

## The Hands of Christ

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## Quarterly Thoughts From The Corner Office: Celebrating 35 Years!

Dear Friends,

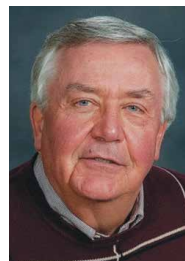
"Lord, how good it is for us to be here." These are the words that are the common thread of The Church of the Transfiguration's rich history.

In 1983, our founding pastor, Fr. Jerry Appelby, approached his pastorate of this new venture with excitement. Many names were suggested for this new parish, but Transfiguration was chosen to symbolize renewal and rebirth.

At the start, we were a new parish community with no place to worship. Eventually an old barn was located—yes, a barn was our first church home. The barn was a place to meet, but the community was built on our relationship with the risen Christ and each other, guided by the influence of Vatican II. Hospitality was a priority then and now. We could share our joys and sufferings; a sense of belonging began to be nurtured. The barn was prepared by parishioners who cleaned and scrubbed. Excitement was building in preparation for the first Mass, celebrated on August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration—a joyous occasion.

As colder weather approached, Mass was moved to the old Jo-Mor Theatre and Christ Clarion Church. On their first Christmas, parishioners had no place to go, so they returned to the barn. The faithful were joined by a number of sheep as they celebrated in 10-degree weather, made chillier by holes in the barn walls.

After that, it was time to build a permanent church. With a loan from the Diocese, the current campus was purchased and the first church



for Transfiguration was erected (our current Education Center). Christmas 1984 was the first Mass celebrated on the present campus, and the building was dedicated on May 4, 1985.

The parish continued to grow, adding a parish office in 1991. The present church building was dedicated on December 19, 1992, and the Parish Life center in 1999.

The centerpiece of our worship space, and a daily reminder of who we are as a people of God, is the 7-foot "Transfigured Christ," which is a reminder that we live "in the presence of God" in all that we do as Christians. The stained glass windows that shine with a burst of light are a reminder that, like Christ, we, too, should be looking to the Father.

Our most precious gem is the faith of the people of Transfiguration. This gem is realized through teaching our faith, by example, and providing opportunities to live our baptismal call by going out into the world on a local, national and global level.

As we move forward, may we live with the acceptance of secular disagreement but never compromise the Eucharist with politics; present who we are deeply and richly within the Word and Eucharist; and "get out of the way" in order for Jesus to be shown in all we do.

This is our vision and hope. "Lord, how good it is for us to be here."

In peace and courage,

*Fr. Mike Bausch*

Rev. Michael J. Bausch  
Pastor

# Upcoming Events at Transfiguration

This is just a small sample of upcoming events; the full schedule of events is in the bulletin and on our website. As dates get closer, please check the bulletin or website events calendar for any last-minute changes.

## JUNE

**June 2-3** – Spring/Summer Clothing Drive – all Masses

**June 10** – 11 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass

**June 27** – Sunset Prayers and S'Mores

## JULY

**July 9-13** – Vacation Bible School

**July 25** – Sunset Prayers and S'Mores

## AUGUST

**August 4** – Outdoor Family Movie Night

**August 5** – 10:30 a.m. 35th Anniversary Celebration Mass with Bishop Matano

**August 5** – Chicken Barbeque and Anniversary Celebration (following Mass)

**August 22** – Sunset Prayers and S'Mores

## OCTOBER

**October 20** – OKTOBERFEST Celebration

## Sunset Prayer & S'mores

This summer we look forward to the return of our Wednesday evening Sunset Prayer & S'mores. The program involves a quiet evening of gentle sunset prayer and song in front of a flickering fire.

Participants enjoy the gift of multigenerational fellowship and a favorite s'mores

treat. We hope to see you on 6/27, 7/25 and 8/22 for this event. See the bulletin as each date draws closer for start times. Please contact Margie Benza at 248-2427, x244, or [margie.benza@dor.org](mailto:margie.benza@dor.org). Consider joining us for this summer gift of prayer.



## LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE

Our parish's long-term plan is nearing completion. To recap—

Last October, a parish-wide online assessment was initiated, and close to 380 of us provided feedback. The second phase was a series of input sessions, held in January and February, which were attended by around 150 parishioners. These activities covered a wide demographic swath of our parish and provided a great wealth of insight.

On Saturday, April 7, 30 parishioners met with a member of LPI, the consulting firm assisting us in this process, to work on our long-term plan. We had representatives that included staff, parish council members and parishioners from teens through our founding members. The results of the October online assessment and the January-February input were reviewed. Five teams were formed to look at distinct aspects of that feedback, do a bit of benchmarking and discernment on the input, and formulate sub-team plans

to be consolidated and presented to the parish sometime before the end of June.

The first deliverables were presented at a Parish Council meeting on April 30. With input from the Parish Council, the sub-teams have been developing their plans, which include specific action items, responsible individuals and due dates. All of the sub-team input will be combined into a parish-wide plan.

The five sub-teams are:

- Pastoral ministry, being led by Kim Fluet
- Parish culture, being led by Ron and Martha Jodoin
- Finance, being led by Diane Carroll-Yacoby
- Buildings and grounds, being led by Rich Gangemi
- Communications, being led by John Hennessy

Thank you to all who have provided input, and especially to those leading and working on the sub-teams. The completed plan will be presented back to the parish by Fr. Mike in an upcoming meeting.

## FROM JUSTFAITH TO FAITH IN ACTION

Many Catholics are unaware that Catholic social teaching is integral to our faith, defining the values, principles and goals that underpin our church's commitment to make the world a better place for everyone.

Grounded in scripture, Jesus and our faith, the JustFaith program, created by the nonprofit group JustFaith Ministries, is a powerful vehicle for exploring current societal realities. This transformational journey invites participants to grow in their commitment to the vulnerable among us and for the planet that is our common home. Through a rich, intensive small-group process, participants learn together, pray, reflect, dialogue, and encounter people on the margins of society.

In 2005, 19 people completed the first JustFaith program offered at Transfiguration. Many of the "graduates" put their energized faith into action in Transfiguration ministries and societal outreach. Graduates also had a strong desire to create a coordinating framework for our parish's ministries, and to enhance understanding of our church's social mission and teaching. Thus was born the Peace and Justice Coordinating Committee (PJCC) under the leadership of Bob Fien and Karen Nowlan.

PJCC's core mission is to serve people of God

by providing Transfiguration parishioners, our pastoral staff, and our pastor with a forum for discussion, evaluation and coordination of social ministries sponsored by the parish. The committee's focus is concern for life, human dignity, care for our planet, justice, peace, and the common good. These concerns may be addressed through charitable action, advocacy and working to change unjust or dysfunctional societal structures.

PJCC activities include: general oversight and assessment of existing ministries; providing advice, assistance and resources to existing ministries; evaluating proposals for new sponsored ministries; assessment of emerging peace and justice issues; education on relevant issues and activities in our communities; partnering with other parishes or community organizations on select issues or initiatives; communication; initiatives such as Diocesan Public Policy and JustFaith education; and counsel to our pastor.

Current PJCC members include: John Boroski (chair), Margie Benza (parish staff liaison), Judy Herlihy (social ministry coordinator), Gerry Gacioch, Joy Morris, Trish Goodman, Janice Powalski, Eric Bessette and Grace Winfree (youth representative). In addition, hundreds of wonderful parishioners participate in Transfiguration's ministries and outreach!



## 35th Anniversary Celebrations

Transfiguration was founded 35 years ago, on August 6, 1983—on the Feast of the Transfiguration. We have come a long way since the “start-up” Mass held in a barn on the corner of Stone Road and Clover Street!

This year, on the Feast of the Transfiguration weekend of August 4-5, we hope you can join us in celebrating the parish's 35th Anniversary with three special events. First, on Saturday, August 4, we will have a Family Outdoor Movie Night, complete with popcorn and, we hope, starry skies.

Next, on Sunday morning, August 5 at 10:30AM, Bishop Matano will be presiding over our Anniversary Mass. This will be the only Sunday morning Mass that weekend.

Following Mass is the celebration continues with a chicken barbecue, talent show and, of course, plenty of birthday cake.

Please save the dates, and plan on joining in on the fun! Additional details will be available in the bulletin, on the Transfiguration website and by weekly e-mails as the dates grow closer.



**Barn at Clover**

## HANDS OF CHRIST BUILDING RESTORATION UPDATE

Our work to repair and restore our campus continues, thanks to your generous stewardship from the Hands of Christ building restoration initiative. The good news – our grading and draining work appears to have been effective in diverting water from our church duct work. We have water in our retaining pond for the first time in recent memory, and after a few minor repairs, we can seal the HVAC ducts below the church. Landscaping and garden path repairs are underway as well.

The roof replacement is scheduled for late May through June, including increasing the capacity of our gutters and downspouts. Our parking lot entrance will be repaired, and the entire parking lot resealed later this summer.

Thank you for continuing to make your pledge payments!



## SPRING AT TRANSFIGURATION



**Search 2018**



**Irish Fish Fry Fest**



**RCIA at Easter Vigil**



**Teens at Worship Night in America**



**Spaghetti Supper**



**Women's Booneville Kentucky Mission**



**Living Passion**



**Irish Fish Fry Fest**



**Living Passion**



**Spaghetti Supper**



Our Parish was formed in early 1983, but had no place of worship. The first Mass was held August 6, 1983 in the Barn at Stone and Clover at Stone and Clover



First Mass 8-6-83 Outside

December 24, 1983, our first Christmas Eve Mass was held in the freezing cold barn. The barn-yard animals made it feel like the very first Christmas.



First Mass 8-6-83 Inside



Christmas Mass 1983

## PHOTO HISTORY



## OF TRANSFIGURATION



Jo Mor Theatre



Mass at Jo Mor

Jo Mor and Christ Clarion housed our Masses during the cold months, when the Barn was unusable. We remain grateful for their hospitality.



Worship at Christ Clarion





Preparing for the first church on West Bloomfield Road.



Mass in the former Church - now the Education Center.



Surveying for the New Church

On May 4, 1985, the cornfield at 50 West Bloomfield Road became our first Church building (now the Education Center). Yes, we sat on folding chairs!

Parish Offices were originally located in the Rectory basement on Van Voorhis Road. A new Parish Office was completed on West Bloomfield in May, 1992



New Church being built next to Parish Office

## PHOTO HISTORY

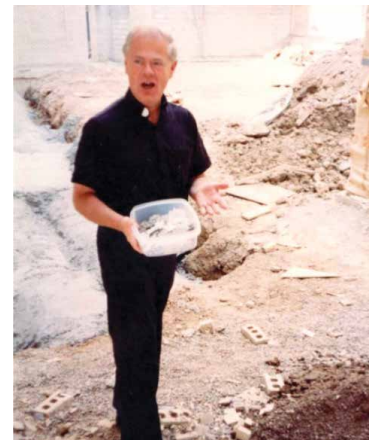


## OF TRANSFIGURATION



Building the altar wall, also known as the Children's Wall.

As the Parish grew, the need for a bigger church was obvious. Our current church was dedicated in December, 1992. Each child had a chance to write their name in chalk on a brick, now part of the wall behind the altar (see left photo). Each family is a piece of the church, and Fr. Jerry helped bury, under the church entrance, puzzle pieces with family names on them. Our construction completed in 1999 with the Parish Life Center.



Fr. Jerry with the puzzle pieces, by the church entrance.



Constructing the Parish Life Center



Opening the Parish Life Center



# Parishioner Spotlight: The Stotz Family

Our Parishioner spotlight this quarter is on the Stotz family: Andy, Michelle and their son, Jack. There has been a Stotz attending Transfiguration since our inception in 1983, as Andy's parents, Frank and Mary Lou, were founding members. Andy helped clean out the barn for our initial services. Andy remembers Fr. Jerry and Bishop Clark sitting at the kitchen table with his parents, poring over church blueprints! You can see the woodworking talents of the Stotz family throughout Transfiguration. Grandfather Otto built the bookcases that hold our hymnals and cousins in Germany carved the beautiful statue of Mary in the chapel.

Michelle and Andy met in 2000 through a young Catholic adults group called Odyssey. Both had decided to attend the Sterling Renaissance Fair with Odyssey. They ran into each other at that event, and their relationship took off from there.

Andy brought Michelle to Transfiguration in the fall of 2000, and she was immediately put to work (Frank and Mary Lou were coordinating that day, and they drafted Andy and Michelle as Greeters). Their love for each other and Transfiguration continued to grow. They became engaged in 2002 and wed in May 2003.

Andy and Michelle have served Transfiguration in a variety of ways—as Greeters, Ministers of Communion, Catechists for Children's Formation, members of the Welcome Bread Ministry and as part of Vacation Bible School. All of their service has been rewarding, but none quite so much as their work with the children of our parish. In particular, Michelle has enjoyed watching the little ones she first taught in the early 2000s progress from passing the collection baskets in light-up sneakers all the way through high school graduation.

Jack Stotz inherited the service mindset of his grandparents and parents. As a toddler and preschooler, Jack helped snuff the candles after Mass and pass the collection baskets. He became a Greeter, appointing himself to the position regardless of who was actually scheduled that day. Jack has been a regular at Vacation Bible School, and after he received First Communion last year, he signed up to serve as an Acolyte. His boundless energy and enthusiasm are always appreciated!

Transfiguration has been a place of great joy for the Stotz family, including the celebrations of marriage, baptism and First Communion. It also has been a place of sorrow and healing, with the funerals of Mary Lou and Frank and the anointing of family members during illness.

"I have yearly recurring family memories," says Michelle, "working with my son to sort at clothing drive, making a booth with him for Trunk or Treat, family gingerbread houses, yearly spaghetti dinners, our Thanksgiving tradition of Andy turkey-baking for the Turkey Drive, school supply shopping, delivering Christmas presents with Andy and his parents, Midnight Mass with our extended family visiting. We have met so many wonderful people and made so many lasting friendships.

"Transfiguration quickly became a second home. It is safe place where you are always welcome, and always needed."



**Stotz Family**

## FIRST COMMUNION

**Congratulations to our young brothers and sisters who received First Eucharist:**

Charlotte Andolina • Violet Anselm • Reese Azurin  
Molly Bennett • Keena Nicole Camille • Grayson Cristofaro  
Ryan Cristofaro • Carter Cypher • Ryan Datovech  
Delia Deehan • Julia Dellis • Elizabeth Donnelly • Aiden Fields  
Hazel Hutchins • Bailey Iacobucci • Michael Insalaco  
Sam Liberatos • Kingston Marriott • Ian Nelson  
David Noronha • Matteo Smith • Owen Rice  
Charley Sanderson • Gabrielle Schertzer • Simon Tipple





## Formation Update

Over the past year at Transfiguration we've been exploring new ways of being church through Life Long Faith Formation, rooted in ancient tradition and church documents on the role of the family. Our program for children and their families, called Bridges of Faith (BOF), reinforces the practices that help us stay Catholic through:

- Study of our faith at an age appropriate level
- Regular supportive, social and formative gatherings with other believers
- Sharing our faith and values in word and deed with others around us at school, work and home

At home, parents explore print materials and the online reinforcement tools we provide; they then come together with other families for a monthly gathering at the church. While at first it might seem overwhelming, families have again and again commented on how "user friendly" the program is and how the flexible schedule allows them to fit in all school and extracurricular activities. One parent commented on "how nice it is just to have the time to have these types of discussions with my child."

This year we were also excited to welcome Christ Life to our offerings for adult formation. We ran our first seven-week session called Discovering Christ this winter and the second part, Following Christ, this spring. One of the 95 participants described her experience of Discovering Christ:

"I am so happy to have met and connected with other members of the parish. I feel like this program gave me a venue to discuss my spiritual struggle. I've felt more connected with Christ, and I've started praying. For me, it feels like great progress!"

A new session of Discovering Christ will be starting in late September. Please consider joining us! Each session includes dinner, prayer time, a video teaching, and discussion in small groups. Participants from our first session loved the food we shared and the chance to form small Christian communities with other parishioners.

Be on the lookout for our parish Life Long Faith Formation booklet, which will be mailed in August. It will have all the offerings for the 2018-2019 year – including children/family programs, youth ministry, and adult formation opportunities.

## CONFIRMATION

### Congratulations to our sisters and brothers who received the sacrament of Confirmation:

Bella Albano • Andrew Beel • Nicholas Benson  
Elliot Bernacki • Carter Black • Abigail Bonino  
Hannah Brayer • Katharine Briggs  
Claudia Burke • Jonas Campagna • Noah Caputo  
Emma Casey • Maggie Casey • Nate Catlin  
Courtney Cincebox • Gabriella Commisso  
Remy Commisso • Julia Conner • Will Connors  
Patrick Cowie • Kathryn Cox • Victor Cypher  
Sarita Das • Mary Dugan • Matthew Fabrizio  
Andrew Fullone • Jack Gutch • Hannah Haims  
Marie Head • Daryl Anne Hemmerich  
Jack Kaempffe • Aidan Kelly • Benjamin Loria  
Magdalen Manzella • Molly McDermott  
Brady Miller • Caroline Miller • Emily Miller  
Ryan Miller • Ryan Mogauero • Isabella Monaco  
Neil Mortimer • Gabrielle Naassana  
Olivia Norton • Maeve O'Donovan  
Delaina Palmatier • Rina Pietropaoli  
Alexander Pogharian • Isabella Pound  
Jack Ramirez • Jacinta Roes  
Christian Schultz • Allison Scofield de la Colina  
Andrew Shea • Cecilia Sperandio  
Ellery Stamp • Erin Szuromi • Quentin Tan  
Raymond Tan III • Ashely Trott  
Gracianna Wahl • Sydney Walters  
Alexander Weinbach • Meghan Weiner  
Rachel Zielinski • Conor Zuniga



# Get Ready to Fly Among Angels This July!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a fun and faith-centered program for children who are entering pre-k through grade 8. Children enjoy fellowship through songs and arts and crafts; our older campers look forward to putting on plays as their weeklong project.

This year's program, being held July 9-13, reminds our campers that God is their pilot and our destination is heaven! Each day the children will gather with their fellow co-pilots and go off on a flight plan for the day consisting of Bible stories, songs, crafts, games, snacks and this year, back by popular demand—DAILY MAIL!

The program has been developed by Catholics, for Catholics. What makes VBS so different is that it features daily Bible stories with themed lessons, with information about St. Catherine as companion material, fully integrated throughout the entire program. While learning scripture, students are also developing an understanding of Catholic tradition. By combining scripture and tradition, this program highlights many aspects of Catholic faith. Campers are encouraged to follow the examples of the saints in their own lives, and rely on the assistance of angels as well.

We work hard to make sure the information and activities are age-appropriate, organized, and easy to understand. We are always striving to make sure VBS will help children grow in their Catholic faith, develop a relationship with Christ and have a lot of fun in the process. More information and registration materials can be found on the parish website. Don't forget, takeoff is coming up quickly, so book your young co-pilot's "seat" soon!

