

## The Hands of Christ

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## Quarterly Thoughts From The Corner Office!

Dear Friends,

Before I move to Parish activities, I want to thank the Transfiguration community for your overwhelming support since my brother Don's death on July 5. Your encouragement and prayers are gifts that I am deeply grateful for every day. *May Don rest in peace!*



What a wonderful summer we have had, with the exception of the lack of rain we have been blessed with almost ideal weather for all the normal summer outdoor activities. Thank you God!

It is now time to turn the page and get back into the routine of life, if there is any such thing! Throughout the summer Staff has been planning and preparing programs, spiritual and educational, to assist us as we continue to grow in our faith. By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received our annual Life Long Christian Formation Program Booklet, if you have not received a copy please call the Faith Formation Office. There are many suggestions for children, youth and adults, I am sure you will find something to fit your needs.

A major need we have, as well as a personal concern of mine, is for liturgy related ministers,

that is Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. Ideally, *in the best of all worlds*, one of our Pastoral Associates or myself should extend a personal invitation to you to fulfill these ministries. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world, so we are dependent on you offering your services, please do! On many occasions, people will tell me they do not feel worthy to be a liturgical minister. Please do not worry about being worthy, consider the call to be a liturgical minister as a rich blessing and offer your services. I remember very clearly as a seminarian telling my spiritual director that the only thing holding back from requesting ordination was I did not believe I was worthy. His response to my concern went something like *"You'll be a long time dead before you are fully worthy, so write the damn letter requesting ordination!"* So, please step up and offer to be a liturgical minister, THANKS!

Please do enjoy these final weeks of summer and the beauty of fall.

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 this autumn. Please take a quick look at the offerings 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.

### SEPTEMBER

**September 5:** 12:30 - 2:00 PM Grief Share begins, this 13 week program meets in the PLC Double Room.

**September 9:** 10:15-11:15 a.m., Education Center Teen Room, Middle School Group's weekly Sunday meetings start

6:30 p.m., Church, Confirmation Kickoff for parents and candidates

**September 10:** 6:30- 9:00 p.m. – Cultivating Non-Violence, Harvesting Peace, a Just Faith program. This eight-week program meets **September 10, 24, October 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 12, 19.**

**September 11:** 12:30- 2 p.m., Women's Bible Study – "Twelve Women of the Bible" presented in a twelve-week session. Tuesdays, **September 11- December 4** (excluding November 20).

7-8:30 p.m., Education Center Teen Room, High School Teen Group's weekly Tuesday meetings start

**September 14:** 7:30 p.m., Grace Choir Concert, Church

**September 15:** 9-11:00 a.m., Dr. Damian Zynda presents "Contemplation; Consumption; Commitment; All Roads to Discernment." This three-week program meets Saturdays, **September 15, 22 and 29.**

**September 16:** 10:15-11:15 a.m., First Reconciliation and First Communion parent's information meeting and registration

12:30-1 p.m. or **September 17** 5:30-6 p.m. or **September 19** 5:30-6 p.m. – required orientation meeting for those enrolling children in Faith Formation. A parent or adult need only attend one of the meetings.

**September 17:** 7- 8:30 p.m.; Church - Women & Men in the Spirit hosting Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi for an evening of first-hand stories and his teachings of Non-Violence. All are welcome! Goodwill gifts accepted at the door.

**September 26:** 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. – Discovering Christ. Sessions include dinner, videos, and small group discussions. This program meets on Wednesdays **September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24 and November 7, 14, plus a retreat day October 27** (9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

### OCTOBER

**October 1:** 7-8:30 p.m. – Women in the Spirit host Deacon Eric & Marlene Bessette for a "getting to know you" event.

**October 2:** 7-8:30 p.m. – Dr. Joe Kelly reviews Walter Brueggemann's book, "The Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now". This four-week program meets **October 2, 9, 16 and 23.** Book required.

**October 20:** OKTOBERFEST Celebration

**October 25:** 12- 1:30 p.m. – Dr. Jim Lovelock presents "The Second Book of Samuel" in a new Bible Study group for men & women. This four-week program meets **October 25 and November 1, 8 and 15.**

**October 28:** Trunk or Treat, celebrating Halloween and All Saints Day

### NOVEMBER

**November 3:** Memorial Mass for those we have lost in the past year

**November 3,4:** Healthy Sisters Soup Sale after all Masses

Fall and Winter Clothing Drive

**November 5:** 7-8:30 p.m. – Women in the Spirit Service Event – Preparing for Christmas Baskets with Margie Benza

**November 19:** Turkey Drive collection night

### DECEMBER

**December 2:** Christmas Concert

**December 3, 10, 17:** Advent Vespers

**December 3:** 7-8:30 p.m. – Women in the Spirit Community Event – Advent Wreath Making

**December 9:** Gingerbread House Building – Advent season celebration

**December 19, 20, 21:** Christmas Basket Assembly, Wrapping and Delivery

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION UPDATE

**M**any things start back up in September... school... football... and a new season of Faith Formation offerings at Transfiguration. We strive for a wide variety of offerings to serve the needs of our parishioners, no matter where they are on their faith journeys. In addition to checking out the offerings below, be sure to check out the Life Long Faith Formation booklet which was mailed to all parishioners over the summer; there are many more opportunities for folks of all ages to learn and grow at Transfiguration!

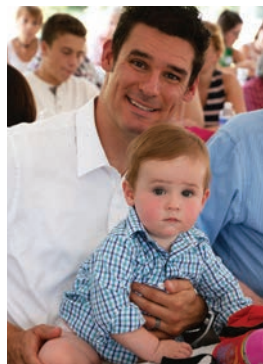
**FOR ADULTS:** The Discovering Christ program returns for a seven-week series beginning Wednesday September 26 from 6:30-9PM (no meeting on October 31, and our day of retreat will be Saturday October 27). Enjoy a free dinner, a video presentation, and small group discussions in a friendly, supportive community. This is a great way to build relationships with other parishioners and explore your relationship with God. Come and ask the big questions!

**FOR TEENS:** Our weekly youth groups start up the second week in September. The middle school group (6th-8th graders) begins Sunday, September 9 from 10:15-11:15 a.m., and the senior high group (9th-12th graders) begins Tuesday, September 11 from 7-8:30 p.m. Both groups meet in the youth room in lower level of the Education building. All are welcome to come and bring a friend!



**FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN:** Bridges of Faith will kick off for the year with parent information meetings during the week of September 16. Families gather monthly throughout the school year for a meal, followed by shared family activities and breakout sessions at grade level. At-home discussion materials are provided for the other weeks during the month. New this year, families will be connected in small groups for some of the sessions.





Lord, how good it is for us to be here! We celebrated 35 years together as a faith community in August. Our celebrations started with a family movie night, attended by 35 people on a perfect summer evening. The celebrations continued with a special Sunday Mass with Bishop Matano, attended by 350 people, followed by a BBQ and talent show, with 300 plus people in attendance. A huge thank you to everyone who worked to put on the celebrations, sharing their time and talents with the parish. All of this was possible because of you!

Bishop Matano and Fr. Mike



# HELP WANTED

## MASS

**MUSICAL TALENT** | Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Please consider joining any of our musical groups. We have a traditional choir (9 a.m. Sunday Mass), folk choir (4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass), teen choir (every other Sunday 11/11:30 a.m. Mass), Matthew 17 Christian 'Rock' (every other Sunday 11/11:30 Mass), youth choir and youth bell choir (usually for the holidays and other special occasions). We are always in need of instrumental talent to accompany the 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 welcomed 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 one can be paired into a team! Contact Margie Benza at [margie.benza@dor.org](mailto:margie.benza@dor.org).

**EUCCHARISTIC 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).

**LECTORS** | Most people fear public speaking more than Bigfoot or a Great White Shark. Conquer that fear by spreading the Good News. You don't need a James Earl Jones or Diane Sawyer voice, and we promise there is training and workbook provided with a website to help with those difficult to pronounce words like Arimathea and Tychicus. Interested adults and confirmed teens, please contact Margie Benza at [margie.benza@dor.org](mailto:margie.benza@dor.org).

**HOSPITALITY** | Help those donut holes and coffee urns magically appear after 9:00 a.m. Mass. Volunteers are needed to pick up and deliver the donuts (sign up for a month) and set up/clean up (scheduled according to your availability, usually once every couple of months). This is a great family activity – please contact Margie Benza at [margie.benza@dor.org](mailto:margie.benza@dor.org) if interested.

## FORMATION

*Please contact Anne Gallagher, Vicky Rippel or Meg Kastner to volunteer with any Formation activity.*

**ADAPTIVE LEARNING MENTORS** | Help with the NEW Adaptive Faith Formation Program, which meets Tuesday afternoons. Training is provided. Teens or adults may volunteer.

**BRIDGES OF FAITH FACILITATORS** | Lead children in lessons during large gatherings. Resources and lessons are provided. Teens or adults may volunteer.

**HOSPITALITY AT FORMATION EVENTS** | Help with food preparation and service during our formation events. Schedule will vary with events; your participation is flexible. Teens or adults are welcome.

**YOUTH MINISTRY ADULT LEADERS** | We are in need of caring adults to help guide our Middle and High School youth groups. The Middle School group meets each Sunday between Masses, and the High School group meets every Tuesday evening. Adult leaders typically help out at one meeting per month.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION—SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS** | First Reconciliation and First Communion: Help lead children and parents through creative non-textbook style activities. Resources and plan provided. Adults and teens needed.

**CONFIRMATION** | Walk with group of candidates through their 2-year preparation program. Must be available to attend bi-weekly confirmation gatherings on Sunday nights. All lesson plans and materials are provided.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLW) and WEE ONES WORD (WOW)**

Looking for adults and teens to lead our children in age appropriate lessons and activities. CLW takes place at the 9 and 11:30 a.m. Masses, serving children 4 to 8 years old. CLW sessions include prayer, readings and activities. WOW takes place at 9 a.m. Mass, serving children under 4 accompanied by a parent. Resources and training are provided. Scheduled to your availability.

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**SCHOOL 39 TUTORS** | Tutors are needed for math and reading at city elementary School 39, located near Rochester General Hospital. Help a child achieve their potential with an hour or two a week during the school day. This is perfect for retirees looking to give back to their community. Contact Helen Konz at 248-2297 if you want to volunteer or have any questions.



**FALL CLOTHING DRIVE** | Volunteers are needed to sort clothing on November 4th, teens and families – this is a great opportunity to serve without leaving church! Adult drivers are needed to deliver on November 5th. See the bulletin for details as the date approaches!

### THANKSGIVING TURKEY DRIVE

Transfiguration parishioners provide over 150+ frozen and cooked turkeys and trimmings to six local agencies. Teens are welcome to join us in taking donations from 5-7PM on 11/19. Adult delivery assistance is also needed in the morning on 11/20. Sign up sheets will be available in November.

**CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM** | You will feel the true spirit of Christmas - the love of Jesus - during the Christmas Basket program. We provide food and modest gifts for approximately 190 families (900+ individuals). Sponsor a family during sign-up on the first two weekends in December – or volunteer to help with assembly, wrapping or delivery on December 19, 20 and 21. Sign-up sheets will be available in December. Invite family, friends and neighbors to participate and share in the joyous spirit.

## LONG RANGE PLAN

**COMMUNICATIONS** | The communications sub-team would love to have additional content contributors. Do you like to take event photos? Have great ideas for postings on our social media feeds? Want to write an article for the newsletter? If so, contact Nancy Wahl at [nancy.wahl@dor.org](mailto:nancy.wahl@dor.org). Teens especially welcomed!

**CULTURE** | Help provide input on what makes Transfiguration special and unique and assist in providing information for pastoral assignment when Fr. Mike retires in the next 1-3 years. Contact Ron and Martha Jodoin at [rjodoin@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rjodoin@rochester.rr.com)

**PASTORAL CARE** | Want to help make our parish even more vibrant, with activities to engage all our parishioners? Pastoral Care can use your help, adult and teen volunteers needed. Contact Kim Fluet at [knoethen@gmail.com](mailto:knoethen@gmail.com).



# Summer at Transfiguration



Vacation Bible School



Kickball



Flowers from Terry and Armond



Donation Garden





## Welcome to the New and Improved Campus!

The final project of the repair and restoration of our campus has been completed this year. Through the Hands of Christ initiative, YOU have helped us to successfully accomplish our goals and resolve problems that were literally “seeping below the surface”.

After an unusually wet winter that delayed our progress for some time, the new heating and air conditioning system has been installed. Our drainage issue was identified and resolved with new subsurface drains, excavating, trenching and re-landscaping the area around the church. With all that complete, we were ready to have the church duct system repaired and lined to eliminate further damage.

Simultaneously, the contractors began the two projects to repair and restore the roof on our Parish Life Center, replace the roof on the Church, as well as adding a new improved gutter system. The gutter system was needed to better handle the large amounts of rain coming off our roofs and overflowing during heavy storms.

Next on our list was the parking lot. We needed to repave our driveway entrance that was crumbling after 35 years. Once again, we faced water issues underground and had to extend our meridian to work through that problem cost effectively. We hope you are pleased with the new open look and the two light posts to better illuminate the area for our safety. We “sealed the deal” by repairing, recoating and striping the parking lot, adding four new handicap spaces close to the church entrance to better serve our parishioners.

Finally, in September, we will have the gym floor scrubbed and resealed for upcoming social events and our CYO program.

It's been a busy summer, don't you agree? Thank you all for a job well done!



Drainage Work



Roofing



Parking Lot Entry Pavement Replacement

## Parishioner Spotlight: The Mack Family

As we celebrate our 35th Anniversary and remember those who worked so hard to build our original parish community, we can't forget that a vibrant parish community is always adding new members. Those new members inject new energy and passion to our community, and we welcome them with open arms. This issue we highlight the Mack family: Jim, Debra, Christina (17), Jennifer (14) and Julia (14). Jim and Debra are natives of Chicago, which is where they met and were married. They moved to California shortly after, and all three daughters were born there. They joined Transfiguration almost exactly one year ago, after moving to Pittsford from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Jim is CEO of Ashly Audio, based in Webster, and Debra has a background in real estate and cosmetic sales.

It was a challenge to move to a new community with three teenagers. The Mack's quickly became involved in parish activities. According to Debra, “The involvement in Transfiguration has helped us get involved and meet caring, loving families. I strongly believe in God as my leader and through service you feel stronger giving to and helping others. My faith has always gotten me through and continues to support me in these relocations first by getting involved with the Church and its people.”



Jim Mack plays bass guitar at Transfiguration on Sundays. Debra and her daughters participated in Bible School this year – Debra leading the kitchen squad, and Julia serving as group leader and Jennifer on the gym team. The girls were excited to participate this year, after many years of being VBS ‘campers’ in Louisiana. Debra indicated “They both left with a sense of fellowship and good feeling being of service to the children younger than them and able to teach what they were so freely given through volunteers before them. It was a rewarding experience”. There was an additional benefit for Debra, working in the kitchen. “I met a great group of people who were interested in helping make VBS a success.”

The Mack daughters have plenty of activities outside of church. Christina, a senior at Mendon, is an accomplished artist and a national award-winning cheerleader. She is on the Mendon track team. The twins, Jennifer and Julia also are athletes, and will start



Mack Family

at Mendon this September.

Jennifer participated in cross country and track, and Julia's preferred sport is volleyball. The twins are slated to make their Confirmation at Transfiguration next year.

We are fortunate as a community to have new members join Transfiguration and bring their faith and energy to share with us.

# SERVING OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

## *in Rochester*

Every issue we highlight one or two of our service ministries; and in this issue we focus on two that directly serve the homeless and disadvantaged in Rochester. One is the Teen Service Week; our teens live in the city for a week and serve at different agencies to help those in need. The second is a homeless ministry we participate in, run by St. Mary's church.

**TEEN SERVICE WEEK** | This summer twelve teens from Transfiguration participated in our summer service retreat with the Sisters of St. Joseph Volunteer Corps July 16-20. Teens lived in community with the sisters at St. Boniface convent in the South Wedge neighborhood of Rochester and spent their days in service at Bethany House, Daystar, the Nativity School summer program, and St. Peter's soup kitchen. Vivian Mundschau has participated in this ministry for the past two years. She remarked "The Sisters of Saint Joseph taught me that kindness isn't a one-off thing. It is a lifestyle choice, choosing to live your life in a way that lifts up the people around you. Going on retreat in the city helped me discover a part of myself I hadn't seen before. When I left, I felt more complete than when I arrived."

**HOMELESS MINISTRY** | St Mary's organizes monthly (more often in winter) drives to assist the homeless. They partner with other churches to have the resources to reach more people. Transfiguration participates three times a year (March/April, June and September). Our efforts are coordinated by Deacon Eric Bessette.

You may wonder how this ministry works. A team of people is assembled at Blessed Sacrament, usually nursing students, workers from agencies that have temporary housing, and church volunteers. This team piles into a van, and they start visiting known locales where

the homeless are... under bridges, in abandoned railway stations, in tent cities. They typically make 4-5 stops each night and visit with around 30 or so homeless individuals.

Each individual is offered a bag of food, a hygiene bag, and a night in a safe motel. The night in the motel is contingent on the person agreeing to meet with someone from the Department of Social Services in the morning. Most everyone accepts the food, many accept the hygiene supplies, and on average eight will accept the hotel offer, leading to on average one person having their situation addressed.

The problems faced by our homeless population are complex and not solved in one visit. Many have addiction or mental illness, many simply do not want to live by our societal norms. According to Eric, this is a ministry of presence, letting the homeless know that they are not forgotten by their community and they are loved by God.

Eric calls on groups within Transfiguration to assist him - mostly in the preparation of food and hygiene kits to be distributed during the drive. This year our March/April commitment was assisted by our teens, the June commitment by our Men in the Spirit group, and Barb DeVencenzo coordinated the September assembly. Our parishioner volunteers put together 30 food and 30 hygiene bags for each drive. Every food bag contains a meal consisting of a sandwich, chips, granola bar, bottle of water and fruit. Each hygiene bag contains new underwear, socks and sample size shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste and other sundries.

Sometimes our volunteers ride along with Eric, usually two or three of our teens. The teens see a side of Rochester that they did not know existed. The homeless who want the night in the motel are driven in the van to Motel 6 by the airport. On the way they interact with the teens and our youth get to see the humanity of the homeless. These individuals are parents, sons, daughters, and are relatable in so many ways.

Eric welcomes additional group participation. If you are already in a group (CYO team, small Bridges of Faith group...), and want to take on a service project, think about volunteering to purchase, collect or prepare the supplies for one of the trips and perhaps even join in. If you have extra unopened travel size hygiene supplies or want to donate new underwear or socks, just bring them to the Gathering Area after Mass and let a staff member know.

We truly are the Hands of Christ in both of these service ministries.







## Join us for Oktoberfest

What defines a great Saturday night in October? Authentic German food, German beer, wonderful homemade desserts, a great live polka band of nine, and exceptional dancing with friends and family. Here at Transfiguration, it will be our second annual OKTOBERFEST!

Our Social Events Committee has offered us several great events over the last year. All have been sold out and a great time was had by all. OKTOBERFEST is no exception. Join us for this fun night on Saturday, 10/20/18 at 5:30PM. Tickets go on sale in late September/early October after all Masses and at the Parish Office.

It is sure to be an eventful night with a Swan's German buffet, the Krazy Fireman Band and lots of fun including a few sporting their lederhosen! Join us, won't you?

## Long Range Planning

Here is a quick update, by sub-team, on the Long Range Plan efforts underway. Due to summer vacations, progress was limited, but the pace will pick up in the Fall.

All of the teams could use assistance, please see the Help Wanted Ad section for the skills needed!

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

All major projects are completed except parking lot sealing, which will be done shortly (see the separate newsletter article on the projects!) The team has completed analysis of our buildings and their maintenance needs for the next 5-10 years. The next project should be a replacement of the garage, as it is not structurally sound.

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

Finance is working on better communicating our financial state so that parishioners can see our situation and adjust their stewardship. Alternatives of what information to present and how to graphically show the data are being considered.

### **CULTURE**

The parish profile is being developed, with the target of a draft by year end. As a reminder, this profile will provide information to assist in the transition to a new pastor, should Fr. Mike retire in the next 1-3 years. In addition, we hope to finalize the new Mission Statement at the September Parish Council meeting.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication team members are assisting Finance on the improved financial status communications. In addition, Anne Gallagher worked with Joe Campagna and Ben Cutter to create a video, including parishioner interviews, at the 35th Anniversary party.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

This team has been on break since June 24, will resume in the fall, but recommendations from this team are already being enacted. Small communities are being incorporated as part of the Bridges of Faith program, and the culture of invitation and sharing gifts was been put into place with the Anniversary Talent show, with over 20 acts signed up!