

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we reflect on the readings for this Sunday, we are reminded of the profound mutual support that defines a vibrant church community. In the First Reading from 2 Kings (4:8–11, 14–16), we witness the hospitality of the Shunammite woman who warmly welcomed the prophet Elisha, providing for his needs. She was rewarded for her generosity with the blessing of a son. This story serves as a beautiful reminder of how caring for our spiritual leaders and the physical needs of our parish allows God to pour out His abundant blessings upon our community.

In the Gospel of Matthew (10:37–42), Jesus reminds us that even the smallest act of kindness—like giving a cup of cold water to a disciple—holds an eternal reward. While it is easy to give when a church is growing and prosperous, it requires a deep, sacrificial faith to continue giving during a time of transition and closure. Our financial support, regular offering, and shared talents do not belong to a physical building; they belong to God's people. The vulnerable who rely on our food pantries, the children in our religious education programs, our dedicated staff, and the sacramental life of our community depend entirely on our continued stewardship. Choosing to sustain our support right now ensures we continue to protect and nurture the "little ones" Jesus calls us to serve.

As we navigate this season of transition, we also prepare to honor those who have shepherded us through the years. This Sunday marks a historic milestone for our Transfiguration Church as we celebrate the retirement of our beloved Deacon Burt Rigley, who has beautifully sung, lived, and shared the goodness of the Lord among us for 38 remarkable years. He has walked along side us through life's most sacred moments: baptizing our children, witnessing our marriages, burying our loved ones, and breaking open the Word of God for us.

While Deacon Burt is stepping back from official, active parish assignments, the character of the Diaconate is lifelong. He remains a deacon and a vital pillar of our parish community. To honor his 38 years of extraordinary diaconal service, we are hosting a retirement potluck party on Sunday, June 28, at Transfiguration Church following the 11:00 AM Mass. All parishioners are warmly invited to join us in celebrating his vocation, expressing our gratitude, and wishing him God's richest blessings in retirement.

-Fr. Luke