

The Hands of Christ



WHAT'S INSIDE

Upcoming Events
PAGE 2

Turkey Drive, Advent Theme,
Christmas Basket Program
PAGE 3

Finance Corner
PAGE 4

Fall at Transfiguration
PAGE 5

Parishioner Spotlight,
Festival of Gifts and Talents
PAGE 6

Formation
PAGE 7

Thanksgiving &
Christmas Grace
PAGE 8

Quarterly Thoughts From The Corner Office!

Dear friends,

It is early Thursday morning, September 26, and I am sitting on a park bench in Lake Placid, soaking in the beauty of the Adirondack Mountains. In the fall of 1981, I traveled here for a couple of days with two other priests. As we were driving along Route 3, one of them described the beautiful fall colors as "the master painter's great work," as if our Creator had used his artist's paintbrush and palette of colors to touch the trees with a wonderful variety of colors. While on this particular trip to the Adirondacks, we stopped at *The Wild Center* in Tupper Lake, the *Center* is a very well done museum of nature of this part of New York State. It is an active display of nature (animals, trees, water, etc.) and it is a clear reminder how blessed we are with all of God's creations.

I begin with these memories because they are a reminder of the beauty of all of God's work entrusted to us through the power of His Spirit. Before you begin to think I am just sharing with you a bunch of pious platitudes, something I am never been accused of, I truly do experience nature being a major segment of my spiritual life. I believe my memories and thoughts are good fodder as we turn our thoughts to the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, seasons that call us to be mindful of the many gifts we need to be thankful for in our day-to-day life.

Obviously, Thanksgiving calls us to be mindful of the blessings of this land that we call America, which is so plentiful. The best way to show thanks for our



plentiful gifts is to share them regularly with those less fortunate. As you prepare for Thanksgiving, please take a moment to give thanks for the sometimes forgotten gifts, such as the farm worker or the scientist who works to improve the quality of our food, or the volunteer firefighter who protects our homes. Please add your own forgotten gifts to this list.

As we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons, I hope we are mindful of the ultimate gift we share, the Emmanuel, the Savior, our brother Jesus Christ. Yes, all the other trappings of Christmas are important, but do not let them overshadow the gift of our salvation.

Finally, perhaps one way to celebrate our giftedness is to ask God's forgiveness for the times we have not given thanks. The Advent season is a wonderful time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation; maybe you can add this to your to-do list during the upcoming weeks.

I thank you for your ongoing support and concern. They are deeply appreciated gifts in my life.

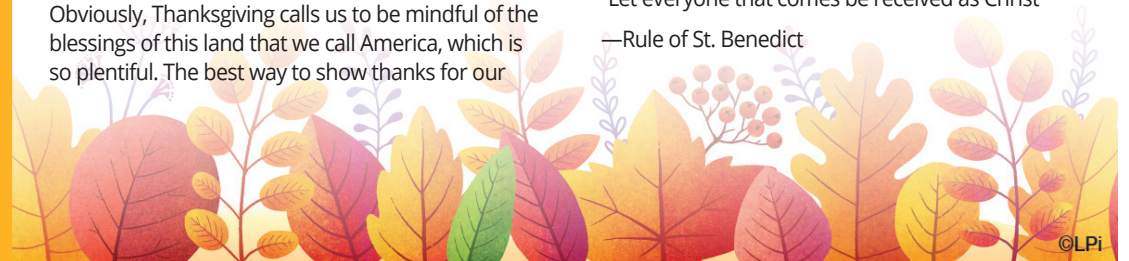
Let us pray for peace and act for an end to terrorism in our world!

In peace and courage,

Rev. Michael J. Bausch
Pastor

"Let everyone that comes be received as Christ"

—Rule of St. Benedict



©LPi

Upcoming Events at Transfiguration

We have a wealth of formation, service and social activities this fall. 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.

NOVEMBER

November 2

Memorial Mass for those we have lost in the past year, 10 a.m., church

November 2 and 3

Fall and Winter Clothing Drive, after all Masses, Parish Life Center (PLC)

November 4

Women In the Spirit, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Parish Life Center

November 5, 12

Funeral Preplanning, 7 – 8:30 p.m., PLC Double Room

November 18

Men In the Spirit, 6 – 8:30 p.m., PLC Gym

November 25

Turkey Drive collection

DECEMBER

December 2, 9 and 16

Advent Vespers, 7 p.m., church

December 2

Women In the Spirit, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

December 7

Festival of Gifts and Talents, including mini

gingerbread house building, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., PLC

December 18-20

Christmas Basket Assembly, wrapping and delivery, PLC

JANUARY

January 6

Women In the Spirit, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

January 10

Game Night, 7 p.m., Education Center Upper Level

January 20

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

FEBRUARY

February 3

Women In the Spirit, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

February 7

Potato Supper , PLC Gym

February 17

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

February 26

The Chosen, Episode 5, after the 5 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

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., church

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.

March 13

Irish Fish Fry Fest, PLC Gym

March 16

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

March 23-25

Tri-Parish Retreat (rotates among St. Louis, St. Catherine and Transfiguration)

March 29, 30

Bridges of Faith Seder Supper

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. We hope to see you, your family and friends at the upcoming Christmas and New Year's Masses. Below is the schedule and a description of the Mass:

CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24, 3:30 p.m. - This Mass is celebrated with our children. Students in Grades 2-4 have lovingly rehearsed a living Nativity, complete with shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and of course, the baby Jesus. Doors open at 3 p.m.

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.

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

December 28 and 29 - We will celebrate the Holy Family during our normal weekend Masses at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, December 28, and 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 29.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1 - New Year's Mass, and a Holy Day of Obligation, will be celebrated at 10 a.m.—later than the normal Wednesday Mass, and hopefully more convenient for everyone who stayed up to ring in 2020. This Mass honors Mary and her loving response to God's call.



Christmas Basket Program 2019

The Christmas Basket Program provides food and small gifts to families in need in the Rochester area. It supports the House of Mercy, Jordan Health Center, Sister Regis Food Cupboard, St. Andrew's Food Cupboard, Pittsford and Fairport families, and other local communities. This program links our parish community with others living in poverty and assists in bringing the struggles of the poor and marginalized in our community to our attention. Last year, we sponsored 197 family Christmas baskets.



Some families may be registered again this year. Last year's sponsors will be contacted in mid to late November to offer repeat sponsorship.

General Mass sponsorship takes place on the weekends of 11/30-12/1 and 12/7-12/8 in our Gathering Area after all Masses. If you would like to sponsor a family prior to the general sponsorship, please contact Margie Benza.

The program is also an opportunity to share your gifts of time and talent by assisting with shopping, baking cookies, making phone calls, and wrapping and delivery of the baskets. Pre-Assembly is Wednesday, 12/18, 9 a.m.-12 Noon and Food Packing from 12 Noon-2 p.m. Assembly (labeling, wrapping, etc.) is Thursday, 12/19, 9 a.m. - 12 Noon, and Delivery is Friday, 12/20 starting at 9 a.m. with appointed times. Please consider offering your gift of time during the holiday season to those in need.

Please contact Margie Benza @ 248-2427 x244 or margie.benza@dor.org to assist with the program and share the spirit of Christmas with others.

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive

Historically, hundreds of parishioners have participated in our Thanksgiving Turkey Drive. In 2018, 126 frozen and 36 roasted turkeys were donated and delivered to various agencies in Rochester. In addition to the turkeys, many also donated the "fixings" – cans of gravy, cranberry sauce and vegetables, along with boxes of stuffing and aluminum roasting pans.

This year we are again asking for your donations. By the time you read this, sign-up will be well under way after Masses in the Gathering Area. Might you be able to donate a turkey or fixings?

Or perhaps you can spare a bit of your time? Our teens help with the intake of food on drop off night, but we always need help delivering to the agencies served.

Agencies served this year include Bethany House, House of Mercy, Dimitri House, St Andrew's Food Cupboard, the Pittsford Food Cupboard, Sr. Regis Food Cupboard and Eastern Service Workers. Our donations provide for the hungry and marginalized, allowing many to celebrate the holiday with others in a safe, warm and friendly environment. What a wonderful gift that is, and how beautifully that reflects our parish's reputation for exhibiting warmth and hospitality.

This year, Denise Nunziato (ldnunz50@gmail.com) and Kathy Kyhos (kkyhos@frontiernet.net) are coordinating the drive. Donation drop-off will be Monday, November 25, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and deliveries will take place Tuesday, November 26. Please contact Denise or Kathy if you have any questions or want to volunteer.



ADVENT A SEASON OF HOPE

Advent is the season of preparation for the arrival of our Savior's birth on Christmas. It is a time of quieting our hearts in the joyful waiting for new beginnings.

After thoughtful preparation and prayer, our Liturgy Committee has chosen the Advent theme of "*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 mercy the blind re-gain their sight, the lame walk, the deaf hear and the dead will be raised. We are a people faith and hope.

This gifted season is represented through our Advent Candle reflecting our theme. Moving through the four weeks of Advent, each week an Advent wreath 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 first three Mondays events of Advent (12/2, 12/9 & 12/16) at 7:00 p.m. It is a time to enjoy the quiet candlelit space, prayer, reflection and beautiful music. It is also 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





FALL AT TRANSFIGURATION



TEEN SERVICE WEEK



BLESSING OF THE PETS



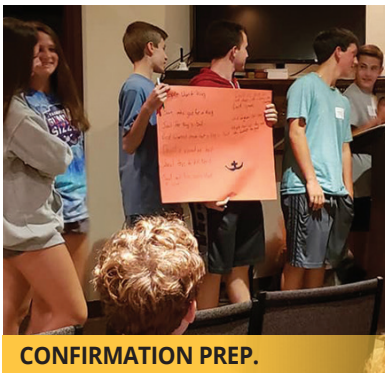
KICKBALL



BLESSING OF THE PETS



MEN'S KENTUCKY RETREAT



CONFIRMATION PREP.



ROCK PAINTING



CONFIRMATION PREP.



ROCK PAINTING



ROCK PAINTING AT SUNSET PRAYER



TEEN SERVICE WEEK



HALLOWEEN FUN FEST TICKET SALES

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

The Cincebox and Cox Families

Our parishioner spotlight this newsletter is on two families, as they are a wonderful example of the strong friendship bonds and sense of community within our parish.

Tom and Becky Cincebox and Kevin and Nicole Cox have been friends for 25 years. They initially met as students at Nazareth College and decided to stay in Pittsford to raise their families. They ended up in the same neighborhood, with children of similar ages and interests, further strengthening the bond between the families.

Tom and Becky have four children. Tom (20) is a junior at Nazareth, studying Finance and playing lacrosse. Courtney (17) is a high school senior and enjoys running. Grace (15) is a high school sophomore and also plays lacrosse. Brooke (13) is in the 8th grade and plays field hockey in addition to running.

Kevin and Nicole have three children. Katie (16) is a high school junior who participates in field hockey and track. Drew (15) is a sophomore on the cross country and track teams. Lizzie (13) is in the 8th grade. In addition to playing the piano, she participates in field hockey and running.

The families chose Transfiguration as their church because they felt at home there especially when their children were young. The music was engaging, as the kids enjoyed seeing their pediatrician, Dr. Marsocci, performing. The family involvement at Transfiguration started when the children were small. Nicole and Becky both were children's formation leaders and Tom and

Kevin coached all the kids in CYO basketball. Their parent's commitment kept their children interested and involved. Vacation Bible School was a must, everyone was excited to go.

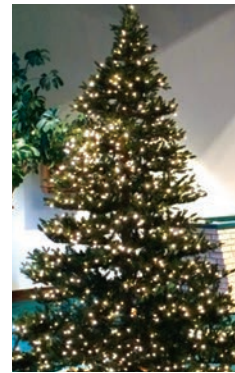
As the children grew older, the families began to participate in different activities. Becky, Tom and Nicole became eucharistic ministers and Kevin and Tom are now ushers. Kevin also serves on the Finance Committee. Nicole and Becky teach confirmation classes for the teenage children of the church. The Cox family also enjoys being a part of the RAIHN Program, supporting the homeless and less fortunate of the city of Rochester.

Christmas time is always their favorite time of year. Twelve years ago, they decided to jointly sponsor a family in need from the inner city of Rochester for Christmas. The families choose a special day to shop and wrap gifts for the family. On Christmas Eve they deliver the gifts to the home of the family and take time to get to know them. Everyone looks forward to continuing this tradition each year, it helps them to experience the true meaning of Christmas.

There is one more Christmas tradition for both families. They jointly lead the Christmas church decorating committee and, along with other families, adorn our church each Christmas. Thank you for helping make our church a beautiful place to experience the joy of Christmas.



THE CINCebox FAMILY



THE COX FAMILY

Festival of Gifts and Talents

On Saturday, 12/7, Transfiguration will hold a Festival of Gifts and Talents from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in our Parish Life center. Bringing our parishioners together to share their gifts and talents with our parish community has been a long-term hope, reaffirmed by our parish survey.

This family fun event will be a showcase of all the talents of our wonderful parishioners. It is open to all, no reservation or admission ticket required. Between individual musical acts in the talent show section, Christmas songs will fill the PLC, courtesy of our wonderful musicians. Artisans will show their works, some of which will



be available for you to purchase. As of printing date, we have children's books, handmade holiday crafts (some using vintage materials), embroidery, woven potholders and paper prints and notecards confirmed, with more on the way.

For our young (and young at heart) mini-gingerbread house building will be offered until 2 p.m. in the PLC. This will be priced at \$5 per mini-house, payable at the event. Food will be available for purchase (hotdogs, chips and drinks), so you can enjoy lunch during the event.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact co-chairs, Lorey Beck (lorelynn@gmail.com) or Sue Gangemi (sc_gan@msn.com). We hope to see you there!

Forming Disciples

For the past few months, I've been telling everyone who would listen about the experience the teens and I had this summer and fall, stemming from our annual summer service immersion retreat with the Sisters of Saint Joseph. I am here today with good news about our Church! Our young people are embarking on the great adventure of being formed as disciples of Jesus, coming to know him through their heads, hearts and hands.

For 10 years now, we have been bringing groups of teens into the city for a week every summer to live in community with four sisters of St. Joseph at St. Boniface Convent in the South Wedge neighborhood. During the day, the teens go out in small groups to various ministries – Bethany House, Daystar, St. Peter's Kitchen and the Nazareth School summer program this year. In the evenings we prepare and share a meal together, reflecting on and conversing about our experiences that day, about what it means to follow Jesus, and about Catholic social teaching.

This year, on a Thursday night, we walked a few blocks down South Ave to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality for Mass. It was a simple and beautiful Mass, mostly for volunteers and friends of the House, as well as some folks from the streets. Our teens' youthful energy and enthusiasm brought a lot of joy to the celebration. From there, the St. Joe's team went out to places where people experiencing homelessness are known to congregate, just to say hello and maybe offer a cup of coffee. We did not join in the outreach that first night, but we were invited to come back sometime. The seed was planted!

By the end of our evening sharing that night, our last night of the retreat, every single one of the teens who attended was asking me, "Please, please, Anne, will you take us back to St. Joe's for Mass and outreach next week?" They were given a taste of what it really means to be the Church, beyond the walls of our church building and the boundaries of our parish, and they were hungry for more.

So the following Thursday, we all went back. We were a large group, but the team from St. Joe's was so kind in preparing our teens for what to expect, modeling for us how to approach someone kindly and respectfully,

and then sitting down with us afterward to unpack the experience.

For many Thursday nights since July I've been bringing smaller groups of teens back to St. Joe's for Mass and outreach. Our teens have been leading me in this! And they have learned some things that I think all of us need to hear. It's not about us serving the homeless. It's not about teaching our teens to be grateful for what they have and others do not. It's about our concept of who "we" is being broken right open.

There are people living on the streets of Rochester who some of our kids now know by name. They pray for them individually at night before they go to bed. There's one girl from our parish who picked out some items from her closet particularly for a young woman she befriended in the Peace Village downtown and brought them to her before the weather got cold. They make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and collect batteries for flashlights and headlamps, because now they know how early the darkness falls and how long it lasts at this time of year when you are living in a place with no electricity.

And they are not doing this for community service hours. They are doing it because they recognize the face of Christ in the people they are meeting. In turn, they are being the face of Christ for those they meet as well. It's no coincidence that these encounters happen after we've received the Body of Christ in the Eucharist – and we then become what we receive and bring Christ out into the world. This is Church!

We belong to a Church that is much bigger than Transfiguration, as good as it is to be here. We've got to go out! It's why we have a Church in the first place. Our teens are showing us that following Jesus is less about the work and all about the relationships. They are showing us how to show up for people, to give and receive Christ beyond boundaries. This is the mystical Body of Christ – the ultimate "we." This is our Church, forming disciples of Jesus, manifesting his love in the world.

Peace in Christ,
Anne Gallagher



*And they are
not doing this
for community
service hours.
They are doing
it because they
recognize the
face of Christ in
the people they
are meeting. In
turn, they are
being the face
of Christ for
those they meet
as well.*

Most families have the tradition of a special grace said before holiday meals, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. Here are two prayers that you might want to use this year!

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

We thank you, loving God, for this food before us, and those who have prepared it from the farm to this table of plenty. We give thanks for those gathered with us today and for the memories shared of those no longer with us. We are grateful, Lord, for your unending love and mercy, for the health and strength to be your hands on earth, serving one another. May we live this day and every day grateful for all that has been given to us. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving God, at the birth of Jesus, help us remember

- To live in gratitude for all we have been given.
- To offer peace that reflects your love
- To forgive so we too can receive mercy.
- To hear and answer your call to be a carrier of Christ as did Mary and Joseph.
- To always experience the joy of Christmas in our hearts

We ask your blessings God on this food and all who are gathered around this table. We pray for your peace and grace now and during the coming year. Amen.

