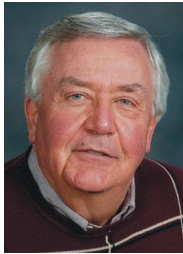


## The Hands of Christ

### Quarterly - From the Corner Office!

Dear friends,

As I write this article, I am sitting in my office on a Sunday morning between Masses. It is early fall so the Master Painter is at work bringing color to the trees that surround us. The Painter's work certainly helps fall be a delightful experience of nature. Thank you God!



By the time you read this, we will be past Halloween. It will be interesting to reflect on how Halloween was celebrated this year especially through the eyes of our young friends and the tradition of trick and treating. I mention this because how we deal with traditions such as Halloween, perhaps, will set the tone for how we deal with the high holiday of Thanksgiving, the Holy Day of Christmas and the season that surrounds them.

How will we celebrate the holiday season this year? My prayer is that we get back to the basics of the season, taking appropriate time and space to be with our families and friends. Year after year, I hear people say they enjoyed the holiday season, but many will add they are tired out from all the running around. Maybe this year we can start a new tradition of quietly enjoying some basic traditions of the seasons. The number of people visiting our homes may be limited, but that may give us the

opportunity to having meaningful conversation with close friends and family.

Maybe for some, this year will include learning how to prepare your Thanksgiving meal and avoid having it prepared at a local grocery store or going out to a local restaurant instead enjoying a home cooked meal around the table of thanksgiving. As we move into the Advent season perhaps, we can take time to create our own Advent Wreath and use the prayer offerings available on the parish website. Christmas is going to be a challenge for many of us who have traditions we may not be able to carry out this year. We may have to find new and creative ways to be with whatever family is able to gather. Perhaps we will have to resort to good old fashion traditions, such as sitting around the Christmas tree, enjoying the quiet of the moment and count our blessings as individuals and as family. This Woody Allen quote comes to mind as I think about blessings in the midst of these troubled times. "The talent for being happy is appreciating and liking what you have, instead of what you don't have." Bottom line - the holidays are going to be different and we need to prepare in a different way!

I offer these reflections because I am very aware of the possibility that our mental health may be compromised during this holiday season. I am, along with others on the parish's pastoral staff, keenly aware of the vast number

of people who are depressed because of the isolation that is part of the pandemic. My suspicion is that depression could become a major challenge during the holidays. I assure you I am not immune to depression. It can be very real and like any health problem, we may need assistance to heal. As many of you know, I stepped away for a few weeks in 2016 to seek professional help after the death of several friends and family members in a short period. I found the professional help I needed and discovered how to appropriately deal with the depression. If you are feeling depressed, be assured my heart and ears are open to you; just give me a call and we will arrange to meet. Your mental health is as important as your physical and spiritual health: please care for all of them equally to remain the healthiest person you can be.

I wish all of you a joyful and peaceful holiday season, filled with many blessings!

Let us continue to pray for and take action to bring about peace in our world!

In peace and courage,



Rev. Michael J. Bausch  
Pastor



# Upcoming Events at Transfiguration

Normally here is where we would share all the wonderful, carefully thought out plans for upcoming events. While we would love to do that, circumstances dictate that the best of plans are subject to change, so we have a short list to share right now!

Here are a few things we have planned, whether in person, virtually, or in small groups so we can social distance:

- **Thanksgiving Turkey Drive**  
(Monday, November 23)
- **Chair Yoga**  
(Monday mornings at 10)
- **Work of our Hands Knitting**  
(once a month on a Thursday at 1 PM, dates vary, check the bulletin)
- **Christmas Basket Program**  
(Sign Up already in progress, activity dates will be in the bulletin)
- **Gentle Yoga**  
(Wednesday evenings at 6)
- **Advent Candlelight Prayer**

Please keep checking our weekly e-mails, website and of course the bulletin (it is available online on our website home page) for the latest program information!



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## Thanksgiving Turkey Drive

Local agencies are looking for our help as many struggle through the 2020 holidays. Our goal for this year's Thanksgiving Drive is to distribute one hundred frozen turkeys and thirty roasted. Due to restricted availability at stores of some needed items, we are purchasing the trimmings early and directly from local supermarkets to insure their arrival.

Sign up to offer a turkey or help with delivery will take place after Masses in early November. You're also welcome to contact Kathy Kyhos directly at kkyhos@frontiernet.net. Thank you for your ongoing support in making this meal of thanks possible for so many.



## Christmas and New Year's Masses

We are fortunate our parish offers many beautiful celebrations of the Christmas Liturgy. Our Christmas traditions include the Children's Living Gospel and a beautiful Midnight Mass. Our liturgical and music staff put much thought and preparation into each Mass, so the joy and beauty of the gospel shines through. Due to the pandemic, reservations will be required for all Christmas Masses, details of how to make reservations will be mailed to you in late November. We hope to see you, your family and friends at the upcoming Christmas and New Year's Masses.

*Here is the schedule and a description of the Mass:*

### THANKSGIVING MASS

November 26 – Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM on Thanksgiving. Might you want to stop by and spend some time thanking God for His many blessings?

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24, 3:30 p.m. - This Mass is typically celebrated with our children. Students in Grades 2-4 have recorded a living Nativity, complete with shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and of course, the baby Jesus. Doors open at 3 p.m. This is the only Christmas Mass that will be livestreamed.

December 24, 5:30 p.m. – This Mass is also designed for families, and those who don't want to stay up late for Midnight Mass or go out early on Christmas Day.

December 24, 11:30 p.m. – This is our Midnight Mass. A prelude of beautiful music starts at 11:30, with Mass beginning at midnight. This Mass is truly special, with the

contrast of the light and warmth of Christ against the stark cold and darkness of the night. Of course the music will be recorded, but it will be the beautiful traditional music you know and love.

December 25, 10 a.m. – For those whose tradition is to celebrate Christmas morning at church, this is the Mass for you!

December 26 and 27 – due to Christmas falling on a Friday, there will be no 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 26. Masses resume on our normal schedule at 9 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 27.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1 - New Year's Mass, and a Holy Day of Obligation, will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Hopefully this is convenient for everyone who stayed up to ring in 2021 and breathe a huge sigh of relief that 2020 is over. This Mass honors Mary and her loving response to God's call.



# Advent

## A Season of *Waiting in Joyful Hope*

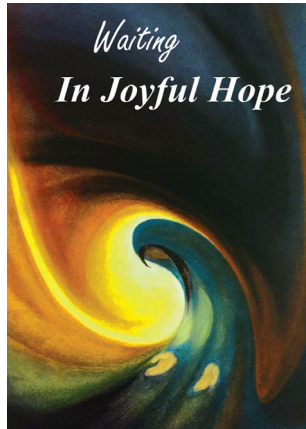
Advent is the season of preparation for the arrival of our Savior's birth on Christmas. A time of quieting our hearts in the joyful waiting of new beginnings. It is especially poignant this year, as we wait with hope and in faith for a new year in which pandemic concerns subside, our lives return to some sense of normalcy and peace return.

After thoughtful preparation and prayer, our Liturgy Committee has chosen the Advent theme of "*Waiting in Joyful Hope*" this year which echoes throughout the Advent readings. We are called to walk in the light of the Lord; to be strong and fear not, as God is with us, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace. Through Jesus' endless and ongoing mercy, the promised gift of healing for us all. We are a people of faith and hope, called during this season to prepare the way of the Lord called to make straight His path.

This gifted season is represented through our Advent Candle reflecting our theme. Moving through the four weeks of Advent, each week a candle is lit as a reminder and representation of this Advent journey. The first candle (purple) signifies the **hope** of Jesus' arrival, the second candle (purple) the deep **faith** of Mary and Joseph, the third week candle (pink) the joy experienced at Christ's birth, and the last purple candle the **peace** for all the world pronounced by the angels. The evergreens symbolize eternal life.

An opportunity for all to reflect on this graced time is our Advent Candlelight Prayer on the evenings of Monday, 11/30, 12/7 and 12/14 at 7:00PM. A time to enjoy the quiet candlelit space, prayer, reflection and beautiful music. A reminder of Mary's response to God through the angel Gabriel and her gift in this life-changing event that brings us to awe and gratitude for the ultimate gift of our faith. Slow down, join us in reverence and reflection during this season of hope.

Margie Benza  
Pastoral Associate



## Advent Evening Prayer

Advent offers us the peaceful quiet of the church wrapped in candlelight. Remembering the moments of struggle, clarity and hope of Mary and Joseph through scripture, beautiful music and quiet reflection allows us time away from our routines to prepare for the arrival of our Savior.

Join us on Monday evenings (11/30, 12/7 and 12/14) at 7:00 PM for this opportunity of Grace.

## Christmas Basket Program

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

Due to the uncertainty of COVID, we have re-created certain aspects of the program and expect 200 registrations due to the increased need.

Last year's sponsors have been contacted to offer repeat sponsorship of their sponsored family who 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 of December 5-6 & 12-13, please contact Margie Benza.

Interested in assisting with organizing gifts, wrapping and delivery of the baskets? Please contact Margie at 248-2427 x244 or Margie.Benza@dor.org. Thank you!!

## Sharing Tree

As with all things COVID, the needs of the agencies we serve have changed not only in their specific needs but in the process of service to others. This has prompted us to also be creative in how we can best serve those agencies in a timely manner while being vigilant in keeping protocol and guidelines at the parish.

Recently, we introduced, "Sharing Tree Weeks" offering specific needs of agencies that include Kentucky, the Christmas Basket Program, CSA, Jordan Health Center, Matthew's Closet and other requested needs.

With the limited number attending Mass and not knowing the future of the months ahead, this course of action offers us the ability for everyone to stop in at any time during the week or at Mass to continue this Transfiguration Christmas tradition. Thank you for your ongoing support of this vital program.



# Silver Linings

It is probably too soon, given that we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are still longing for the 'good old days' and mourning the toll this virus has taken. But as Catholics, we know God has been walking beside us throughout this time. We have the hope for a better tomorrow, the optimism to see that adversity sometimes brings out the best in us. There is no doubt that the pandemic has been a local, national and international crisis. But there can be a glimmer of hope, a silver lining in every cloud. So let's take a look at the silver linings we have found in the storm cloud of Covid-19.

## Creativity and Ingenuity

**Livestream** – we managed to set up a livestream and share with St. Catherine so that neither church had a Sunday without a Mass. Both churches have now improved their technology so it can be used going forward for as long as needed and wanted. Many people stepped up to volunteer to assist with the technology, both in projecting readings during Mass and in helping with the livestream. This has enabled our 'snow birds', people who have moved away, and complete strangers from other states to attend weekly Mass with us. We even received a donation from a person in the Carolinas who found us on YouTube, felt connected to our Mass, and is attending virtually now.

**Virtual formation** - teachers all over the world scrambled to figure out a way to keep educating even if the school building was closed, and our formation team of Vicky, Anne and Meg were no exception. They explored new technology and ways of keeping our youth, teens and adults connected and engaged during a time when many felt isolated. During lockdown in April, over 30 Transfiguration Youth Ministry young adult alumni gathered for a reunion via Zoom. They held a virtual Destiny reunion – and many people attended from all over. Youth Ministry meetings were held outside all summer, with everyone social distanced. As the Fall approached, the team found creative

ways to have in-person, socially distanced meetings using the bigger spaces in our campus. Stay tuned – even more creative ideas are on the way!

**Choir** - no team has demonstrated more ingenuity than the choir! The music ministers of Transfiguration and St. Catherine have combined forces to choose music, record the music and mix the music for our services. It sounds beautiful, and that is the result of hours and hours of hard work by everyone involved. And as the recordings are all done at home, we have people that were not able to attend Mass participating in the choir now!

## Care for God's Creation

**Cleaner Air** – One of our seven Catholic social teachings is Care for God's creation. As the world slowed down to slow down the spread of the disease, amazing things happened. Global air pollution emissions were reduced significantly, in some areas by more than 30%. The Himalayan mountains were visible from the Punjab region in India – the first time in 30 years they could be seen from 100 miles away. Urban areas in Asia, Europe and the US saw marked improvement in air quality. At Transfiguration, our Gift Garden continued, and we have begun planting trees on an unused portion of our property. Perhaps we will be encouraged to continue to be kind to

the environment as we now see the impact of our actions.

## Prioritization of the Really Important

**Mass** – It was painful to say Mass to an empty church, and we realize how precious the freedom to worship in person is. We no longer take the basics like Church on Sunday for granted, and the pandemic helped us realize this.

**Continuation of our outreach programs** – we realized quickly that as many of our outreach programs as possible needed to continue, as they served an ever-growing need in our community. So many of you have found the time and resources to shop for others (the food barrels are continually replenished). We are working on safe ways to continue the Thanksgiving Turkey drive and Christmas Basket program. Many of you have asked us to continue in these programs so you can help those in need as that is so important to you – THANK YOU.

**More quality time with family** – it goes without saying that most of us spent much more quality time at home, and even if our kids didn't always appreciate it, our dogs certainly did! We have discovered ways of working remotely, and perhaps those will continue even post-pandemic, saving commute time and gas while allowing more family time.



# United Way Volunteer Connection

Last March and April, at the beginning of the pandemic but before the weather turned nicer, several of our parishioners were lamenting the isolation that they were enduring to stay healthy. The common thread was that they missed terribly having contact with others and the volunteer activities they performed as a service to our church and community. Gone were the opportunities to serve at funeral receptions, help at Mass, attend Bible Study and to serve in our many outreach activities.

The nice summer and autumn weather allowed us to enjoy the company of others and Mother Nature outdoors. But winter is knocking on the door, and isolation could start to set in again.

The needs in our community are greater than ever as we fight the pandemic. The United Way has been working on helping our local non-profits (including the Catholic Family Center and the House of Mercy) procure emergency funding via the newly established Community Crisis Fund. But the agencies need more than funds, they need help.

The United Way took it one step further, setting up a website that helps match volunteers to the volunteer opportunities at non-profit agencies supported by the United Way. You can access the United Way website to browse opportunities to serve in our community. The website lets you filter by organization – or most importantly – you can filter for virtual volunteer opportunities. Examples of virtual volunteer opportunities include phone calls to homebound seniors, fostering shelter dogs, developing communication materials and making face masks.

If you are interested, please go to [www.UWRochester.org/VolunteerUnited](http://www.UWRochester.org/VolunteerUnited) and search for a volunteer opportunity that appeals to you!

*Thank You to all who have donated their time and treasure this Fall!*



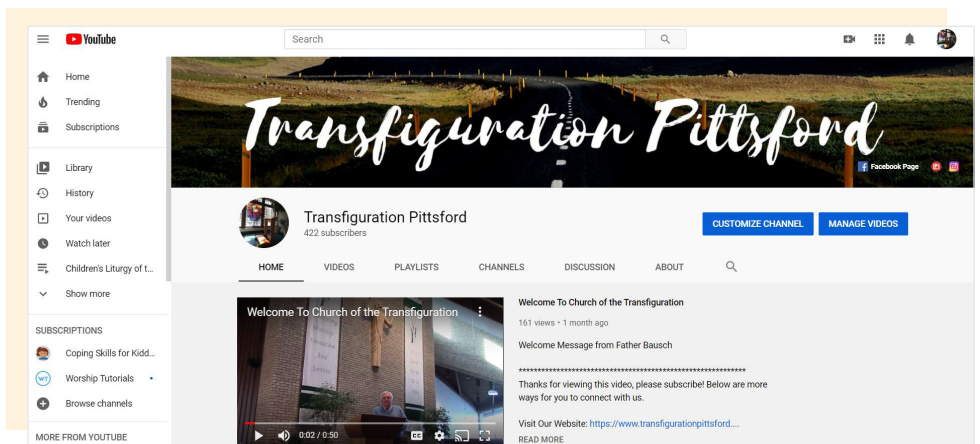
## Transfiguration on YouTube

Hundreds of you watch our Mass via YouTube – either live or by viewing the recording. In order to improve the quality and reliability of the broadcast, we recently upgraded the streaming equipment – a huge THANK YOU to Applied Audio's Andy Yau and Lou Calarese (parishioner) for their support.



You can access our YouTube channel via our website (Streaming Services

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page) or by going directly to YouTube at: <https://youtube.com/c/TransfigurationPittsford> - or if you don't want to type all of that in, go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), enter Transfiguration Pittsford in the search bar, and we should appear at the top of the search page). Take a second to bookmark us on your browser, and we would really appreciate you subscribing to the channel, as the more subscribers we have, the more free services Google provides to us!

There is so much more than our Mass on the channel! Our Formation department is always adding new content for parishioners of all ages. We hope you take advantage of this virtual opportunity!



# FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

## Fall 2020 Newsletter

The mission of our formation programs has never been more important: to walk with parishioners of all ages while on your own road to Emmaus, discovering who Christ is. While the past year has brought challenges, we have looked at 2020 as a huge opportunity to find new ways to be Church together. We have only just begun to see the fruits of our creative uses of new technology and invite you to explore how to grow your faith this year, in person or online.

### 1) New Online Hub:

#### *Prayer Playlists Library for All Ages*

We have been putting a focus on how to engage all those connected to Transfiguration, near and far. This fall we launched our monthly Prayer Playlists pages on our website, with unique playlists created for families with young children, teens, and adults. Each month you will find videos, scripture, podcasts, music, and other suggestions to pray with throughout the month. A tap on your tablet or phone is an easy way to add daily prayer to your life as we approach the season of Advent,

### 2) Video! Video! Video!

Over the summer, we have greatly increased our capacity for the development of video content. It is not just because we like seeing ourselves on screen: this year, utilizing video has become very important. While we will have some in-person gatherings, we want faith to be accessible to all. We invite you to join our 400 plus YouTube subscribers, so that you will know when we release new content. It's more than just the Sunday Mass livestream! For example, in October, we launched our Virtual Children's Liturgy. Weekly videos will help your children to connect with the Gospel reading in an age appropriate but engaging format. You can also find a video series on Prayer Styles, Bible Story Time for kids, and more on our Transfiguration Pittsford YouTube channel.

### 3) Bring Church to Where People Are: Faith Treasure Boxes

Do you want to help your child fall in love with our faith, but you're not sure how you can handle one more link to click on or one more thing to print out? Or, is there a part of the Catholic faith that your child keeps asking about or is showing interest in? Great news! Our "Faith Treasure Boxes" are an all-in-one, ready to use adventure for your family to explore an aspect of our faith together. This fall we started by releasing our first 5 options. Each box will include things to read, a video or audio story, craft projects, and other great things to do as a family as you learn about the Catholic faith! You can find the order form on the Children's Formation page on our website.

### 4) Being Community in A New Way: Youth Ministry Small Groups

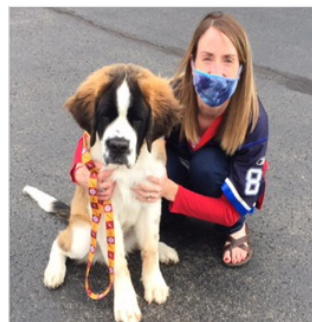
A major goal has been to figure out how to be community this fall. Making sure our teens feel connected and cared for is a top priority. It took months, lots of prayer, and many sticky notes, but



in September we kicked off our revamped youth ministry and Confirmation program. We have 17 small groups of teens with our upper classman and adults acting as leaders in each. Throughout the year, these small groups will provide opportunities for formation and support as teens grow and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. They meet in person monthly and stay in touch via small group text chats. Our special focus this fall is Living With Faith in an Anxious World.

*In this new 2020 reality, we hope you enjoy all of our new strategies for lifelong faith formation!*

## All Creatures Great and Small came to the Blessing of the Pets



# Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) is underway! This annual drive raises funds for the Diocese of Rochester (DOR), which uses the funds in turn to provide services to parishes and Catholic organizations. Transfiguration benefits from the Diocesan services, especially the technology support we receive (email, help desk questions, central licensing for software, etc.). Our goal this year is the same as last year, \$203,413 – and we hope we can raise it and not have to dip into savings to achieve the goal. You can make your pledge on line, by visiting [dor.org](http://dor.org).



Each year the CMA puts out a video to start the campaign. It is available on the DOR website (and was aired at Mass in October). This year the video was a special treat for Transfiguration, as it featured one of our own parishioner families, the Harold's. A call went out asking for families who might want to participate in the video. The Harold family was suggested, and when the kids heard that they could be movie stars, the deal was sealed!

One afternoon in August, parents Rob and Megan along with Addison, Brooke and Gavin made the trek into the Cathedral. The kids were thrilled to get their hair and makeup done in true movie

star fashion. According to Megan, "We were interviewed separately ... and asked questions in regards to this year's CMA theme of Christ our Light, particularly as it pertains to a very trying, uncertain time. My responses focused on seeing the light of Christ in others who have been placed in our lives, particularly during times of struggle and isolation, the reminder that God is ever present, and that we can be His light for others. Rob discussed the continuation of programs and the phenomenal efforts of staff who didn't skip a beat in designing new and creative opportunities. The kids were happy to talk as long as their audience would allow them to go on".

While only Megan's, Rob's and Addison's comments made it into the final version, pictures of the cross, illustrated in chalk, that the family drew on Transfiguration's driveway, did make it into the video. Thank you, Harold Family, for being the light of Christ to our parish!

## Finance Corner

Long Term Planning Update from the Finance Sub-Team. By Diane Carroll-Yacoby, Sub-Team Leader & Finance Council member

With the help of several parishioners and Transfiguration Staff members, we have accomplished several of our Long-Term Planning goals:

- Activated an "On-Line" Donation option on the parish website. The timing of this was extra important as COVID-19 unexpectedly hit in early 2020 – it is working well, and many parishioners use it regularly.
- We have changed the way our weekly finances are communicated in the bulletin – to a simpler format that includes "Actual," "Budgeted," and "Variance"
- We promoted, planned, and held an Estate Planning Seminar in late 2019, led by an Estate Attorney. Several parishioners attended this informative event.
- We have added planned savings to our annual budgets the past two years – and achieved the savings we planned for the first year.
- We have published quarterly "Finance Corner" articles in our Parish Newsletter – and in a few bulletins in between newsletters. This is in an effort to foster open communication about our finances and to share more information with parishioners.
- Topics have ranged from the Financial Facts of the Chapter 11 filing by the Diocese, Details on Qualified Charitable Distributions, our parish's history on meeting the CMA goals, and most recently, a report on our Perpetual Charity Fund.

All these activities have the goal in mind – Assuring our parish stays financially viable well into the future... This quarter, we're happy to report that in recent months the parish has received two Estate gifts in. These generous gifts came from parishioners who wanted to help our unique parish live on for many years... it feels good to be trusted to put these gifts to good use, carrying out or parish mission. These gifts have allowed us to shore up our facilities fund for future maintenance needs and put our savings at a level of good standing with the auditors. If you would like more information on how to set up an estate gift of your own for Transfiguration, please see any Finance Council member or Father Mike.

*As always, THANK YOU for your continued generous support of OUR parish!!*



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## Hopes for 2021

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*Our advent theme is Waiting in Joyful Hope – so we the Staff at Transfiguration thought we would share with you our joyful hopes for 2021! We wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

My hope for the 2021 is we are able to come out of isolation and celebrate as a community of faith!  
—Fr. Mike Bausch

My hope for 2021 is God's love revealed through others during this pandemic, for healed relationships and unity within our country and our world. Peaceful blessings throughout this new year. —Margie Benza

That 2021 can be a year where everyone can go forward in hope and not backwards from fear and division." —Deacon Eric Bessette

My wish is for all people to find peace within themselves and then share that peaceful feeling. —Rose Volker

As this very unique 2020 comes to an end, we begin to look ahead to 2021 with hope and anticipation. May you and your loved ones be blessed with good health and much happiness in the coming year. God bless.  
—Deacon Pat DiLaura

My hope for 2021- Health, Happiness, and Hugs! —Maureen O'Connor

My prayer for 2021 is that we remember that we belong to each other and to God, and that we enter the new year with steadfastness and hope. —Anne Gallagher

My hope for 2021 is to see smiling faces again and give real hugs instead of virtual ones. —Victoria Wejko

My hope for 2021 is that with God's help we can come together and heal from both the pandemic and the divisions that have plagued us in 2020. I also hope to travel to see family members I haven't seen since March 2020. —Nancy Wahl

My hope for 2021 is that we remember... the gift of practicing our faith together, the gift of family and friends and strangers naturally caring for one another with smiles that can be seen and hugs that can be felt, and the realization that we are all made by God and "God looked at all God had made and found that it is very good (Genesis 1:31)." Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.  
In Peace —Meg Kastner

My hope is for peace and wellness.  
—Chris Washington

With a new year comes new strengths and new thoughts. New dreams and new opportunities. Great expectations. HOPE!

May we continue to show up to mass with masks in place, to praise our God so that we can then lock elbows as we go forth in our commitments to serve our One True God,

the poor and one another. May the peace and love of Christ engulf and hold us all as we keep our eyes on the cross. Warm hugs and much love to you all in 2021 —Laura Cutter