

The Hands of Christ



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Quarterly Thoughts From The Corner Office!

Dear friends,

I am writing this on a cold winter day in early January, the sky is a beautiful blue and the sun is bright, but five minutes ago, I could not see out to West Bloomfield Road. Like life, the weather is always changing; sometimes challenging-sometimes just something to enjoy! The sunny elements of nature give me hope that spring is on the way and an abundance of new life will be showing through sooner than we can imagine. This is all part of the circle of life, which our God allows us to share in as his sons and daughters.

When you receive this newsletter, we will be a few days into Lent. For me Lent has close parallels to winter's path to spring, Lent should be a time when we strip away all the extras in our life, so our very bare self can be seen, just the basic soul of our being. As I sit here in my office and look out at the leafless trees on the Parish Campus, I see just the basic trunk and branches with no extras "hanging around". As I think about my Lenten journey, I want to have time to see the basic trunk of my spiritual life. My hope is to walk the 40-day journey of Lent, clearing away all the extra stuff so I can be more attentive to why Jesus is calling me. My bigger dream is that by the time Easter morning arrives I can be ready to sprout new life as a totally refreshed brother of the risen Jesus.

Lent can be a real burden, especially if we take it seriously and truly take time for a long hard look at those elements of life that are just "hanging around" with no good purpose. Who likes to admit that they are being selfish or short tempered or drinking too much or not working to their full potential or...or... or...or and the list goes on!



As a child, I was always taught we had to give up something during Lent, which is a fine idea. May I suggest rather than giving up something like sweets or that second cup of coffee that you rather give up some of your time and talent in support of some parish ministry or community agency?

The annual Tri-Parish Lenten Retreat will be on March 23, 24 and 25; a detailed schedule is in this newsletter. I am pleased to announce our retreat leader will be Father Tom Rosica. Fr. Tom is a native of Rochester and belongs to the Basilian Fathers. He now lives in Toronto and is involved in parish ministry and media ministry. The topic to be explored is "Respecting and Embracing the Diversity of Catholic Spirituality".

Please do enjoy your Lenten journey so you can more fully celebrate the full colors of the Easter morning and Easter season.

We are the Hands of Christ is a quarterly newsletter with the primary goal to communicate the many ministries and programs of our parish and encourage the sharing of your Time and Talent. Suggestions for topics can be sent to our editor Nancy Wahl at nancy.wahl@dor.org.

Please pray that all of us come to deeper understand that "we are" the Church of the Transfiguration.

Let us continue to pray for peace and for the end of terrorism in our world!

In peace and courage,

Rev. Michael J. Bausch
Pastor



Upcoming Events at Transfiguration

We have a wealth of formation, service and social activities this spring. Please take a quick look at the offerings listed here 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 2, 9, 16, 30

Lenten Vespers, 7 p.m., church

March 2

Women in the Spirit, after Lenten Vespers

March 4, 11, 18

The Chosen, Episodes 6-8, 7 p.m., PLC Double Room

March 6-8

Search Retreat Weekend for high school students

March 8, 15, 22 and 29

Dr. Joe Kelly Spring Series – The Gospel of John, 10:15 -11:15 a.m., PLC Double Room

March 13

Irish Fish Fry Fest, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., PLC Gym

March 16

Men in the Spirit, 6 p.m., PLC Double Room

March 23-25

Tri-Parish Retreat (see Tri-Parish Retreat article for details)

March 29, 30

Bridges of Faith Seder Supper

APRIL

April 1

Diocesan Day of Penance and Mercy

April 5

Palm Sunday, all Masses

April 9

Holy Thursday

April 10

Good Friday

April 9 p.m., - April 10

Parish Office Closed for Easter

April 11-12

Easter Masses (see article for Holy Week/Easter schedule)

April 25

Spaghetti Supper, hosted by Men in the Spirit, after 4:30 Mass, PLC Gym

April 25 – May 2

Women's retreat to serve the poor in Kentucky

MAY

May 2-3

First Communion Celebrations – All Masses

May 4

Women in the Spirit – 7 p.m.

May 6

Confirmation Celebration - Cathedral

May 21

The Ascension of the Lord – Holy Day of Obligation

May 25

Parish Office Closed – Memorial Day

May 31

Pentecost Sunday – All Masses

JUNE

June 1

Women in the Spirit

June 6-7

Summer Clothing Drive – after all Masses

June 10

Sacramental Information Meeting

June 12

Men's Day of Reflection

June 14

Baccalaureate Mass for our High School Seniors – 11 a.m.

June 15

Men in the Spirit

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Ash Wednesday

February 26
6:45 a.m. – Mass
12:10 p.m. – Word and Ash Service
5:00 p.m. – Mass

Lenten Prayer Services

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 30 at 7 p.m. in the Church (No Prayer Service on March 23 due to the Tri-Parish Retreat)

Tri-Parish Retreat

Monday – Wednesday, March 23, 24, 25 – 9 a.m. Mass at Transfiguration

Monday, March 23 – 7 p.m. at St. Louis
Tuesday, March 24 – 7 p.m. at St. Catherine
Wednesday, March 25 – 7 p.m. at Transfiguration

Lenten Reconciliation Services

Reconciliation services are available individually at 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays, or by appointment.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 5, all Masses (4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday)

Holy Thursday – April 9 – Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday – April 10 – Service at 2:30 p.m.
Good Friday, April 10 – Simple Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 11 – 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 12
Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

COMING THIS LENT FROM THE TRANSFIGURATION CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFICE

A weekly selection of resources to help you make the most of your Lent: short on-line videos, articles and spiritual tools to deepen your experience of prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Look for these updates in our weekly parish email, on the website and Facebook page.

Tri-Parish Retreat

Every Lent, we gather with our friends from St. Catherine of Siena and St. Louis for a three-day retreat, featuring daily Mass at Transfiguration and an evening event rotated through all the churches.

This year our speaker is Fr. Thomas Rosica. Fr. Tom is a native Rochesterian,



now located in Toronto. He is a Basilian Father, involved in parish and media ministry. Fr. Tom will present "Respecting and Embracing the Diversity of Catholic Spirituality".

All events in the retreat are free, and do not require advance registration. We hope to see you there – come for one or all the sessions. Here is the detailed schedule:

March 23, 24, 25

- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning Mass at Transfiguration- 9 a.m. (and Transfiguration will have the usual 6:45 a.m. Masses on Monday and Wednesday)
- Monday night 3/23 at St Louis – 7 p.m.
- Tuesday night 3/24 at St Catherine – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday night 3/25 at Transfiguration – 7 p.m.

Festival of Gifts and Talents



Halloween Fun Fest



Women in the Spirit Wreath Making



2020 Lenten Theme

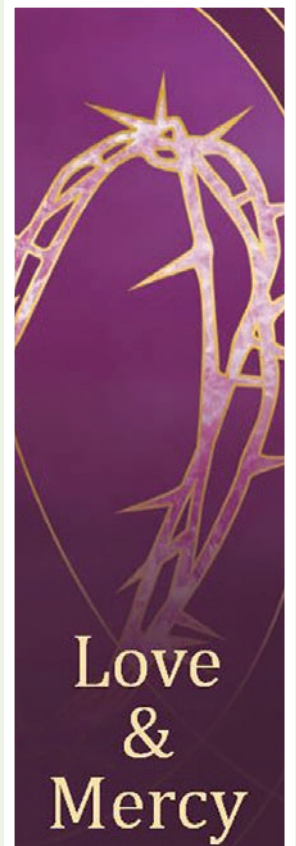
*HIS MERCY
AND LOVE
ENDURES
FOREVER*

We return to a time of Lent and reminders of Jesus' miraculous works. His message continues, sharing the hope of life everlasting for those who believe and follow His commands.

On Ash Wednesday, the prophet, Joel, reminds us that the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Jesus continually leads by example and God waits for us in the midst of our human frailty.

In the ordinary of our lives, may we return that love by showing mercy to the poor and marginalized and by healing fractured relationships. God's vast mercy and deep love for us are reflected through the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter Sunday. May this be a time of sacrifice, renewal and the conversion of our hearts.

Margie Benza
Pastoral Associate





FINANCE CORNER

A LOOK BACK... TRANSFIGURATION'S CMA HISTORY

(DIANE YACOBY, FINANCE LONG TERM PLANNING TEAM LEADER)

The Church of the Transfiguration has existed for 37 years in 2020. We have made significant contributions over the years to the Diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal.

We all know about the CMA – the appeal launches in the Fall of every year – when we receive a mailing from our Bishop and Pastor – information is shared on what the CMA supports (and what it doesn't). The appeal closes on May 31 the following year.

The Diocese is our predominate connection to the Universal Catholic Church. Our faith is rich in history and dates back to the first apostles of the church – initially led by Saint Peter – the Catholic Church's first leader – the Church founded by Jesus himself.

This connection to our Diocese is manifested by our parish's participation in the CMA. Transfiguration has a strong history of meeting our CMA goal – and sometimes surpassing it. Did you know that half of any amount we collect over our goal comes back to Transfiguration? This has occurred for several years in the past.

Here's a look back on Transfiguration's participation – since 2011:

Year	# Donors	Goal	% Achieved	50% of Over - keep
2011	558	\$144,496.00	136%	\$ 26,262
2012	547	\$151,736.00	130%	\$ 22,685
2013	546	\$152,085.00	130%	\$ 22,702
2014	566	\$165,225.00	124%	\$ 19,796
2015	489	\$172,193.00	104%	\$ 3,324
2016	516	\$184,694.00	104%	\$ 3,730
2017	536	\$195,712.00	102%	\$ 1,650
2018	486	\$200,339.00	100%	\$ 145
2019	442	\$203,413.00	94%	\$ -



Another thing to mention is that we have a history of meeting the goal in an early timeframe. Between 2011 and 2017 we attained our CMA goal before Dec 31st of the previous year.

What about this year? As this article is being submitted for the Q1 2020 newsletter printing, we are at roughly \$182,000, over \$21,000 short of our goal.

As most of us are aware, if we do not meet our goal, the difference must be made up out of Parish Savings – the same account that we have the goal of building up with planned savings in our current budget.

If you haven't yet contributed to the CMA, can you consider a gift this year? Even a small gift is appreciated. We'd really like to have a higher participation rate amongst parishioners. To date, 28% (395 donors) of Transfiguration's registered parishioners have contributed to this year's campaign.

Thank You!
Diane Yacoby



Body, Mind and Soul

We've all heard that the body, mind and soul together need to be tended to for us to be fully holy, healthy and happy individuals. Of course, our Church always is there to help us tend to our faith life and our soul. Regular Mass attendance, Advent and Lenten prayer services, the Tri-Parish retreat, the Spiritual Exercises and various spiritual offerings throughout the year are just a few things that draw us closer to God.

There are many programs at Transfiguration that help tend to our minds. Lifelong learning about our faith (through Bible Study, Joe Kelly series, and our many formation programs) keeps our minds active with an ever widening view. Our many social events and groups (like Work of Our Hands and the Men's and Women's Fellowship groups) help keep us connected to our faith community and



stimulate our minds and hearts through wonderful friendships and shared experiences.

Did you know that we also have programs to help with the body? Need to lose a few pounds or struggling to maintain a healthy weight? Join our

Weight Watchers class, held every Thursday from 10-10:45 a.m. Feeling a bit out of shape, or worried about weakening muscles? Every Wednesday at 5:30 there is a Gentle Yoga class, and every Thursday (conveniently right after Weight Watchers) there is a Chair Yoga class. All three of these classes have reasonable fees associated with them. Check the bulletin or call the office for more details!

We are always hopeful that the care we extend to others in need through our outreach ministries offers those same gifts to those we encounter. Caring for their body, mind and soul through our care and love for them is answering the call of Jesus.

Start the Lenten and Easter seasons off by taking special care of the wonderful gifts God has entrusted to us – our body, mind and our soul.

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

The Musa Family

This quarter our parishioner spotlight shines on the Musa family. Mom Lubi and dad Armando are the proud parents of son Michael and twin daughters Sara and Lisa. Lubi and Armando were born in much warmer climates – Armando in Cuba and Lubi in Nicaragua. Both came to Miami as youngsters. They are high school sweethearts, who began dating in the 11th grade.

But clearly that did not disrupt their academics! Both are Ivy League educated with undergrad degrees from University of Pennsylvania. Armando received his law degree from Harvard. After graduation, they moved back to Miami for Armando to start practicing law, and for Lubi to earn her Masters in Elementary Education. They are a model for continuous learning, as Armando will receive his MBA at Yale in May after commuting every other weekend to Connecticut for his studies!

Neither has relatives in Pittsford, they relocated here in 2011 when Armando accepted a position as Corporate Counsel for Ilderola/Avangrid/RG&E. Lubi commented: "We love it here and feel especially blessed

to live here. We are very thankful to God for bringing us to Pittsford. It's a great place to raise a family."

The Musa's enjoy many activities as a family, especially on the weekends when Armando is home. They enjoy going out to eat after Mass (parents take note – one more way to encourage the youngsters to attend Mass!). The Musa kids are active participants in many Transfiguration programs, including Vacation Bible School (they helped create the decorations last year in addition to being campers), social events and the Middle School Youth Group. All three do a wonderful job serving as Acolytes. The entire family helps with the RAIHN program, and Lubi is putting her education degree to great use as a tutor in our School 39 program.

Lubi adds "We chose Transfiguration because we felt a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere once we started attending Mass here." It's nice to know that our reputation for being welcoming is alive and well, and that our warmth as a community is partially compensating for cold Rochester winters!



Help Wanted

CHURCH

Merry Marthas and Muscles

Our worship space is kept beautifully clean with the help of teams of parishioners. Many of them have been serving in this ministry for years, and we are in dire need of new volunteers! This is an ideal opportunity for someone newly retired, or someone who wants to burn off a few more calories outside of the gym! Can you spare an hour of your time once every 5 weeks on a Monday morning or evening? Duties include dusting, vacuuming and cleaning our pews. Many hands make light work, and the volunteers enjoy camaraderie and fun banter with their team plus the satisfaction of seeing our church look its best for weekend Masses. Call Gael Garrity at 381-9179 or Rose in the Parish office at 248-2427 to volunteer.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Make a Meal Ministry

Join us in providing a simple meal for a fellow parishioner during a time of illness, surgery or death of a loved one. Please contact Margie Benza at 248-2427 x 244 or Margie.benza@dor.org. Thank you for extending the hands of Jesus to those needing extra care at a difficult time.

Good Samaritan Ministry

Might you be able to take a fellow parishioner to a doctor's appointment or pick up a prescription for them? Make a run to the House of Mercy to deliver donations from Transfiguration? Please contact Margie Benza at 248-2427 x244 or at margie.benza@dor.org. Thank you!

Funeral Baking Ministry

Volunteers are always needed to make (or purchase) cookies, cupcakes or breakfast items

for funeral receptions hosted in our Parish Life Center. When a reception is being planned, an e-mail goes out to all volunteers indicating what is needed, and participation is your decision depending on your availability. Please contact Margie Benza at 248-2427 x 244 or Margie.benza@dor.org to be added to a volunteer e-mail list. Thank you for extending hospitality and caring to those mourning the loss of a loved one.

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 at terry.jahnke24@gmail.com.

Forming Disciples

TRANSFIGURATION TEENS AT THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

Thank you to our parish community for supporting our teens who attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in November! Every two years, 20,000 Catholic teens from all over the nation gather in Indianapolis for a weekend of engaging Catholic speakers and inspirational concerts from Catholic musicians. Celebrating Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass their faith emblazons to new heights!

Here's what our youth had to say about the experience:

"I have always had an issue with feeling loved and opening my heart to let others love me. This weekend was truly life-changing. God was present. I was present. And the Holy Spirit was present. There are so many people on this trip who have impacted me."



"NCYC was the best way to step outside my comfort zone and grow in my faith journey."

"GOD IS GOOD! We had Adoration, and I have never felt closer to God. It was a full body experience and I was sobbing in the best way possible. I could feel my heart in my chest and I felt God LOOKING at me. It really hit me that the way I look at God is the same way He looks at me because I was looking at Him with such awe, wonder, and amazement."



"I loved NCYC so much! It was a life-changing event that changed my religious life forever."

"NCYC was the best way to dive as deep as I could into my faith and connect with God on a whole new level."



"NCYC is an amazing way to grow in your faith and become closer to God!"

"I was able to really open myself up to God."



"I couldn't thank the parish enough for the support! If it weren't for your help, I would not have been able to go to NCYC. God is so good, and you can see it through everyone at Transfig."

Festivals and Fun at Transfiguration

We celebrated Halloween and Oktoberfest in late October with 75 parishioners of all ages, a great DJ and wonderful Oktoberfest food from Swans. In early December, our Festival of Gifts and Talents was a huge success, featuring the talents of our parishioners. We had 25 vendors showing off their creations: sewing, baking, painting, glass etching, woodworking and many other talents. Musicians kept us entertained throughout the event. Our younger set enjoyed building mini-gingerbread houses. Pictures of these events are on Page 3.

Don't miss out on the fun with our events coming up in March and April! Our Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 13, from 5:30 – 8:30 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 will be our entertainment, playing a selection of Celtic folk music and encouraging us to get out on the dance floor. St. Patrick's themed attire will be welcomed!

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 on-line via our website. Tables of eight can be reserved.

In April, our Men in the Spirit will again host their annual Spaghetti Supper. Save the date, it will be held on Saturday, April 25, right after 4:30 Mass. Hope to see you at all our upcoming social events!