



The Trans Informer

THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, PITTSFORD, NY

DECEMBER 1, 2007
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From the Corner Office

Dear Friends,

The holiday season will soon be upon us. Hopefully it will be a time when Americans center their attention on gratitude and blessings; a time of faith, and love for family and friendships. During this time, we are given the opportunity to cease our normal activities and give thanks to a good and gracious God, never forgetting those whose needs are amplified at this time.

Despite the secular "holiday sales" that inevitably come, the holidays are steeped in religious belief and rich tradition. Our holiday celebrations help me refocus my own thoughts and prayers on our

efforts as a parish to develop the concept of stewardship as a way of life. The idea of gratitude is just part of this philosophy, but an integral one. Three years ago Bishop Robert Morneau, of the Diocese of Green Bay, spoke here at Transfiguration at the annual Diocesan Stewardship Day. He said "gratitude is the cornerstone of stewardship. All is a gift for those who see life with the eyes of faith. God gives us our existence and talents, our time and our treasure, our family and friends. Stewards express their gratitude by a life of generosity."

A sense of gratitude is only the very beginning of a life of stewardship. With our gratitude

comes the realization that we need to act responsibly with the gifts God has given us. We can do this through care and concern for the planet and our environment, the development of personal talents to be used as God calls us and the proper and loving care of our children, society and most especially, of those less fortunate than ourselves. God has given each and every one of us a sum of talents and treasures, opportunities and challenges, all intended to work for and with God.

Please celebrate the season with joy and hope in your hearts!

*In peace and courage,
Fr. Mike*



Advent 2007

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Monday Evenings
in the Church
7:00 PM
December 3, 2007 &
December 10, 2007

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Saturday, December 15,
2007 at 10:00 AM
Monday, December 17,
2007 at 7:00 PM
*Individually at 3:30 PM
on Saturdays
or by appointment*

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE
3:30 P.M. & 5:30 PM
Doors Open at 3:00 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS
*Prelude begins
at 11:30 PM*

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 AM



The Music Ministry and MATTHEW 17 – "How Good It Is To Be Here!"

Our latest Anniversary Event—an October Night of Music Celebration, "How Can We Keep From Singing?" was not only a night of excellent praise music but the debut of the new Trans-

figuration song. Parishioner and lead guitarist of "Matthew 17", Mike Wahl debuted his reggae style song How Good It Is to Be Here. The story was told as to how this song "just came all at

once," like the very first Transfiguration song did, almost 24 years ago when this newly formed Catholic Christian community was about to dedicate its first worship space.

Music

By Sue Wallace, Director

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Throughout the years, other songs have been written for the people of Transfiguration, by our own parishioners. Steve Marsocci's song for the men of Kentucky is a favorite. Bass player Mike Cooney's jazz arrangement of "Amazing Grace" entitled "A Little Grace" was also played at the night of music.

Over the years Transfiguration lyricists Charlie Newton and Lucia Welch have partnered with Steve and myself, to create songs for special occasions and liturgies including RCIA, Search, our 5th Anniversary Celebration, First Communion, Confirmation and Christmas songs. Who knows, someday we might create a CD of all Transfiguration's originals!

"The Music Ministry and Matthew 17"

God has always blessed Transfiguration with an abundance of musically talented folks who give their gifts so generously throughout the year. From the foundation of our community music has been "normative," that is, our regular tool to express our faith and to celebrate and honor God's sacred presence when we gather. Matthew 17's contemporary style of music at 11:30 masses, twice a month, adds a whole new dimension to our sung prayer and certainly fulfills the command "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord,"

Transfiguration parishioners can find the music style that best expresses their faith— Saturdays' 4:30PM folk ensemble, Sunday mornings' 8:00 & 9:30, a combination of traditional and Catholic contemporary music found in Gather and now at 11:30,

"Matthew 17's" contemporary Christian style alternating with the current contemporary light" (some Gather songs, some light praise type songs).

As always, interested singers for all masses are encouraged to fill out the music registration form found on the music page on our website, transfigurationpittsford.org.

"Lex orandi – lex credendi" in essence, "how we worship is how we believe" certainly reveals Transfiguration as a church of vibrant believers! How can we keep from singing?



Peace and Justice "Weaving Peace & Justice into the Fabric of Our Daily Life"

Karen Nowlan, Coordinator

Peace and Justice Ministry, through the lens of Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and the historical witness of the Church continues and fosters the mission of Christ. We invite you to join with us in weaving peace and justice into the fabric of our daily life through a variety of ministry opportunities.

ST. ANDREW'S PARTNERSHIP with Transfiguration has as their foundation, the Catholic Social Teaching on Solidarity. Some of the ministries are the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the food cupboard, tutoring the children at St Andrew School, chaperoning teenager Friday afternoon activities and more. One ministry is now entering a new phase. A few months ago 18 people from Transfiguration joined 25 people from St. Andrew in a survey of the Portland Ave. neighborhood to determine critical needs of that community. The results were staggering and led to a decision to dramatically expand the scope of the services provided by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Roger Corea from Transfiguration is leading this expansion effort. The strategic plan will be in place at the end of this year and the expansion of activities will begin early next year.

Bob Fien, Ministry Leader

SEEKING JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN is a committee aimed to bring children out of poverty. The goal is to change the culture of poverty from within. Most recently the group raised \$10,000 from Transfiguration

parishioners for tuition assistance to keep children at risk in St. Andrews school. We believe that kids who stay in school are more likely to escape poverty on their own.

Our group participates in the Food Pantry at St. Andrews, works together with the St. Vincent De Paul Society to get household goods to destitute families, is planning a project for a new playground, tutors and offers other school help, organizes the box tops and coupon project here at Transfiguration which helps with their school supplies, contributes their time in St. Andrews children activities to keep kids off the streets and participates in the Rochester Children's Zone.

John Strazzabasco, Ministry Leader

GOD'S CREATION MINISTRY received a wonderful response at the introduction of their ministry at a recent Stewardship Weekend. There seems to be a whole lot of "green" in the Transfiguration community. The time for action is upon us. You are invited to join the Transfiguration "Care of God's Creation" Environmental Ministry at our next meeting on **Thursday December 13th** 7:00-8:45 PM in the Parish Life Center.

The Diocese of Rochester has made confronting Climate Change its number one public policy objective for this year. Through prayer, advocacy and action, our group will bring a truly Catholic perspective to the protection of our precious planet. Everyone—teens to retirees are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Gerry Gacloch, Ministry Leader

SOCIAL MINISTRY efforts at Transfiguration have been very active from late summer through the generosity of our parish community. Successful outreach includes the School Supply Drive, Sanctuary House Back-to-School Picnic and the Monthly Food Drive.

Patty Lovallo, Ministry Leader

Healthy Sisters' Soup and Bean Works Sale

Through this innovative program at Catholic Family Center's Restart Department, women that are recovering from substance abuse earn a steady paycheck in a safe and nurturing environment and develop the self-confidence and job skills needed to enter or reenter the workforce with initiative, and confidence. This year we raised \$1664 at the sale in late October. **Winter Clothing Drive on November 3 & 4**

Donations were delivered to 26 Agencies and 2 families. A total of 135 people volunteered to organize, set up, sort and load, provide food for the workers and deliver the donations. Teens and children participated with their families.

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive

Your generous response provided meals for St. Martins, Mt. Carmel, House of Mercy, Bethany House, Eastern Service Workers, Dimitri House and St. Andrew's Food Pantry.

Christmas Basket Program

Plans are underway for this annual program building relationships and solidarity with the greater Rochester Community. Please join us this Christmas season, share the spirit of joy with others.

Adult Formation

By Damian Zynda, ThD

Discussion and experimentation around the nature and purpose of Adult Formation in the Catholic Church is currently underway. In the diocese and across the country, models range from a primary focus on education including courses in Scripture, Tradition and Catholicism, to the experiential – retreats and opportunities for service void of any substantial theological foundation. How's a Director of Formation to know what to do?

Upon my arrival at Transfiguration I began a discernment process to better understand the unique identity and charism of our parish. What I heard time and again was a desire for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, community and service "beyond the Basin."

"The Vision and Mission of the Office of Formation"

All good discernment begins with listening to God in an effort to discern God's desires. Since our parish identity is rooted in the Gospel of the Transfiguration, we need to pay particular attention to what that particular Gospel event is communicating. Notice, Jesus *led* his disciples away to *experience* the glory of God revealed in Jesus. His transformation was not an isolated incident reserved for him alone; rather, Jesus' transfiguration is a foretaste of *our* destiny. Jesus leads, we follow. That's called discipleship. Discipleship cannot occur unless we *know* who we are following, and why. That's the work of formation – helping to establish and deepen our personal and communal relationship with God through Jesus in the Holy

Spirit and to foster intentional discipleship. based on the Gospel of the Transfiguration, the Office of Faith Formation serves to help you discover, enrich and deepen an experiential relationship with God, and to better facilitate possible areas of service so as to respond more generously to Jesus' mandate to care for each other. To that end, we seek to provide the best possible religious, theological and scriptural education possible for our children, teens and adults.

I welcome your comments and insights as we continue to discern and respond generously to the God who has called us to this mysterious and amazing journey of being *transfigured* into the likeness of the Son of God.

Stewardship

By Margie Benza

The warmth and love of the Christmas season will soon fill our hearts and homes. It is in the busiest of the ordinary and in the quietest of moments, that we experience God's love and presence in our lives.

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration continues through the fall and winter seasons by "Celebrating Our Social Outreach". How does one "celebrate" Social Outreach? It is a celebration of gratitude and hospitality by serving others rather than the usual merriment of food, music and laughter. It's the appreciation of the gifts God has bestowed on each of us individually and uniquely for the good of others. We are invited to share our time, talent and treasure within our parish family and the

"Celebrating Our Social Outreach"

local community, thereby *living* our gospel values.

In November, our annual Turkey Drive provided a warm Thanksgiving meal for those in need. We were able to assist local agencies which included Bethany House, Dimitri House, Eastern Service Workers, Francis Center, House of Mercy, St. Andrew's and St. Martin's Place. All were very grateful for this small act of kindness.

The holidays bring increased anxiety for all, especially for those who live in poverty. Poverty is not in anyone's comfort zone but your kindness can bring comfort, care and compassion to so many. This month through the Giving Tree and the Christmas Basket Program, we challenge

you to grow, once again, by giving your time and treasure to take a name from our Giving Tree, sponsor a family or help assemble and deliver the Christmas baskets. Remember, the presence of God is in **YOUR** helping hands.

Coming this Spring!
Stewardship Ministry
Celebration
March 1st & 2nd,
after all Masses
in the Parish Life Center

Athletics

Jim Wright, Coordinator



Transfiguration's philosophy of athletics and recreation is one of invitation and participation. We encourage everyone who wishes to use our Parish Center and participate fully. We do not have any team play that requires making cuts or limiting the participation of may in favor of the few. We recognize the competitive world our young people are raised in and we believe that Transfiguration must be a place for kids to play and families to recreate.

Pope Paul VI said: "Sports well understood and practiced...contribute to the development of the whole person because it demands gener-

"Our Philosophy"

ous effort, careful self-control, mastery and respect for others, complete commitments and team spirit. These values contribute to the building of tomorrow's well-ordered society which we have characterized as the 'civilization of love.'"

It is with great pleasure that the basketball committee has united to provide constructive opportunities that together build a program we are proud of and worth of the Church of the Transfiguration name!!!



THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

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Celebrating 25 Years of Worship, Service and Formation

Yes— Lord, it is good for us to be here now and in the future!

The Church of the Transfiguration began its 25th year on August 5 and 6 with a highly successful **Parish Picnic** and our **Let's return to the Barn** celebration for *Mass!*

Our celebration continued in **September - Celebrating our Formation** with our **"Lighten Up!"** with Doug Brummel. Doug, with his cast of characters, helped us celebrate our faith and family; through his use of humor and education!

In October, **Celebrating our Music!** Our **"How Can We Keep From Singing?"** event was led by Transfiguration's Contemporary Music group "Matthew 17"

The planning Committee hopes you will mark your calendars and plan on participating in the following anniversary events.

December - Celebrating our Social Outreach! In began this portion of our celebration in November with our annual Memorial Mass,

Catholic Ministry Appeal and Turkey Drive. It continues in December with our **Service to the Community**, which includes the Giving Tree and Christmas Basket Program.

January - Celebrating our call to Peace and Justice!

In January we are called by the Diocesan Public Policy Committee and the New York State Catholic Bishops to speak out on a current **public policy** concern. This year's legislative advocacy will be on **Global Climate Change**.

January will also begin a parish focus on the rich justice tradition of the Church articulated in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.

February and March - Celebrating our Lenten Journey and Easter Joy!

> The Lent and Easter seasons will be filled with many personal and community opportunities to grow in our faith, including weekly prayer services, formation opportunities and the annual **Pittsford/Mendon Retreat** (3/1 - 4) focusing on **Music and Mission** with Jeanne Cotter.

> Saturday, 3/9 - The Annual Men's Fellowship **Spaghetti Supper** in support of our Kentucky Mission

> Friday, 3/14 - 7:00 PM: **Transfiguration turns Irish** with food and music

> **Celebrate our redemption!** - Holy Week and Easter - March 15

April and May - Celebrating our Nourishment in Sacraments and the earth!

April and May offers us the opportunity to appreciate the newness of life and nourishment in our Sacraments and the earth. We will celebrate First Communion with our young friends and "mother earth" by caring for our parish grounds.

August - Celebrating our 25 years and our future!

Our year long celebration will conclude the weekend of August 2nd & 3rd with a **Gala** on Saturday evening and our **25th Anniversary Mass** on Sunday at 11:00 with Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

