

# WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

## The Hands of Christ

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Upcoming Events,  
Lenten, Holy Week, and  
Easter Schedule

**PAGE 2**

Formation Updates

**PAGE 3**

Christmas at  
Transfiguration

**PAGE 4**

Help Wanted,  
Building for the Future

**PAGE 5**

Finance Corner,  
Parishioner Spotlight

**PAGE 6**

Sandi Lazzaro, Fr. Mike,  
Service

**PAGE 7**

Irish Fish Fry Fest

**PAGE 8**

### Quarterly Thoughts From The Corner Office!

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this we may 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. Here are some thoughts about forgiveness and other basics of Lent.



Forgiveness, 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 hurt may be 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 is 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.

We begin Lent with ashes on our foreheads, which serve as a visual reminder that we should abstain from 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 are 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 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. 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 that we may know God and know ourselves better.

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

# Upcoming Events at Transfiguration

We have a wealth of formation, service and social activities coming this spring. Please take a quick look at the offerings below and see what might be of interest to you and your loved ones. A 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.

## MARCH

### March 1-3

Search Weekend (high school teen program)

### March 4

Women in the Spirit

### March 6

Ash Wednesday, and Pot Luck Supper to discuss Matthew Kelly's "The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity"

### Sundays, March 10-31

10:15 a.m. – Dr. Joe Kelly on The Unique Features of the Gospel of Luke

### March 15

Irish Fish Fry Fest, PLC gym

### March 18

Men in the Spirit

### March 24

Sandi Lazzaro's Retirement Reception, 10 – 11:30 a.m. – PLC

## APRIL

### April 6

Spaghetti Supper

### April 8

Women in the Spirit

### April 15

Men in the Spirit

### April 27- May 4

Women's Kentucky Retreat

### April 27

4:30 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving & dinner celebration for Fr. Mike's 40th Anniversary of Ordination

### April 28

Fr Mike's 40th Anniversary of Ordination Reception – 10-11:30 a.m. – PLC Gym

## MAY

### May 4, 5

First Communion Celebrations, all Masses

### May 6

Women in the Spirit

### May 20

Men in the Spirit

## JUNE

### June 9

11:00 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass

### June 17

Men in the Spirit

### June 26

Sunset Evening Prayer – 8:30 p.m.

# LENTEN, HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### March 6

6:45 a.m. – Mass  
12:10 p.m. – Ash and Word Service  
5 p.m. – Mass

## DIOCESAN DAY OF PENANCE AND MERCY

### March 13

2-4 p.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Fr. Mike will be available for the Sacrament of Penance

## LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES

### Mondays March 11, 18 and 25, April 8 at 7 p.m.

(No service on April 1 due to the Tri-Parish Retreat)

## LIVING PASSION

### April 8

Monday, April 8, 5 -7 p.m., before the Lenten Prayer Service, Education Center

## LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

### April 15

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m. – Penance Service followed by the Sacrament of Penance

## TRI-PARISH RETREAT

### Monday-Wednesday, April 1-3 –

9 a.m. Mass at Transfiguration  
**Monday, April 1** – 7 p.m. at St. Louis

**Tuesday, April 2** – 7 p.m. at St. Catherine

**Wednesday, April 3** – 7 p.m. at Transfiguration

## HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday, April 14**, all Masses (4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday)

**Holy Thursday, April 18** – Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 19** – Good Friday Service – 2:30 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 19** – Simple Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m.

## EASTER VIGIL

**Saturday, April 20 – 8 p.m.**

## EASTER SUNDAY

### Sunday, April 21

Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

# 2019 Lenten Theme – Make Visible God's Works

Our recent scriptures reminds us of Jesus's wondrous works during his brief time on earth. But in death, Jesus did not abandon humanity, but works through all of us for the greater good and glory of God. By our baptism we are called to leadership and service through our care for one another in relationship with the Trinity. To carry on the mission of the Church by utilizing our God-given talents based on the call to love.

After thoughtful consideration, our Liturgy Committee has offered our Lenten theme "Make Visible God's Works". We are the Hands of Christ, called to mission, offering hope and love to the world. This six weeks of Lent calls us not only to a time of prayer and reflection but to take the next step into action. Quiet, purposeful and intentional works visible to our Creator from the smallest of gestures of kindness and forgiveness to stepping out of our comfort zones in caring for the poor and marginalized. Who might it be that you can reach out to and bless in these weeks of Lent?

## Global Solidarity

Global Solidarity partners with Food for the Poor to help our neighbors in Central America. Our current project is to build safe homes and upgrade a bakery in Macuelizo, Honduras. To get things started, and in preparation for a visit to Macuelizo in February, a bread sale was held in January, raising close to \$2000. Also, several parishioners have made lovely dresses, each complete with a matching doll, to bring with them on the visit. Please keep our neighbors in Macuelizo in your prayers, and thank you for your generous support to date of this project.



Molly Brennan with dresses made for Honduras



# FORMATION UPDATE



Teen Christmas Party

## Life Long Faith Formation— It Takes a Village!

Every time we baptize a baby at a weekend liturgy, we, the gathered community, promise to help raise this child in the family of faith. We know that parents are the first and best teachers and role models of the faith for their children. But the gifts and support of the whole community are essential in the Christian formation of our young people.

Children need caring adults in the community to know their names and treat them like important members of the community (with real, important jobs such as helping take up the collection at Mass). Teens also have a developmental need to form meaningful relationships with adults in the community who can model mature discipleship and invite them into friendship with Jesus, giving them a sense of ownership within the Church and its ministries. Even adults may appreciate an invitation from a friend to attend Sunday Mass or other adult formation opportunities such as our Ash Wednesday community meal and book discussion.

There are so many ways to be a part of our parish's ministry of faith formation for all. We're welcoming new volunteers in many roles, including:

- **Adult leaders for middle school youth group.** Commitment is usually one Sunday morning meeting a month (10:15-11:15 a.m.). Responsibilities include leading planned small-group activities, participating in group discussions, and just being present for the 6th-8th graders.
- **Adult leaders for senior youth group** Commitment is usually one Tuesday evening meeting a month (7-8:30 p.m.). Responsibilities include participating in group discussions and just being present for the 9th-12th graders.
- **Confirmation small-group leaders** We're looking for adult leaders to make a two-year commitment to walking with a specific small group of Confirmation candidates throughout their preparation process. Sessions are twice monthly on Sunday nights (6:30- 8:30 p.m.), September through February. Responsibilities include guiding small-group discussions and activities at each meeting.
- **Prayer Partners.** When our youth participate in special events such as the annual Search Retreat and the National Catholic Youth Conference, we ask parishioners to pray for a young person by name while we are away. Prayer partners may also write a short personal note of support for their named teen.
- **Bridges of Faith Group Mentors.** Our family formation program needs people of faith to lead others in understanding the faith teachings. Teen and adult mentors help our families in their faith development by guiding them throughout the month.



Volunteers for each formation program are given training and lesson materials.

Is there an area of our lifelong faith formation program that sparks your interest and through which you could share your gifts? Contact Anne Gallagher or Vicky Wejko at the parish office for more information.



## Support Youth Ministry

Over the past several years, our Transfiguration family has very generously supported our teens through our Support Youth Ministry initiative. This special collection funds scholarships so that our teens can attend events such as the biannual National Catholic Youth Conference. In 2017, Transfiguration sponsored a pilgrim group of 35 teens and chaperones for this event. We are expecting another large group of participants in 2019. The National Study on Youth and Religion has confirmed that such intensive faith experiences are one of the most effective means of encouraging lasting conversion for young people.

Without the assistance of parishioners, this pilgrimage would be financially out of reach for many families. In the coming weeks you will find a "Support Youth Ministry" envelope along with your usual weekly parish envelopes.

Additionally, our young pilgrims will be sharing witness talks and taking up a second collection at all Masses the weekend of April 6-7. Please consider making a donation to help our youth attend life-changing retreats and large-scale Church events. Thank you so much for the many ways you support our youth!



# CHRISTMAS AT TRANSFIGURATION

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



## ADVENT GINGERBREAD



## CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM



## WREATH BUILDING LADIES





# HELP WANTED

## MASS

**MUSICAL TALENT** – Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Please consider joining any of our musical groups. We are in desperate need of altos for our 9 a.m. choir! We are always in need of instrumental talent, and we especially need accomplished pianists to accompany our vocal talent. Please contact Sue Wallace at [sue.wallace@dor.org](mailto:sue.wallace@dor.org).

**TECHNICAL TALENT** – We always need help for A/V during Mass—sound board and microphones to set up, slide shows to project. If you have that hidden techie talent, please contact Sue at [sue.wallace@dor.org](mailto:sue.wallace@dor.org). Flexible scheduling!

**GREETERS** – A warm smile and kind hello can make a huge impact on someone, making them feel welcome and reinforcing God's love. Scheduling is flexible according to your availability, and training is provided. Two greeters are scheduled at each Mass. This activity is ideal for families, but individuals can be paired into a team! Contact Margie Benza at [margie.benza@dor.org](mailto:margie.benza@dor.org).

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** – Yes, it is an awesome, sacred responsibility to hold the Precious Body or Precious Blood of Christ in your hands. It is a wonderful gift to see the pure joy and faith of those receiving Communion. You ARE worthy to serve in this way. Scheduling is flexible, training is provided for adults and confirmed teens. Please contact Margie Benza at [margie.benza@dor.org](mailto:margie.benza@dor.org).

**ACOLYTES** – Calling our young women and men who have completed First Communion: Are you called to serve at Mass? Don't worry, training is provided, and the adults serving at Mass with you are always there to assist should you need help. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate more fully in Mass, and to build those muscles carrying the candles and cross! Scheduling is flexible according to your availability. Interested? Please contact Margie Benza at [margie.benza@dor.org](mailto:margie.benza@dor.org).

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**GLOBAL SOLIDARITY** – Poverty and violence affect so many of our neighbors to the south. Partnering with Food for the Poor, the Global Solidarity group sponsors projects to help families in Central America with basic needs – shelter, sustainable food and water, and employment. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Lauren Burruto at [lburruto@gmail.com](mailto:lburruto@gmail.com).

**DON CUSHING COMMUNITY GIFT GARDEN** – Spring is right around the corner! If you can't wait to breathe that fresh air and start working your gardens, consider helping out at Transfiguration's Gift Garden. We will need help tilling, planting, weeding, watering, harvesting—all to produce close to a ton of fresh vegetables given to those locally who have limited access to nutritious food. Contact Terry Jahnke @ [terry.jahnke24@gmail.com](mailto:terry.jahnke24@gmail.com).

## Building for the Future: Pastoral Care

### GATHERING THE GIFTS:

The Pastoral Care work group continues to progress through the first goal of encouraging, affirming, and engaging the innate talents, gifts and charisms of all parishioners. From our initial parish surveys and input sessions we learned that most parishioners felt their gifts were seldom or not at all shared. During Advent, parishioners reflected on their God-given gifts and what part of themselves they could offer to the Christ-child. We also launched our Parishioner Gifts Survey in December. Thank you to the many, many parishioners who have already completed the survey. It is exciting to see God's gifts revealed in you!! All existing parishioners (young and young at heart) are welcome to complete the survey if they have not yet had a chance to do so. All new parishioners will be invited to complete the survey going forward. The link can be found on the Parish website homepage.

### TRANSFIGURATION HOSPITALITY:

To enhance our warm hospitality towards new parishioners, our tradition of reaching out to new families through "Welcome Bread" is transitioning to a quarterly "Welcome Breakfast Reception". We invite everyone to get to know our new parishioner families over good conversation and good food.

### SHARING THE GIFTS:

Our talented musicians have shared their gifts with a delightful Christmas concert over the past few Decembers. For the upcoming Christmas season we are inviting all of our hobbyists to share their gifts - whether it be sewing, baking, woodworking, poetry, knitting, music, etc. - at our "Festival of Gifts and Talents". It will be held in the November/December time frame, and you are invited to show, sell or simply share your talents. Stay tuned for more details, and get crafting!



## FINANCE CORNER

In this Finance Corner article, we're sharing information regarding Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), part of the new federal tax legislation that may be beneficial as an alternate way of giving for some people.

A qualified charitable distribution is a withdrawal from an individual retirement account that is sent directly to a charity. In other words, the funds don't pass through your hands. Rather, you instruct your IRA custodian to send the money straight to a charity of your choice. QCDs have been around for quite some time, providing a way to donate money to charity and still enjoy tax benefits under federal tax law. However, there are a couple of conditions that you must meet:

1. ***You must be age 70½ or older at the time of the donation.***
2. ***You must be in a position to use the standard tax deduction when filing your federal tax return.***

Under the new tax law, many people will be better off using the new and much larger standard federal deduction (\$13,600 for individuals 65 and older, and \$26,600 for couples age 65 and older filing jointly). However, when using the standard deduction (and not itemizing), you get no tax benefit from donating to charity. That is precisely where the QCD helps. You can take advantage of the new, larger standard deduction and get a tax break through the QCD—only now it comes in the form of an IRA withdrawal with the ability to exclude that income from your tax return.

If you are interested in pursuing this tax strategy, you should speak with your tax accountant to ensure that you qualify and take the appropriate steps to take advantage for the current tax year. We are always working to find ways to make supporting Transfiguration easier for you. Stay tuned for additional information in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

## PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

### Fluet Family

Our parishioner spotlight this issue is on the Fluet family. Kim and Matthew

are parents of three: Chloe (9 and in the 4th grade), Benjamin and August (both 5 and in Kindergarten). A dog is likely in the family's future, but for now cat Blackjack enjoys all the attention. They are an active family, enjoying hiking, visiting museums and playing card and board games.



Matthew is originally from Pepperell, Massachusetts, and Kim hails from Boca Raton, Florida. So, how did they meet? Both chose Cornell for their doctorate programs, and they met as part of the Cornell Catholic Community. Kim completed her doctorate in Science Education, and Matthew has a doctorate in Computer Science.

The Fluets came to Rochester in 2009, brought here with employment offers from RIT and the U of R. Transfiguration was a perfect fit for them, a minute or two drive from home, and very much like the environment they loved in their collegiate Catholic experiences.

All of the Fluets are active members of Transfiguration, continuing their tradition of being actively involved in their church. Kim is the leader of the Pastor Care sub team, planning for Transfiguration's future. Kim helped found and often leads our Wee Ones Word formation for toddlers during 9.m. Mass. The children love the many activities at Transfiguration, including Trunk or Treat, Sunset Prayer and S'Mores, Gingerbread House Building and Vacation Bible School.

Faith formation at Transfiguration is very important to the entire family. Says Kim: "Participating in the Bridges of Faith formation program has jumpstarted many conversations with our children about faith, hope and love. Sharing a meal with other families has become a much-anticipated part of our schedule. Whether we meet as a whole-group or as a smaller family group, connecting with other families around our faith reinforces our belief in how special the Transfiguration faith community really is. And, to be able to do so with our children helps give us teachable moments to return to later in the day or the week."

*Many thanks to the Fluet family for sharing their gifts with the Parish.*



# Congratulations TO SANDI LAZZARO ON HER RETIREMENT!

In the early days of our parish, Fr. Jerry asked for volunteers to help manage the newly established Church of the Transfiguration; no experience (necessarily) required. In late summer of 1992, Transfiguration's original office assistant moved away, and the call for a new parish bookkeeper was announced at Sunday Masses. Sandi applied for and was given the position.

As Sandi recalls, a prerequisite for the new position was that she be part of "the family." Fr. Jerry must have had the foresight to know that someday the books would be automated, and Sandi's experience with computers would come in handy. (Until then, all the recording and balancing was done manually in large, heavy ledgers.)

Fr. Jerry had no desire to immerse himself in the day-to-day financial details, so he left Sandi to be mentored by Frank Stotz. Frank, who had the awesome responsibility of managing the church's revenue and expenses, always reminded her that this wasn't just a job, it was a ministry with a lot of responsibility. Sandi took that message to heart.

As the years went on, the Diocese of Rochester took on a bigger role in establishing more uniformity across parishes. This meant new accounting systems, payroll systems and databases, and even a new management structure in more recent years. Sandi took on these new challenges, as well as staffing changes and new campaigns.

Soon after Fr. Mike came to Transfiguration, more changes were made after some staff members retired. Fr. Mike asked Sandi to be the business manager as well as property manager, with added responsibility for the many buildings that had been built on the parish campus. If you ask Sandi what the most recent highlight of



Sandi Lazzaro and Rudy



Sandi Lazzaro and Frank Stotz

her job has been, she says, "Standing on the roof of the Parish Life Center, watching and taking pictures of the new HVAC system being installed."

Upon her retirement this year, Sandi wanted to take the opportunity to express her deep gratitude for the personal and professional opportunities she has had over the years at Transfiguration. She is grateful to her "staff family" and admires their many talents. Most especially, she wants to extend a special thank you to the many volunteers she has worked with through the Finance Council, the Parish Council and committees, building campaigns and fundraisers, especially the office assistants and her revered and dedicated collection counters.

"It's been quite a ride!" she says.  
**"Thank you all, and keep me in your prayers!"**

## A SHOUT OUT TO OUR COLLECTION COUNTERS

– from Sandi Lazzaro, Business Manager

As I move on to the next chapter in my life, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all the counting volunteers over the past 27 years. In the early years, we had two faithful helpers, Margaret Ricketts-LeGras and Ellie Knight. They arrived every single Monday without fail to count the collection and assist us with many other office tasks. Their dedication to Fr. Jerry, our staff and the people of Transfiguration was a testimony of their love for our Parish and "Lord, how good it is for us to be here..."

As the years passed, the parish grew, and policy and procedures changed. Collection procedures became strictly regulated by the Diocese to ensure that your contributions to the parish are recorded accurately as well as to minimize any risk of financial loss due to theft. Counting the collection is a very trusted volunteer position, with confidentiality and security policies that we do not take lightly. We have been blessed with committed and enthusiastic volunteers. Today we have ten devoted and faithful individuals that serve this parish every week.

Thank you to our counting team for honoring their commitment each week and working together to serve all of us. Please give a "SHOUT OUT" to: Kathy Landon, Barb Hennessy, Charlie Zinn, Clair Miles, Dorothy Tiede, Pat Kehoe, Rick Reed, Gael Garrity, Suzanne Remington, and Denise Nunziato.

## Fr. Mike - 40 Years of Service

Our pastor, Fr. Mike Bausch, celebrates his 40th Anniversary of Ordination this April. On Saturday, April 27, he will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 4:30 p.m. Mass will be followed by a dinner at the Burgundy Basin Inn; tickets for the dinner will be on sale in late March/early April. In addition, there will be a reception in the PLC for Fr. Mike on Sunday, April 28 between the 9 and 11:30 a.m. Masses. Please join in one or more of these events to congratulate Fr. Mike on this milestone achievement.





## IRISH FISH FRY FEST

Our Irish Fish Fry Fest last year was a sold-out success! The Social Committee of Transfiguration is pleased to announce we will hold the Fest again this year. The event is scheduled for Friday, March 15, starting at 6 p.m., in the Parish Life Center gym.

The fish dinner, provided by Tom Wahl's food truck, will consist of fried fish, coleslaw, home fries, a roll and soft drinks. A children's menu of grilled cheese also will be offered. The parish will provide coffee and tea, as well as cookies and brownies for dessert.

Once again, the Dave North Trio will be our entertainment, playing a selection of Celtic folk music and encouraging us to get out on the dance floor. Participants get

extra credit for sporting St. Patrick's Day-themed attire!

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for children age 3 and older who order the children's dinner. We need to provide a headcount to our caterer, so advance-sale tickets will be available after Masses and at the Parish Office. Tables of eight can be reserved.

We are always looking for events to bring our Parish together on a social level and enhance our sense of community at Transfiguration. To that end, on April 6, Men in the Spirit will host their annual Spaghetti Supper. We also hope that this fall we will again host a celebration in October, stay tuned for details. Hope to see you at all our upcoming social events!

