

# The Hands of Christ

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## Quarterly Thoughts From the Corner Office!

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this, we should have started our Lenten journey. During the journey, let us continue to pray for each other, that we may come closer to the God who created and cares for us. In this spirit, here are some thoughts about forgiveness and other basics of Lent.

Forgiveness, which involves letting go of the lingering pain of new or past hurts to allow for inner peace, is an important element of Lent. We often cause a hurt without even realizing it, the result of "a look" that we gave or a passing word that someone misunderstood. Whether the injury is large or small, whether the hurt is individual or communal, the practice of forgiveness calls us to face the pain and work through the grief and anger. The only promise as we work through the hurt and pain is the promise of God's grace.

This comes to mind for two reasons. First, I regularly deal with individuals who are trying to deal with the sudden loss of a loved one, either because of death or because the loved one has moved on to a different place in life – physically, emotionally, spiritually. Second, I deal with people who are having a difficult time forgiving. They know intellectually that they must forgive, but their hearts just aren't ready for forgiveness. In both cases, they know they may never forget the loss and hurt because forgetting feels nearly impossible. However, they would like to get on with the healing process and deal with the loss, the sense of betrayal and hurt.

I assure these individuals that they have made a gigantic step toward healing by recognizing this need for healing and

peace. My ear and my heart are open to you when you need to address some type of brokenness in your life. Also, please pray that we, as a community of believers, respond to the calling we have to live with forgiving and peaceful hearts.

Normally when we begin Lent, we receive ashes on our foreheads (*this year ashes will be given spiritually*). Receiving ashes serves as a reminder that we should abstain from eating meat on all the Fridays of Lent and fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means that those of us who are healthy and between the ages of 18 and 59 are instructed to eat sparingly - two simple meatless meals and one main meatless meal, with nothing in between. Fasting – or intentionally doing with much less – can be a great discipline given our well-fed American lifestyle. Allowing ourselves to feel hunger puts us on the ground floor of what it is to be humble – and humility is an important virtue for a person of faith. It takes us out of the center of our own little universe and allows us to be still for a moment so we may know God and know ourselves better.

Self-knowledge moves us next to prayer, which is open communication with God. Prayer is a two-way street; we don't do all the talking. Exercising humility ought to enable us to do some thoughtful listening, and our prayer will be richer as a result.

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## *The Corner Office! - Continued*

Such reflection also helps us become more conscious of the many ways in which we are blessed. Money, time, and talent – we truly have more than we need. That realization may lead us to greater generosity towards those who have less. We call this almsgiving.

Fasting has a long history within our Judeo-Christian tradition. It was during a 40-day fast that Elijah heard the “still, small voice” of the Almighty. In the Gospel passage from Matthew that we share on Ash Wednesday, Jesus advises us to be discreet while we fast. It should not be a way of advertising our austerity, he points out, but rather a private matter between God and us. The fast that Jesus undertook in the desert before he began his public ministry is the basis of our modern Lent, which we embrace as we continue celebrating Resurrection. Although we are not monks living in community, we are sisters and brothers living in a community of faith, and so the fasting of one helps the fasting of all.

When we encourage one another in our efforts to live more simply, we are nourished ourselves by the Word of God. This Lent, instead of giving something up, try doing something extra, like reading from scripture each day. Perhaps this is something you can do as a family: Take a little time around the dinner table to read and discuss something from scripture before or after your meal.

Let us pray for peace and for an end to terrorism in our world!  
In peace and courage,

*Fr. Mike Bausch*

Rev. Michael J. Bausch  
Pastor

### **Lenten Season** Margie Benza, Pastoral Associate

After continued weeks of pandemic concerns, challenging days and national division in the midst of the darker winter days, we have made it to Lent. Through kindness, empathy and concerns of others, we carry on with hope that offers us a sense of being cared for and loved by others through these difficult days. In the uncertainty there is trust through our gift of faith and reminder of God’s everlasting love for each one of us. This reminder has been the basis of our Liturgy Committee selection of our Lenten theme, “Everlasting Love”.

Join us on Monday evenings during Lent at 7 p.m. in the church for our Lenten Vespers with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This will be a time of quiet, peaceful contemplation of God’s everlasting love through the presence of Christ in our lives.

May this Lenten Season be one of reflection, grace and purposeful intention to accompany Jesus on the road to Calvary strengthened by God’s everlasting love.

**Lenten Vespers with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—Monday Evenings, 7 p.m.  
February 22 and 29, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29**

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday** March 28 at 4:30 p.m. , March 29 at 9 a.m. (Livestream) and 11 a.m.

**Holy Thursday** April 1 at 7:30 p.m.—Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Friday** April 2 at 2:30 p.m.—Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion (Livestream) and 7 p.m.—Simple Stations of the Cross

**Holy Saturday** April 3 at 7:30 p.m.—Easter Vigil Mass

**Easter Sunday**—April 4 at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Livestream) and 11 a.m.





# TRI-PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Each year the St. Louis, St. Catherine of Siena and the Church of the Transfiguration parishes join forces for a Tri-Parish Lenten retreat. We are happy to announce the retreat tradition continues in 2021! The retreat will be held at Transfiguration on Tuesdays, March 2 and March 9, at 7 p.m.

On March 2 the presenter will be our very own Damian Zynda. Fr. Bob Kennedy will present on March 9. At the time of print both speakers are finalizing their topics, so stay tuned to the bulletin and website for more details as the dates get closer.

If you want to attend in person, please remember we are following Covid protocols. Cloth or surgical masks that cover the nose and mouth are mandatory. (No face shields unless accompanied by a mask.) Maximum occupancy is capped at 150. There will be no preregistration; entrance will be first come, first served. Participant contact information will be taken at the door, for potential tracing purposes. Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

If you want to attend from home – both evenings will be streamed live on Transfiguration's YouTube channel. The link is on our website [www.transfigurationpittsford.org](http://www.transfigurationpittsford.org). We hope you will be able to attend!

## WINTER AT TRANSIGURATION



Our Christmas Basket program served more than 190 families and 1000 people. Many thanks to our volunteers and generous donors—  
This was a bright light for so many people in need.



Your donations to the Christmas Giving Tree made the holidays brighter for local families and our friends in Kentucky. Our food drive continues to supply local pantries—THANK YOU!!!



Transfiguration served as a polling place for the 2020 elections, taking the place of the former Calkins Road and Barker Road Middle School polling sites. All went smoothly—and the town was quite grateful that we made our space available for voting!

# Spring Newsletter: Formation Update

*Can you believe that Lent is upon us?* During this time our hearts and minds will turn to prayer, fasting and giving as we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that redeemed us from our sins and opened the gates of heaven. Please look to our YouTube channel and our website playlists for on-demand resources for all ages and seasons of life.

Shortly into the Easter season, we will be offering prayers for and congratulations to all our young people who are receiving Christ in the Eucharist for the first time. The addition of these newest communicants to the table is always a joyful event for the whole community, especially during times of change such as these.

*Here's what we are looking forward to in the coming months!*

**Transfiguration Youth Ministry** continues to meet monthly in physically distanced small groups, with additional small gatherings for senior-high youth on Tuesday nights. Our annual weekend **Search retreat** for senior high school students will take place the weekend of June 4-6 at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Registration materials will be coming soon! We've also gotten word that planning is under way for the **National Catholic Youth Conference** this November in Indianapolis! Contact Anne Gallagher for more info on Youth Ministry.



**Vacation Bible School** will be held the week of July 12-16. This year we are excited to offer a wilderness adventure theme! Gear up for a one-week hike through the wilderness that leads kids to discover amazing things about the seven Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders. Registration materials will be available in April on our website and at church. Interested in helping to plan this year's event? Contact Vicky Wejko for more information.



**Adult Faith Formation** opportunities for spring include:

- ♦ Monthly faith-sharing Zoom meetings focused on the monthly prayer playlists found on our website: Wed. 2/24 and Wed. 3/24 at 7 p.m.. Contact Anne Gallagher for a Zoom invite.
- ♦ Joe Kelly offers an evening dedicated to St. Joseph on the latter's feast day, March 18. This event also acknowledges Pope Francis' declaration of 2021 as "The Year of St. Joseph".
- ♦ A four week series (4/14, 21, 28, and 5/5) will explore many biblical insights from both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Led by Joe Kelly, this study will guide us in our search to develop an even deeper and more intimate relationship with our triune God, with special emphasis on the idea of "knowing" God and the value of silence to this journey.

# PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHTS—RCIA CANDIDATES

Every year at our Easter Mass, individuals who have completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) are brought into our fold as new members of the Catholic Church. Our parishioner spotlights this newsletter shine on Anne Colangelo and Leo Ramos, who will receive the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Leo Ramos lives with his family in Henrietta, with their third child on the way in August! Leo had grown apart from his childhood Pentecostal faith. A close friend and work colleague from Virginia, Marc, introduced the idea of RCIA to Leo, and after a bit of searching, Leo found our Transfiguration program.

His journey through RCIA has been special to Leo. "I learned there were so many more facets to our faith than I could possibly fathom. I especially fell in love with the meditative prayer of the rosary and the welcoming nature to challenge and question anything I was unsure about. I also fell in love with the power of faith felt and observed during the Eucharist." Leo needed a sponsor; parishioner Tim Morris was pleased to serve in that role.



Leo Ramos



Anne Colangelo

Anne Colangelo also was raised in a different faith but did not feel a strong attachment to any church. She lives in Pittsford with her spouse Anthony and 1-year old son Anthony. When asked what brought the Colangelo's to Transfiguration, Anne replied: "The birth of our son led us to find a Parish. As a cradle Catholic, it was important to my husband that our son be baptized in the Catholic faith. We looked at many Catholic churches in the area, and eventually decided on Transfiguration because it felt welcoming and comfortable to both of us (even to a non-Catholic!). We are very thankful to our friends Rick and Mary Bausch for introducing us to Transfiguration."

Seeking to be able to worship together as a family, RCIA was a natural next step for Anne: "RCIA is an important Faith journey for our whole family. I wanted to learn more about Catholicism after the baptism of our son. It's important to me that we can attend Mass together as a united family, sharing the same values." Anne chose her husband, Anthony, to be her sponsor. Ann added: "RCIA has been an amazing experience for him as well. It's allowing him to reconnect with his faith after slowly growing away through college and the years following."

Deacon Eric Bessette leads our RCIA team, assisted by his wife Marlene, and Lisa and Tim Morris. Eric loves working with the RCIA candidates. "Being a part of their spiritual journey is always very moving for my own faith experience. It's a very sacred space made even more powerful by the fact these candidates are 'choosing' to become Catholic. It's a reminder of the richness of our faith and how we Catholics sometimes fall into the trap of taking that richness for granted. Their questions, their excitement, their commitment, their desire to learn and grow closer to God is all a wonderful inspiration for me, and hopefully our entire faith community. Their enthusiasm is invigorating."

## Quarterly Finance Corner—Clustering Q&A by Diane Yacoby

**Q:** What will clustering, mean, as far as our parish finances?

**A:** Transfiguration and St. Catherine will remain separate, legal financial entities, under the leadership of one pastor. We will continue to have separate parish budgets and bank accounts and separate parish Finance Councils.

**Q:** How will the Catholic Ministries Appeal be handled?

**A:** Each parish will continue to have their own goal for the Catholic Ministries Appeal. As in the past, any underage we experience (by May 31<sup>st</sup>) would be paid from our own savings account. Any excess donations would be split 50-50 between the diocese and the parish. The Finance Council would decide where to assign any overages.

**Q:** What expenses will be shared between the two parishes?

**A:** For six years, St. Catherine's and Transfiguration have shared the costs for a Finance Department, consisting of a full-time finance director (Maureen O'Connor) and a part-time bookkeeper (Laura Cutter). Beginning in August 2020, the role of Transfiguration's Formation administrative assistant and St. Catherine's parish secretary became a shared position filled by Meg Kastner.

**Q:** What about pastor salary and benefits?

**A:** Transfiguration and St. Catherine will share a pastor whose salary and benefits will be the shared responsibility of both parishes. Any additional expenses for utilizing a retired priest for Masses, funerals and weddings will be handled on an as-needed basis.



### CLUSTERING WITH ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

As may know we will be clustering with St. Catherine of Siena in June. Clustering means we will remain two separate parishes under the leadership of one pastor. For a fuller explanation of clustering, please go to [www.transfigurationpittsford.org](http://www.transfigurationpittsford.org) and find the January 10 Corner Office blog article. A Clustering Committee has been formed, with representatives from both parishes, to lead us through the process. As we go through our preparation process, please pray this prayer of a regular basis.

*Father in Heaven,*

*Who brings together new relationships, new opportunities and new challenges as a way to deepen our bond with You, bless the people of the Church of the Transfiguration and Saint Catherine of Siena, to enter joyfully into such experiences as our communities seek a new chapter in our shared life of mission and ministry.*

*We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.*

**AMEN.**

*“Lord, how good it is for us to be here...”*

Matthew 17:4

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