

# WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



*Lord, How Good it is for us to be here... Matthew 17:4*

## A Message from Father Rob

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Dear Friends,

We are preparing another season of celebrating the wonder of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is the Season of Advent and our parish theme proclaims four strong words, HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE.

As we all know the four weeks of Advent bring us to great anticipation of recalling the birthday of Jesus Christ and looking forward to His return in the Second Coming! The theme of HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE will resound during these four weeks of Advent and will usher us into our beautiful Christmas/Epiphany Season!

I realize you, like myself, find yourself pulled in many ways with so much asked of us. I'm praying you will join me in setting deliberate time aside in our day to take a breath and appreciate the wonder of this sacred time.

In church you will find free booklets addressing prayer in Advent. Help yourself to one of these offerings and gift yourself to some quiet reflective moments of prayer. Maybe you can come to one of our daily masses and bless your day with the eucharist. Masses are Monday and Wednes-

day at 6:45 AM at the Church of the Transfiguration and Tuesday and Thursday at 9 AM at Saint Catherine of Siena. Check out our bulletins for various activities and presentations that can nourish your heart and soul. One opportunity will be Sister Barbara Moore addressing the Gospel of Luke and looking at Zacharia, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary. She will look at the importance and meaning of the Incarnation we celebrate. Sister Barbara will be at Saint Catherine's on the Saturdays of November 27th, December 3rd, 12th and 19th. Sessions are at 10AM.

There will also be Evening Prayer at our parish, the Church of the Transfiguration, Monday evenings at 7:00 PM November 29th, December 6th and 13th.

Our Christmas Eve masses will be at 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM and Midnight at the Church of the Transfiguration. This same day Christmas Eve masses will also be offered at Saint Catherine of Siena at 3:00 PM, 5:30 PM and 10:00 PM.

Christmas Day both parishes will offer mass at 10:00 AM.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN AS THE DATES GET CLOSER!

### November

Fr. Bob Kennedy Series—Nov 3, 10, 17  
Food Drive - Thanksgiving Baskets – Nov 6-7  
Women in the Spirit—Nov 8  
Men in the Spirit – Nov 15  
Thanksgiving Turkey Drive Drop Off – Nov 22  
Advent Candlelight Prayer—Nov 29

### December

Food Drive—Christmas Baskets – Dec 4-5  
St. Nicholas Shoes—Dec 4-5  
Advent Candlelight Prayer—Dec 6, 13  
Women in the Spirit—Dec 7  
Christmas Basket Program—Assembly #1—Dec 7-8  
A Night in Bethlehem—Dec 12 (at St Catherine's)  
Christmas Basket Program – Assembly #2– Dec 17-18  
Christmas Basket Program - Delivery – Dec 20  
Men in the Spirit – Dec 20

### January

Women in the Spirit – Jan 3  
Food Drive—St. Joseph's House of Hospitality - Jan 9-10  
Men in the Spirit – Jan 17

*Father Rob—Continued from Page 1.*

I hope you will be able to attend one of these liturgies with me and our faith community. Please bring family and friends with you! I always look forward to meeting new people. We will keep everyone safe by requesting masks be worn and having a social distancing seating option. To avoid overcrowding, we will take reservations for the 3:30 Christmas Eve Mass, which will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Enjoy looking through this newsletter and let me or anyone on our Parish Staff know if there is something we can accommodate you with to make this holy season one of HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE for you and your loved ones!

You will be remembered in my prayer and I humbly ask you to remember me in yours.

To a blessed Christmas,  
Father Rob

## THANKSGIVING TURKEY DRIVE

Local agencies are looking for our help this year as many struggle through the holidays. Our goal for the Thanksgiving Drive this year is one hundred frozen and thirty roasted turkeys. Due to the expected decreased availability of trimming items in stores, we are purchasing the items early and directly from local supermarkets to insure their arrival. We appreciate your generosity in considering a monetary donation toward these costs.



Sign up to offer a turkey or help with delivery will take place after Masses in early November or you're welcome to contact Kathy Kyhos directly at [kkyhos@icloud.com](mailto:kkyhos@icloud.com). See the bulletin for ongoing updates. Thank you for your ongoing support in making this meal of thanks possible for so many.

### LIFTING OUR HEARTS UP TO THE LORD: THE SPIRITUALITY OF LITURGY

*Fr. Bob Kennedy's upcoming series*

The coming of the COVID pandemic not only limited the actual celebration of the Eucharist; it severely affected *how* we celebrate it. This three-part series will provide a foundation of a liturgical spirituality for the other 167 hours of the week.

November 3, 10, 17, 2021

7:00-8:30 PM at Transfiguration's Upper Level Ed Center

### A Day In Bethlehem A Bible-Times Christmas Event for Families of All Ages

Please join us for this joint event by the Church of the Transfiguration and St Catherine's on December 12, 2021, Noon– 2 pm at St Catherine's.



Come discover Jesus in Bible-times Bethlehem! You're invited to wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born.

Unlike your typical "living Nativity," everyone will create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. You will love talking to Mary and Joseph in The Stable—and hearing about the miracle of Jesus' birth. Also we will build individual gingerbread houses.

# Christmas Basket Program

The Christmas Basket Program provides food and small gifts to families in need in Rochester . We receive referrals from the House of Mercy, Jordan Health Center, Sr. Regis Food Cupboard, St. Andrew's Food Cupboard, Pittsford and Fairport families, and other local organizations. This program links our parish community with others living in poverty seeing the struggles of the poor, oppressed and marginalized.

Registrations have been received over the last few weeks . Soon last year's sponsors will be contacted to offer the opportunity for repeat sponsorship if their 2020 sponsored family has returned to the program. New recipient sponsorships are available in serving family sizes of one to twelve.

If you are interested in sponsoring a family and want to get an early start before sponsorship weekends begin 11/27-28, or if you are interested in assisting with organizing gifts, wrapping and delivery of the baskets, please contact Margie at 248-2427 x244 or [Margie.Benza@dor.org](mailto:Margie.Benza@dor.org). Weekly updates on this program and any assembly/delivery dates will be in the bulletin. Thank you and God Bless you for enabling a family in need to have a joyous Christmas.

## ADVENT

As we all prepare our hearts for the arrival of our Savior's birth, may it be a time of an intentional slowing of our lives. In the midst of these last twenty one months of uncertainty, may we make way for the conversion of our heart in preparation for the Holy One who is soon to arrive in the world as a sign of *hope, love, joy and peace*.

After thoughtful discernment, these four simple but poignant words have been selected by our Liturgy Committee as our Advent Theme. They tie well to the lighting of Advent wreath. Moving through the four weeks of Advent, each week the lit candle is a reminder of the Advent journey laid in front of us; God's dream for us and what Joseph and Mary experienced through their trust in God.

Will we take the time? Can we pay attention to the silent whisper of God calling us to answer the longing in our heart? Will we open our heart to experience the same longing felt by Mary as she waited to see the face of her God?

Please join us for some quiet time to enjoy the beauty of candlelight, gentle music and while sitting in the presence of God. Experience sa-

cred moments of hope and peace as God prepares our hearts for the joy and deep love expected on that quiet Christmas night. This comes with a personal invitation for you come to Advent Candlelight Prayer on the Monday evenings of 11/29, 12/6 & 12/13 at 7PM at Transfiguration. Slow down with us, won't you?

Margie Benza  
Pastoral Associate





# FORMATION UPDATE

## **Belonging, Behaving, Believing**

We spend a lot of time communicating the good news about WHAT we do in our Life-Long Faith Formation programs here at Transfiguration. For this update, we want to share some of the vision behind HOW we work to form our young people and their families in the faith and WHY we embrace these approaches. Today's children, teens, and parents are facing a lot of challenges, and Church needs to adapt to walk with families as they navigate the way.

There has been a lot of good research done on the spiritual lives of Gen Z (current 8-25 year-olds) as well as Millennials (current 25-40 year-olds, and parents of our younger kids). You can check out [springtideresearch.org](https://springtideresearch.org) or [catholicresearch.smp.org](https://catholicresearch.smp.org) for more info. We have learned that today's young people are the loneliest generation: feeling stressed and anxious, experiencing profound disconnection (even though they seem constantly connected via technology), and lacking in trusted adults they can talk to. It's also clear that for many young people, the path into Christian community flows from:

**Belonging:** a sense that the Church is a place where they are Seen, Known, and Loved for who they are, created in the image and likeness of God.... to

**Behaving:** the practice of living the faith through personal and communal prayer and loving service to others, especially those on the margins.... to

**Believing:** choosing to grow in relationship with God and in commitment to the Church.

Some of the ways we strive to meet these formational needs of young people include:

**Empowering a team of adult and peer leaders** to mentor our younger teens. For example, this year we have nine adult and 30 high school peer leaders guiding our 70 Confirmation candidates as they prepare for the Sacrament. This relational approach to ministry both fosters a safe place for teens to share and grow and also provides an opportunity for them to serve and lead on behalf of the Church.

**Digital presence:** Through our YM Instagram ([transfig.youth](https://www.instagram.com/transfig.youth)), our YouTube channel, our Facebook page, and our online library of Prayer Playlists on our website, we bring the faith into the virtual spaces our young people and their parents are inhabiting. In particular, we focus on using our digital platforms to provide spiritual inspiration and prayer resources to our teens and families to help them form the habit of personal prayer in their own way.

**Hybrid and Inter-Generational Formation:** In addition to our in person gatherings, our family faith, Sacramental prep, and middle school programs also provide at-home and online resources and discussion starters to help parents have meaningful conversations with their kids about our faith. Even though teens may grumble, secretly there is nothing they want more than time and loving attention from their parents, to connect in ways that matter.

The Church has much to offer today's young people, and young people have much to offer the Church! We're committed to finding creative ways to engage our younger generations in the faith together.



Middle School and Confirmation Teen Groups





Hopefully, you have received the Catholic Ministries Appeal mailing by this time and have had a chance to review the materials. The theme for this year's campaign is **Forward in Faith**, which reminds us that our faith has seen us through, and our faith will guide us forward so that we can set about the work of invigorating, rebuilding and renewing our Church.

Your gifts to the CMA provide essential operating support for diocesan programs that provide direct services to both Church of the Transfiguration and thousands of people throughout the twelve counties that comprise our Diocese.

A successful Catholic Ministries Appeal is vital to the continued health of Church of the Transfiguration and our local Church. As our parish and Diocese are one, comprising the Body of Christ, neither can exist without the other and both need your support. We can and do make a difference.

As our Church continues to navigate through challenging times, CMA dollars have helped our Diocese and Transfiguration this year by funding:

- Extended networks to church buildings and schools and installing hundreds of cameras necessary to support virtual ministry. Our entire staff depended on the expertise of the Diocesan IT department beginning in March of 2020 and continuing to this day.
- Expertise and installation of security cameras on our campus saving us close to \$20,000
- Cybersecurity platforms to protect parishes against data breaches.
- Support and organization of numerous Confirmation and Hands of Christ Award celebrations that are so meaningful to our young people and their families.
- Assistance in taking care of the poor, the elderly, the troubled, the battered and the addicted through 10 regional Catholic Charities agencies.

We thank those who helped Transfiguration raise \$195,390 during the 2020-2021 campaign.

Our goal for 2021-2022 is \$205,642. We humbly ask that your prayerfully consider making a gift this year. No matter the size of your gift, your participation in the CMA will make a great difference for Transfiguration and our diocesan family.

## This Fall at Transfiguration



Grief Share is once again underway, led by Ev and Jane Charette



Our baptismal garments are made by Rosemary Monu



Dr. Joe Kelly presented the Gospel of Luke to a group of 40 interested participants.



The Margaret Home sale was a huge success at both parishes, raising funds for mothers and newborns in need.



Men in the Spirit and Women in the Spirit have both resumed monthly meetings at Transfiguration!



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

Matthew 17:4

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## HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULES



### **THANKSGIVING**

**St Catherine of Siena –  
7 PM on Wednesday**

**Transfiguration –  
9 AM on Thursday**



### **NEW YEARS EVE**

**St Catherine of Siena  
5 PM**



### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**St Catherine of Siena – 3 PM, 5:30 PM and  
10 PM**

**Transfiguration – 3:30 PM (Livestreamed).  
5:30 PM and Midnight (with music prelude  
starting at 11:30 PM)**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Transfiguration – 10 AM**

**St. Catherine of Siena – 10 AM**