



## Saint Wilgefortis TransMISSION

Facebook.com/SaintWTransmission

Deacon Grace Ferris, Pastor

800-603-0644 x707

SaintWTransmission@gmail.com

Masses Sundays at 10:30am on the Facebook page.  
“Just As I Am” podcast typically Thursday mornings at 8:00am

The Saint Wilgefortis TransMISSION is an online spiritual home for the transgender community pastored by Deacon Grace Ferris. All programming takes place on the mission’s Facebook page, which serves as a public forum for interaction. Weekly Mass is livestreamed at 10:30am on Sundays, usually originating from the Saint John of God Parish in Schenectady NY. The Mission also produces the weekly “Just As I Am” podcast which features news and current events of interest to the faithful transgender community, interviews, and occasional music presented in an entertaining way.

The Mission plans to launch a private Facebook page in the coming months. People interested in participating in programs yet to be developed, such as support groups and Bible study, will be able to do so in a safe online environment. Participants will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and to comply with online guidelines that will ensure safety. People will engage with the Mission on this platform in the way that people engage in in-person churches. Participants will be referred to CACINA parishes near them in order to receive Sacraments. A long-term vision is for the Mission is to also provide resources to other churches geared toward welcoming and engaging transgender people.

Deacon Grace came to CACINA in 2020. He (proper pronoun for the time) was an ordained Southern Baptist minister and divorced father of five grown children. Seeking a more liturgical worship experience, Ferris was led by the Holy Spirit to CACINA. The Holy Spirit simultaneously revealed to him his true gender identity. The result are tandem life transitions currently under way. One will lead to her (proper current pronoun) living full-time in the preferred female gender, and the other to the priesthood. Ferris was ordained a deacon as Gary William Ferris; she will be ordained a priest as Grace Wilgefortis Ferris—Mother Grace!

Saint Wilgefortis, our patron saint, is depicted as the bearded woman on the cross. The teen-aged daughter of the Pagan king of Portugal, she converted to Christianity and took a vow of chastity. Her father, however, promised her hand in marriage to the Muslim Prince of Sicily. Unable to get out of the betrothal, she prayed that God would somehow make her unattractive to her suitor so that he would call the wedding off. Wilgefortis awoke the next morning having grown a full beard which repulsed her fiancé. Her enraged father had her crucified. Wilgefortis died a virgin martyr for the faith. Her feast day is July 20.