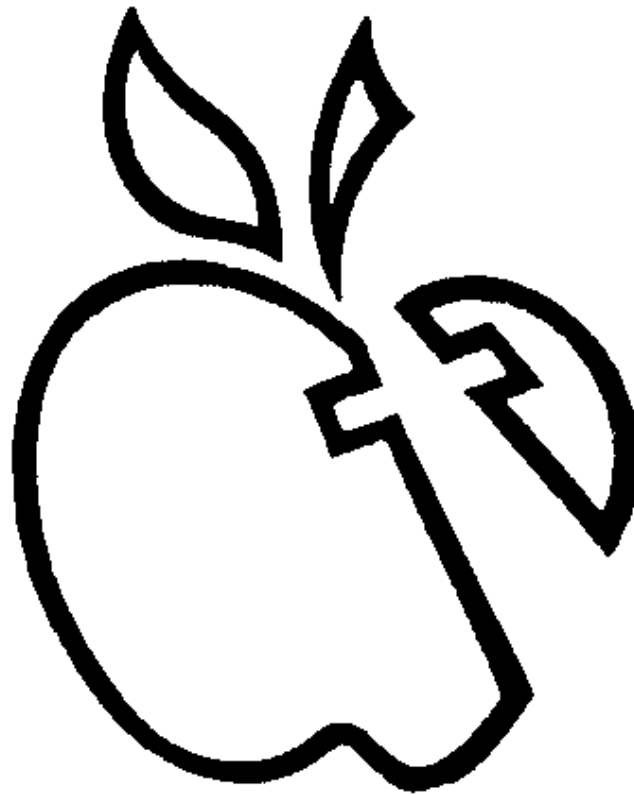




Church of the Transfiguration
CHRISTIAN FORMATION



2010-2011

Church of the Transfiguration
Christian Formation Office
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Welcome Letter

July 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another year of Children's Christian Formation. I am extremely excited about this coming year. We have some fun activities planned and a couple new approaches to your children's formation.

We have a wonderful group of people to help us do that. First and foremost are each of you! I'm sure you are all well aware that you are the first and most important person in the faith life of your children. Our job in the office is to support you. To do that, we have **Damian Zynda** as our Director of Christian Formation. Damian is a wealth of knowledge of our faith and is approachable to boot. She specializes in the adult formation programs, in particular spiritual formation. Leading our Youth Ministry is **Anne Gallagher**. This puts her in the midst of our 7th—12th graders. Anne has a gift when it comes to working with teens and families. Transfiguration is blessed to have her ministering with us! "New" (since January) to our department this year is **Stephanie Neder**. Stephanie is our formation secretary and is here to help you however she can. And, of course, you can always feel free to approach **me**. I will do what I can to help. We can all be reached in the Christian Formation Office (248-2467).

One of the biggest thing I have learned since coming to Transfiguration is that Christian Formation is a team thing here. From the pastor to newest parishioner, everyone plays a part. With that in mind, I welcome your input. What do you think we need to do? What do you think we need to *not* do? Your thoughts are important!

So here is to another wonderful year. Thank you for your commitment to Transfiguration and to Christian Formation. It is good to be here and it is good to work with you.

Yours in Christ,



Donald Smith
Assoc. Dir. of Formation

Your Help Is Needed

Volunteers are what make these programs work! We are in need of the following volunteers:

- **Catechists** - a weekly commitment to prepare for and teach a class. Teachers' materials and lesson plans are provided.
- **Substitute Catechists** - when a catechist is unable to be at class we need a list of people that are able to step in (sometimes with only a few hours notice).
- **Babysitting** - to help catechists with children too young for the program.
- **Principal** - Oversees the night's program, unlocking and locking the building, ensuring that children are not unattended and other odds & ends.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader** - facilitate age appropriate liturgical experiences for 4-7 year olds.

Please consider giving your time and talent to making these programs a success!



Weekly Religious Education (Gr. K-6)

The Children's Formation program for grades K-6 at Transfiguration strives to help children and their families grow in their faith and become productive members of the Church.

Our goal is to help parents in their role as primary religious educators of their children.

Offered at either 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday or 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings (for grades 4-6) beginning the week of **September 27**, the Religious Education classes provide basic instruction about the Catholic faith. We use the series *Blest Are We*.

Our catechists (teachers) are volunteers who give of their time and talent in passing on the Church's teaching to the children of the parish. They, and their ministry, are vital to the parish.

Parents are encouraged to follow up on with their children about what they are learning and reinforce those themes at home through discussion and ac-

tion. A variety of age appropriate activities can be found at www.blestarewe.com.

Classes are one hour in the Education Center. We do not have classes when Pittsford schools are closed or canceled. Please come into the lower-level entrance to drop-off and pick up your children.

For those with a need, a home-based formation option is also available. Details are on the next page.

Contact Don at 248-2467 or TransfigurationCF@gmail.com for more information.

Youth Ministry (Gr. 7-12)

Transfiguration's Youth Ministry (TYM) is for students in grades seven through twelve.

Senior High Youth meet on Tuesday nights during the school year from 7-8:30 for our weekly youth group, Destiny. We also have special events and retreats throughout the year.

This year comprehensive ministry to 7th & 8th graders will be two-fold. Junior High Family Su-

per Sundays will be 5 mini-retreats over the course of the year for youth **AND THEIR PARENTS**. To supplement the Junior High Family Super Sundays, we will also have periodic gatherings just for the youth. Junior TYM will meet on 10 Sunday mornings this year in between our Masses.

For more details, see the youth ministry mailing or contact Anne in the Formation Office.

Policies & Procedures

1. Children and youth should be ready for class or group at the start of the program promptly! Late arrivals can cause a disturbance and very often miss out on some fun and learning.
2. If your child will miss class or youth group, please call or email the office before 4:00 p.m. This way we are not looking for your child.
3. For the safety of your children please drop off and pick up your children in the downstairs gathering area for weekly classes. This allows all the children to stay in one place with adults at all times. It also safeguards any

parking lot accidents.

4. Please let us know if someone other than a parent is picking up a child. This is for both one-time and repeating pick-ups.

SNOW CLOSINGS:

If Pittsford Central Schools close (all day or after school activities), we cancel classes.

Watch Time Warner Cable Channels 9 (YNNRochester) & 13 (WHAM) for closings.

Check either rochester.ynn.com or 13wham.com for closings.



Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental Preparation is separate from parish Religious Education and Catholic Schools. Enrollment in Religious Education or Catholic Schools does not necessitate or automatically enroll a child in Sacramental Preparation. A brief synopsis of the Sacraments are included in the booklet.

**Important
Dates**

First Holy Communion Feb 6 @ 10:30am & Feb 8 @ 7:00pm - Info Meeting
Feb 27 @ 10:30am & March 1 @ 7:00pm - Parent Prep
March 27 @ 10:30am & 12:30pm - Activity Day

First Reconciliation Oct 12 @ 7:00pm & Oct 17 @ 10:30am - Info Meeting
Oct 31 @ 10:30am & Nov 2 @ 7:00pm - Parent Prep
Nov 14 @ 10:30am & 12:30pm - Activity Day

Confirmation June 1 @ 7:00pm & June 5 @ 10:30am - Info Meeting
Preparation Schedule will be available in January 2011.
Please call the office for information if needed.

**Full Calendar for
Preparation given
with registration.**

Home-Based Formation

For those families with an absolute need, we offer a formation experience done within the family setting. We encourage multiple families to come together for this, but it can be done by a single family.

Formation is typically done within the context of the parish community, however occasions arise where a child is unable to attend any of the classes due to their own or their parent's schedules. In order to best serve the needs of the community, we offer a home-based formation experience.

Children still complete the required lessons and also participate in gathered activities within the parish, such as seasonal prayer experiences or social

functions. This provides the community support and connection vital to Catholic life.

Families interested in Home-Based Formation should contact the formation office for further details. Home-Based Formation begins in the fall and follows the same schedule as the weekly Children's Formation program.

Cost for Home-Based Formation is \$50 – the cost of materials.

Some Other Formation Opportunities

Formation is more than simply weekly class that relay information. To help facilitate this, the formation office and parish offers a variety of resources for you to consider. Here are just a couple.

During the 4:30 Saturday, 9:30 & 11:30 Sunday Masses, children ages 4-7 are dismissed for the **Liturgy of the Word for Children**. During this time, the children hear the readings at an age-appropriate level and receive basic instruction on those readings.

Each year at the 3:30 Christmas Eve Mass we offer a **children's pageant** during the Gospel. Children from kindergarten

through 2nd grade participate in the pageant. Older children join the choir during the Mass. Sign-ups for this are in November.

The first full week following the 4th of July holiday we have a **Vacation Bible School** for children entering pre-k through 8th grade. It is a week of fun and excitement that has been described as "the best summer camp."

Registration begins in the spring with a mailing.



First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion is traditionally celebrated in the spring. Preparation begins in February with the celebrations at Sunday Eucharist at the end of April and in May.

The Sacrament is readiness based, meaning that when any member of the parish comes to an understanding of Communion and Eucharist, and has a desire for the Grace of the Sacrament, he or she is encouraged to prepare and celebrate the Sacrament.

At Transfiguration the typical age for the Sacrament has been 2nd grade. This is not a mandatory age, nor is it expected at that time. We do, however, find that children in the 2nd grade have a good understanding of the Sacrament.

The preparation process is primarily done at home with the parents. We will gather as a group for an activity day where we will reinforce the lessons from home while having fun. There is also an adult session for the parents to look at how the Sacrament is viewed differently from when we were growing up.

Celebration of the Sacrament is done during Sunday Mass so children can celebrate with their larger parish family.

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is traditionally celebrated in the fall. Preparation begins in mid-October with the celebration in early Advent.

The Sacrament is readiness based, meaning that when any member of the parish comes to an understanding of sin and forgiveness, and has a desire for the Grace of the Sacrament, he or she is encouraged to prepare and celebrate the Sacrament.

At Transfiguration the typical age for the Sacrament has been 4th grade. This is not a mandatory age, nor is it expected at that time. We do, however, find that children in the 4th grade have a good understanding of both sin and forgiveness.

The preparation process is primarily done at home with the parents. We will gather as a group for an activity day where we will reinforce the lessons from home while having fun. There is also an adult session for the parents to look at how the Sacrament is viewed differently from when we were growing up.

Celebration of the Sacrament is done during the Advent season as we prepare for Christmas.

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation is traditionally celebrated in the fall. Preparation begins in late Spring and continues through the summer with the celebration in October (date to be set by the Diocese).

When a member of the parish, with the help of his/her family and parish community, decide (s)he is ready for full initiation in the Church, through Confirmation, we invite her/him to join us in preparation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is typically celebrated as students go into high school. However, as a readiness-based Sacrament, age is not a reason alone to pursue full initiation.

Candidates gather to further their under-

standing of the Church, their faith and the sacrament. Because this journey is not made alone, sponsors and/or parents are encouraged to join the candidates at the sessions.

After the preparation process we will gather with Bishop Matthew at Sacred Heart Cathedral for the celebration of the Sacrament. Going to the Mother Church is symbolic of the candidates' initiation into something larger than themselves, and larger than just Transfiguration.



Adult Formation

Faith Formation is a life-long process. To help foster that commitment, the parish offers a variety of adult opportunities. Please see the adult formation booklet for more information and offerings. Just a sampling of the opportunities this fall:

Spiritual Direction		<i>By appointment with a spiritual director</i>
Formation Sundays	Throughout the year	<i>This series of introductory Catholic teaching will be an opportunity to learn or refresh yourself on the basic teachings of our faith.</i>
"Matthew" with Dr. Joe Kelly	Mondays Oct 18-Nov 8	<i>An exploration of the Gospel of Matthew</i>
"Mysticism" with Dr. Damian Zynda	Fridays Oct. 8-22	<i>A look at the mysticism within our Catholic tradition.</i>

Living Discipleship (Service)

A vital part of formation as a Christian is understanding the role of service in our lives. A true Christian is a follower of Christ, and Jesus asked us to love one another and to serve one another. Service is not something Christians do because it is required by an organization, but because we are called to it by God.

To help with this task, the parish offers the following opportunities for service along with encouraging parishioners to volunteer wherever they feel called beyond the parish as well.

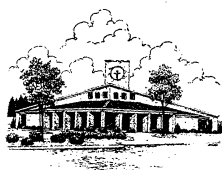
St. Andrew's Center	First and Third Fridays of the Month	Meet, befriend, tutor and be with children in the City of Rochester.
Christmas Basket Program	December	Sponsor needy families and make Christmas more special for them through gifts and food.
Liturgical Ministry	Year Round	Participate in the Sacred Liturgy through collection ministry, acolyte, lector, Communion minister, and other vital ministries.

Creating a Safe Environment

In accordance with the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' directive, the Diocese of Rochester requires all volunteers who minister to or with children, youth or vulnerable adults to be trained in Creating a Safe Environment. This program is open to all parishioners who wish to participate, but is required only of those who interact regularly with children, youth or vulnerable adults.

Workshops are offered in the Fall and Spring. The fall workshop is currently scheduled for **September 15 @ 7:00 p.m.** in the Education Center. Other sessions will be offered on an as-needed basis. Watch the bulletin for details on additional sessions. The workshop is typically an hour and a half to two hours long.

For more information, please contact Don Smith (248-2467, dsmith@dor.org) or Anne Gallagher (248-2467, TransfigurationYM@gmail.com).



2010-2011 Calendar

September

12 – Catechist Meeting
 14 – Destiny Begins
 15 – CASE Training
 19 – Middle School Super Sunday
 26 – Junior TYM
 27-30 – Classes Begins

October

2 – Regional Catechist Retreat
 10 – Junior TYM
 11 – NO RE CLASS
 12 – 1st Reconciliation Info Mtg.
 17 – 1st Reconciliation Info Mtg.
 Middle School Super Sunday
 24 – Junior TYM
 31 – 1st Reconciliation Parent Prep

November

2 – 1st Reconciliation Parent Prep
 11 – NO CLASS (Veteran's Day)
 14 – 1st Reconciliation Activity
 Day
 22-25 – NO RE CLASSES or
 Youth Group (Thanksgiving)

December

4 – FIRST RECONCILIATION
 20-30 – NO RE CLASSES or
 Youth Group (Christmas)

January

2 – Catechist Workshop
 17 – NO CLASS (MLK Day)
 25 – No Destiny (Exam Week)

February

6 – Junior TYM
 6 – 1st Communion Info Mtg.
 8 – 1st Communion Info Mtg.
 13 – Middle School Super Sunday
 21-24 – NO RE CLASSES or
 Youth Group (School Break)
 27 – Junior TYM
 1st Communion Parent Prep

March

1 – 1st Communion Parent Prep
 4-6 — High School Search Retreat
 9 – Word and Ash Service for
 Families
 13 – Junior TYM
 20 – Middle School Super Sunday
 27 – Junior TYM

April

3 – Junior TYM
 5 – 1st Communion Pot Luck
 10 – Middle School Super Sunday
 11-14 – Final Classes for
 Children's Program
 19 – No Destiny (Holy Week)
 30 – First Communions

May

1 – First Communions
 Junior TYM
 14-15 – First Communions
 15 – Junior TYM
 21-22 – First Communions

June

1 — Confirmation Info Mtg.
 5 – Confirmation Info Mtg.
 14 – Final Destiny
 19 – Baccalaureate Mass

July

11-15 – Vacation Bible School

*For Adult Formation Opportunities,
 please see that mailing or call the office.*

Formation Contacts

Please feel free to contact any of the people below with questions, comments or concerns. We are here to help in whatever way we can. For general office email, please email TransfigurationCF@gmail.com.

Dr. Damian Zynda Director of Christian Formation

248-2467 x235, dzynda@dor.org

Don Smith Associate Director of Christian Formation

248-2467 x238, dsmith@dor.org

Anne Gallagher Youth Ministry Coordinator

248-2467 x239, transfigurationYM@gmail.com

Stephanie Neder Christian Formation Secretary

248-2467 x242, sneder01@aol.com



Christian Formation

You may wonder why we call what we do “Christian Formation” at Transfiguration. Many of us grew up with CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine). This method of passing on the Catholic faith through memorization gave many some knowledge, but did not leave room for advancement. It was very “this is what you need to know and then you can stop and be a good Catholic.” Next came Religious Education, but that name focuses only on the education about Catholicism and fails to recognize that Catholic is something we do, not something we learn about. Here at Transfiguration we have adopted Christian Formation as a way of recognizing that we are continually formed in our faith — the faith in Christ.

Christian Formation is more than simply Religious Education or CCD. Through formal instruction, prayer, liturgy, service and community, we strive to help in forming the faith of the parish. Under the umbrella of Formation are Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation, Adult Education opportunities, youth ministry, Children’s Liturgy of the Word and much, much more.

The name may have changed, but the primary goal is the same. Where many parents went through CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) or Religious Education, today’s children go through Children’s Formation. With the new name we recognize the hope to give more than book-knowledge. Our faith involves more than simply understanding words in a book.

Teachers are now called Catechists, from the Greek word Catechesis—meaning to resound. It includes the use of many means to pass on the Gospel of Christ, in all its forms. Catechesis is based in Scripture and Tradition and is a lifelong process of conversion.

In this packet you will find information on Religious Education (for both children and adults), Youth Ministry, Sacramental Preparation (again, for both children and adults), Children’s Liturgy of the Word, and much more.

*Let the Children come to me,
and do not stop them; for it is to
such as these that the Kingdom
of Heaven belongs.*



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