



# Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 19, 2024)

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Chicago  
12219 S. 86th Ave., Palos Park, IL 60464, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 06/14/24.

[jsreyes@episcopalchicago.org](mailto:jsreyes@episcopalchicago.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) <b>60</b>	Number of Weekend Worship Services <b>1</b>	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend <b>\$53600</b>	Housing / Rectory Detail <b>\$19320</b>	Utilities <b>\$7800</b>
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position <b>\$83720</b>	Housing Available for <b>8</b>	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options <b>Full family</b>	Dental <b>Yes</b>	Housing Equity Allowance in budget <b>Yes</b>	Annual Equity Amount <b>\$3000</b>
Vacation Weeks <b>One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)</b>	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks <b>2 (standard)</b>	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget <b>\$501-\$1000/year</b>	Sabbatical Provision <b>Yes</b>	Travel/Auto Account <b>Yes</b>	Other Professional Account <b>Yes</b>

The Annual Fair Market Value of the Rectory is \$21600.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Our primary wooden church sign had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. What appeared to be just another property maintenance item, turned into a challenge to protect our ability to share our message within our neighborhood. The formidable cost of the project was met with enthusiastic contributions from the congregation. During public hearings at the village hall, neighbors challenged our intention for dusk to dawn lighting, but we prevailed. We were required to invest in an engineering survey to correct an easement violation. This ended up much more than a simple building project, but we addressed it as an important aspect of our ministry to the community and it has resulted in positive feedback.

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How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Any preparation for the church of the future must include care for the church of the present. Adapting our worship and ministries to the needs of our seniors, including those who are homebound, is crucial. So is continuing to attract new members by strengthening our web/social media presence, upholding our tradition of inclusivity, and helping people reconnect with Christianity who have not felt at home in other churches. Our recently created ministry, the TRC (Transfiguration Recruitment Committee), is an offshoot of the Vestry meant to boost our presence on social media by inviting folks to our events as well as highlighting our outreach. We have also been included in the new Palos Park welcome bags for new homeowners in the area where we have added a mug and brochure to invite them to our church. Transfiguration is a haven to many ex-Catholics (as well as many Protestants) experiencing a new spiritual fulfillment. We are liturgically traditional but theologically progressive: an inclusive, welcoming congregation open to engaging with traditional worship in new ways and eager to share the joy and love we have found at Transfiguration with our neighbors.

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Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Relatable, approachable, patient, energetic, good sense of humor, inspirational and uplifting preaching style

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Although our worship is traditional, our atmosphere is friendly and relaxed. We had both an 8:00 am and 10:00 am service. Our 8:00 am spoken Eucharist was an intimate, contemplative service that attracted a dedicated, close-knit group of worshippers. Due to COVID and limited resources, this service has yet to return. Our 10:00 am Sunday service incorporates music and is broadcast on Facebook Live for those not able to attend in person. From fall to spring, our dedicated choir members share their gifts during this service. Our volunteer Choir Director and our rector meet regularly to plan service music, choosing hymns from the 1982 Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing II, as well as a rich variety of anthems from our vast choral music library. Our talented Music Director provides piano accompaniment.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We have many active ministries and groups engaged in worship leadership, outreach to church members and the wider community, and fellowship activities. We have found that newcomers as well as longtime members seeking new ways to serve may lack the information or invitation they need to get involved. In the fall we hold a “ministry fair” to (re)acquaint members with church groups, the kinds of commitments involved, and how to join. Our Stewardship campaign this year is “Rooted in Abundance.” Beyond our pledges of treasure to help support our mission at Transfiguration, monthly the committee will be highlighting the many ways we can pledge our “gifts” of time and talents and how we can actively participate in the many opportunities available here at Transfiguration.

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As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Our sense of community at Transfiguration provides for our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. We provide prayers, transportation, comforting cards, and meals for each other when needed. The congregation joins in making prayer blankets and handheld crosses for individuals within and outside our walls as tangible signs of our love and concern. In addition to our twice monthly Bible study and Tuesday night Silent Prayer, we have offered “quiet days” and meditative prayer workshops. However, this remains an area of growth. In our congregational survey, members expressed a desire for more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life. In addition to Over-21 gatherings at members’ homes, we host social events that lift our spirits and give us a workout on the dance floor. Past events have included a Senior Prom and Sock Hop with dinner and dancing, an enhanced Mardi-Gras-themed coffee hour, a high tea celebration and our Annual Cookie exchanges. Plans are in the works for a Talent Show in the fall and our 75th Jubilee in 2025.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

We are blessed with members who act on their convictions by donating time, talent, and treasure to a wide range of programs. Our members join in the assembly and blessing of prayer blankets meant for our parishioners and others in our community to give in celebration or for comfort and healing. We serve dinners quarterly at the Ronald McDonald House. Throughout the year, we organize collections and donations of food, clothing, books, and supplies for food pantries, domestic violence shelters, veterans' facilities, and schools. After the Maui fires in August of 2023, the congregation was quick to donate money and personal supplies that were sent directly to those most affected. Our "Shower the Shelter" program collects toiletries for a local homeless shelter. Through a connection with one of our staff members we were able to connect with four Venezuelan refugee families and have committed to regular fundraising events to help them with their daily living expenses. Our members' commitment to carry God's love beyond our four walls is a natural extension of the love and care we provide each other. Locale is not a barrier, and we welcome new opportunities with enthusiasm.

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Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Several of our members have served on the Board of Directors of Revive Center for Housing and Healing, the Chicago diocesan agency working to end homelessness and provide housing assistance in the Chicago area. The diocese has commended Transfiguration for the highest participation among small parishes in the Revive Christmas Basket program. On the Sunday when we collect the baskets, we have had difficulty wending our way through the boxes of gifts to enter the church. This is a ministry that serves the members of the Revive program as well as the members of our church. We have also had a 15-year relationship with La Transfiguracion, our companion parish in the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. Monetary support has continued to help their bakery project. We also participate in the SouthWest InterFaith Team (S.W.I.F.T.) meant to promote dialogue among the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish religious communities and to work together on community service projects.

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Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, we were unable to return to the physical sanctuary. To keep our parishioners engaged and connected, we offered online services through Facebook Live as well as personal fellowship after the service through Zoom. Although we are now back in the sanctuary and able to connect face-to-face, we have continued to broadcast our services on Facebook for those unable to leave their home. In addition, we have recently begun sending Lay Eucharistic Ministers almost every week to bring communion for those who are homebound and unable to join us. You can contact one of our Wardens or our Deacon.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Beyond our regular pledges, our parishioners are quick and generous to respond to special collections for needs within our congregation and the wider church. Our Lay Liturgical Guild offers opportunities to participate in the services by signing up to be ushers, lay readers, acolytes, and Eucharistic Ministers. Several members have provided extensive demolition and renovation work, repairs, maintenance, and lighting improvements in both the church and the rectory, generously contributing their skills and labor when we otherwise would have had to contract for outside services. Our Green Team performs many landscaping duties, such as weeding and planting throughout our 2.3-acre property. A large team of volunteers cleans and decorates the church for Easter and Christmas. After we take down the Christmas tree each year, a talented parishioner creates a stark, imposing cross from the bare trunk and branches, to be placed in front of the altar on Good Friday. When the congregation returns on Easter morning, the Altar Guild has beautifully decorated the cross with flowers. This tradition connects the nativity, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord in a single poignant symbol.

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What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

In general, there has not been a significant amount of conflict within our congregation that we have seen or are aware of. There have been occasions where there was a lack of communication between committees in the church with conflicting ideas on how/what to do on the property grounds. This was solved by appointing our Junior Warden, a representative of the Vestry, as the person in charge of these decisions where all committees would go with issues and concerns.

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What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Through our small group discussions, we learned that the elimination of the 8:00 am service was an unwelcome change but could not be helped due to COVID and the limited resources during that time. Although this service is only attended by a handful of parishioners, it was a big loss that has been requested be reinstated. The addition of our Facebook Live broadcasts each week have given those not able to attend in person a chance to hear the service and connect to the congregation.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Annette Mayer	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2018-03	2024-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Nicholas Romans	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2017-02	2018-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Lane Hensley	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2003-07	2010-06

Preschool website: <http://www.palosdaycare.org/>.

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Sunday School	2	11

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
Pre-K	75	12	1



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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/transfigpalos>

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop:

**Paula E. Clark**

bishop@episcopalchicago.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

**J. Sierra Reyes**

jsreyes@episcopalchicago.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Rob Carr**

whitelab12@comcast.net

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Ted Karrison**

karrison@sbcglobal.net

Search Chair

**Len Hiznay**

Len61951@aol.com

Parish/Institution

**Dee Wagner**

deewagner55@comcast.net

Local Community Leader

**Nicole Milovich-Walters**

708-671-3700