May 25. Please welcome the Rev. Canon David Chavez, the Episcopal Church's Partnership Officer for Latin America, as our Supply Priest.

Fr. Caleb deeply values the connection with the members of our congregation and welcomes your input. Whether it's through office or home visits, phone calls, or email, he is here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any needs, or concerns, or simply want to chat.

This Weekend

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Day of Pentecost

8:00am Rite I (spoken contemplative service, approximately 1 hour)

Please see the Order of Worship in the pews or [click here](#)

10:00am Rite II (choir service, approximately 1 hour 15 minutes)

Please see the Order of Worship in the pews or [click here](#)

[YouTube](#) link (for streaming the 10:00am service)

OR

[Facebook](#) link (for streaming the 10:00am service)

Please welcome the Rev. Canon David Chavez as our guest priest this Sunday and join us after each service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee/tea and conversation.

Bible Study

Thursdays | 10:00am

Fellowship Hall

Summer Bible Study through the scriptures and religions of the Middle East! Last week we featured cuisine from Persian and Armenian cultures as we learned about the scriptures and their relationship to the



Yazidis. Please join us! NOTE: We will not meet on June 28 while Fr. Caleb is on vacation.



Spring Match Campaign

A generous donor has gifted us with a \$15,000 donation. We would like to match that gift with all proceeds going to the Transfiguration operating fund. That means every gift toward this campaign will be doubled until we reach the full match. This is a wonderful opportunity to stretch our giving and strengthen our ministries. Please designate "Match Campaign" in the memo/for field.

Food Collection

Superstition Community Food Bank

Collected Weekly

Suggested donations for this week are:
canned vegetables, instant potatoes and rice.
For next week: canned fruits, puddings and gelatin. You can place your donations in the basket at the back of the church or in the bin in the Fellowship Hall.



Coming Up

The Week Ahead at Transfiguration

Tuesday, May 26

7:00pm Compline

Wednesday, May 27
9:30am Morning Prayer
7:00pm Compline

Thursday, May 28
1:00pm Stitchery Ministry
7:00pm Compline

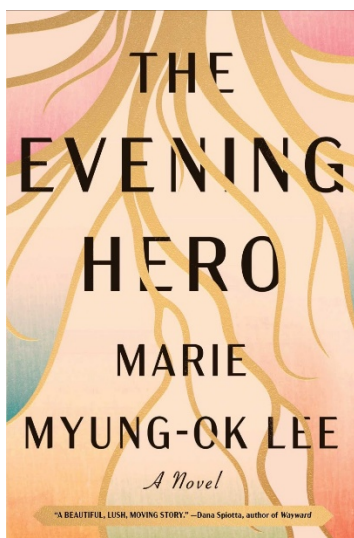
Sunday, May 31
8:00am Sunday Service
10:00am Sunday Service w/music

Invitation - ECM Pizza Night

Saturday, June 6 | 5:00pm

Organ Stop Pizza

Episcopal Church Men (ECM) invites the Transfiguration congregation to an evening of fun, fellowship and pizza! ECM will provide the pizza for everyone. Please notify John Collins if you plan to attend at 480-406-3121 or jartcol98@gmail.com by Saturday, May 30.



Book Club

Friday, June 19 | 10:00am AZ time
via Zoom

June's Book Club will discuss *The Evening Hero* by Marie Myung-Ok Lee. The discussion leader will be Laura Whyne and the Goodreads rating is 3.81. [Click here](#) for the book review.

A sweeping, lyrical novel following a Korean immigrant pursuing the American dream who must confront the secrets of the past or risk watching the world he's worked so hard to build come crumbling down.

Icon Painting Workshop Phoenix, Arizona

Experience the unique spiritual world of the Byzantine Era through icon painting

July 20-25, 2026

All Saints of North America Orthodox Church Phoenix, Arizona



Join us on this six day intensive course under the direction of visiting master iconographer and expert instructor Theodoros Papadopoulos from Greece. This Virgin Mary icon will "come alive" as he will guide you step by step, through the ancient techniques of Byzantine Iconography. Let us journey together, discovering anew, this traditional artistic expression of theology and spirituality often called the "meeting place of the Divine". Whether you are beginner or a professional, this workshop offers the opportunity to learn or refine your techniques. It is a great opportunity for everyone to experience first hand the painting of an icon.

The schedule of courses runs daily from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm.

Your tuition fee of \$850 includes all materials including boards, pigments, brushes, etc.

Space is limited and early registration is suggested.

For information & registration visit the website theodoreicons.com/phoenix or contact the instructor Theodoros Papadopoulos at theodoreicons@gmail.com

FYI



The ECM group had a great meeting last Saturday. They'll take a break in July but hope to see Transfiguration men at their August 15th meeting.

Birthday Blessings

The following parishioners are celebrating birthdays next week:

- Jon Traylor on 5/21
- Mary Hovden on 5/22
- Niko Laine on 5/24
- Jeffrey Neilson on 5/26



Please wish them a very happy birthday and keep them in your prayers!



Thank you to Heidi Kinney for the lovely quilt called Bohemian Stained Glass she created for our Fellowship Hall kitchen. Her talent and kindness continue to bless our community. Thank you Heidi!

Worship & Formation



Prayer and Reflection

Sundays | 7:30am & 9:30am

Parish House Chapel

As a Christian community, fellowship and prayer are among the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please, observe quietude when entering and exiting the sanctuary for worship so that members may greet one another quietly and also pray and light candles. For those in need of and seeking silence for prayer and reflection, we are opening the Parish House Chapel before each service for prayer. Please observe silence when in the chapel so that this may be a space for those in need of silent prayer and contemplation.

Compline

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays | 7:00pm AZ time

via Zoom

Compline/Evening Prayer is held via [ZOOM](#). Meeting ID: 740-940-1419. Passcode: 514 514. Contact Barbara Press with questions at (847) 651-1396.

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays | 9:30am AZ time

via Zoom

Please join us via [ZOOM](#) to prayerfully start the day. Meeting ID: 740-940-1419. Passcode: 514 514. Contact Barbara Press at (847) 651-1396 for questions.

Bible Study

Thursdays | 10:00am

Fellowship Hall

We are currently studying, *Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms*. Copies can be ordered [here](#) or purchased for \$30 in the Fellowship Hall. We hope that you will join us during our highly engaging studies! NOTE: We will not meet on June 28 while Fr. Caleb is on vacation.

Prayer Requests

Updated Weekly

A list of those on our prayer list is posted in the Narthex. Prayers are offered up at Compline, by the Daughters of the King, and in the Sunday Services. Please contact the [Church Office](#) with your requests and updates.

Ministries



Altar Flowers

Donations requested for weekly arrangements

Altar flowers can be dedicated in honor of special life events such as birthdays and anniversaries, in memory of a loved one or as a general thanksgiving. If you would like to donate altar flowers, please sign-up on the flower sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. [Ruby Seyffert](#) will then reach out to you regarding any special requests.

Altar Guild

Saturday, August 1 | 9:30am

Sacristy

Altar Guild members care for the altar, vestments, vessels and linens under the direction of the Rector. They prepare the altar and worship space for services including weekend worship, weddings, funerals and baptisms. Contact [Barbara Press](#) to volunteer or to learn more. The Altar Guild will not meet in June or July.

Episcopal Church Men (ECM)

Saturday, August 15 | 8:00am

Birdie's Bar and Grill, 500 S 80th St, Mesa

ECM is for all men at Transfiguration and they socialize and plan upcoming activities at meetings. For questions, please contact John Collins at jartcol98@gmail.com or (480)

406-3121.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Saturday, August 1 | 10:30am

Fellowship Hall

All women who attend Transfiguration are included in ECW. Except for June and July, the group meets the first Saturday of each month to plan their projects and activities with a potluck lunch following the meeting. For questions, contact [Peg Wier](#).

Lord's Soup Kitchen

Wednesday, June 10 | 9:00am

Fellowship Hall Kitchen

In May this group prepared delicious Chicken Taco Soup that is in the Fellowship Hall freezer. Their dedication continues to bless our community, bringing comfort and kindness with every hearty bowl of soup. Anyone wanting to volunteer for this ministry can join us this month. For questions please call Miriam Waddington at (559) 707-5810.

Stitchery Ministry

Thursday, May 28 | 1:00pm

Parish House

This group meets the second and fourth Thursday each month to knit, crochet, sew and quilt. In addition to giving to our own members in need, the ministry donates prayer shawls and other hand stitched items to hospitals, nursing homes, shelters and other charitable organizations. No previous experience required - the group can help you learn how to knit, crochet, etc. Contact [Linda Jo Johnson](#) if you have questions.

Sunday Morning Ministry

8:00am & 10:00am services

Sanctuary

We are looking for committed individuals to serve in several very important roles during both Sunday services:

- Acolytes
- Chalice Bearers
- Greeters
- Readers
- Digital Ministry (service streaming)

- Offering Counters

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at (480) 986-1145 or email officetransfig@gmail.com.

Giving



Second Sunday Offering

Sunday, June 14 | 8:00am & 10:00am services

June's collection will go to [Episcopal Relief & Development](#) which relies on a global network to advance programs focused on early childhood development, women and girls, climate resilience, and disaster response. Co-created with trusted local leaders, each program provides sustainable solutions that strengthen communities.

Online Giving

Pledging and financial gifts to the Church of The Transfiguration can be made using the following methods:

- For credit card or ACH gifts, you can use the QR code on the back of the weekly bulletin or this link: <https://onrealm.org/EpiscopalChurchTransfiguration/Give>
- If you prefer to use Zelle via your banking app, you can find the church via our email address: officetransfig@gmail.com

Planned Giving

Did you know that you can donate to the Transfiguration Endowment Fund today? You don't have to wait to do this until your Last Will & Testament or Trust is executed. To learn more, please [click here](#) for an informational brochure or contact the [Church Office](#).

Financial Report

Click [here](#) to see the Year End Transfiguration financial report (starting on p. 15). Hard copies are also available in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact the Church Office.

Around the Diocese



2026 CAMP FOR ADULTS

MANY STORIES, ONE BODY

JUNE 29 - JULY 2

A short retreat set apart in the beautiful pines of Chapel Rock for adults to explore their spiritual stories, grow in faith, and build community.

Register Today!
azdiocese.org/events

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ARIZONA
CHAPEL ROCK

The poster features a dark blue background with a light blue mountain range and evergreen trees at the bottom. It includes a QR code, a cross logo with puzzle pieces, and the text '2026 CAMP FOR ADULTS' and 'MANY STORIES, ONE BODY'.

[Register](#)

Diocesan Publication

Please contact the [church office](#) if you would like to receive the *Arizona Episcopalian*, a free quarterly publication from the Diocese. To sign up for the weekly Diocesan email *E-Pistle* click [here](#).



Who We Are



The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration is an open and affirming Christian community in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.

We acknowledge the living culture of the Salt River Pima and Maricopa people, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in the life of this region.

Clergy and Staff

[Fr. John Caleb Collins](#), Rector

Office (480) 986-1145 or Mobile (480) 980-1981 (call or text)

[Janice Scalzo](#), Office Administrator

Judy Barnhart, Music Director

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am – 1pm

Office Volunteers

Anita Joy

Ruby Seyffert

[Janet Krahn](#) (Sunday Morning Ministry scheduling)

Office volunteers: Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-12noon

Building & Grounds

Darrell White, Sexton

Church Leadership

Executive Committee

[Fr. John Caleb Collins](#), Rector

[Wayne Smith](#), Senior Warden (480) 245-9310

[Doug Wynn](#), Junior Warden

[Tom Kevern](#), Treasurer

Jane Stoneback, Clerk

Ruby Seyffert, Deputy Warden

Janice Scalzo, Office Administrator

Vestry Members

Ron Gurnee

Anita Joy

Janet Krahn

Jo Laslo

Barbara Press

Sharon Smorynski

Social & Digital Ministry

[Thomas Blum](#), Website

[Fr. John Caleb Collins](#), Facebook page

[Mary Hovden](#), Transfiguring Times (please send stories, announcements, photos, etc. to Mary [here](#))

[Peg Wier](#), Sunday worship service streaming

[Newsletter Sign Up](#)