

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and embarking on a wonderful summer season! I'm happy to report that both churches will end the year with a surplus. When the books are closed, we'll provide more information, and as we have done in the past few years, we will host our annual Parish Hall meetings in October.

Although we will recognize operating surpluses, I must point out, or remind everyone, that in order to keep a healthy bottom line, we have been reducing staff every year, for at least the last few years.

Last fall, I was asked to take on more churches and given that many of the projects I had been working on over the past few years had or were coming to fruition, I agreed. As of January 1st, in addition to St. Catherine, Church of the Transfiguration, and St. Peter's, I also became the Finance Director for Our Lady of Peace Parish and St. Francis St. Stephen School in Geneva, St. Frances St. Clare Parish in Waterloo and Seneca Falls, Mary Mother of Mercy in Interlaken, Ovid, and Trumansburg, and Our Lady of the Lakes Parish and St. Michael School in Penn Yan, Naples, and Prattsburgh.



The only way this is possible is because Katie Mulcahy, our Finance Manager, and Ben Cutter, our Buildings and Grounds Manager, joined me in managing all these parishes. In total, we manage 7 parishes, 2 schools, and 12 cemeteries. This includes 15 churches (worship sites), over 35 buildings, more than 60 bank or investment accounts, and 12 budgets. Is our head spinning at times? Yes! But we knew it would be a heavy lift until we learn enough about the new locations, change account access, implement regional processes, etc. That said, we have been asking and will continue to ask for everyone's patience as we get settled and "catch up". Because we are now shared with all these parishes, St. Catherine and Transfiguration will save a fair amount on staffing costs.

Although we started these new assignments in January, our fiscal year begins July 1st, which as many of you know is the time when we often make changes to staffing and other day-to-day operations. Please congratulate Meg Kastner, who has just retired! Meg served at Transfiguration for 14 years in a variety of roles. She also helped at St. Catherine during Covid, and this past year served as the transitional/interim Liturgical Coordinator. She has been a blessing to her colleagues, parishioners, and the faith community as a whole and we pray for God's blessings over her and Mark as they start this new chapter in life! Meg will continue to be active in our parishes, as a spiritual director for the 19th Annotation and as a community member.

In addition to her current Pastoral Associate role at Transfiguration, Margie Benza will assume liturgical responsibilities at St. Catherine. Margie has served at Transfiguration as the Pastoral Associate for 20 years. She brings a wealth of knowledge in pastoral care, extensive liturgical and theological experience, and organizational gifts in leading and managing volunteers. Please welcome her to St. Catherine and get to know her as she settles in and works to further develop our faith community beginning this Fall.

Shauna Gilroy, our office Administrative Assistant, will be joining the Shared Service Center as a full-time bookkeeper to help Katie, Ben, and me manage the region. Not only could we use the help, but this is an opportunity that aligns with Shauna's skills and her interest in financial administration. Therefore, we will be working to fill a secretary position for our two churches.

Along those lines, we will also be reducing office hours at both churches. Beginning August 1st, St. Catherine's Office will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Transfiguration's Office will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This change will allow the Secretary more focused time to complete administrative tasks between both churches.

With Ben being spread amongst the Finger Lakes Region, we will also be hiring a part-time dedicated maintenance person to attend to regular maintenance and repairs, groundskeeping, etc. at Transfiguration. We thank Bob Goldbach as he continues to care for St. Catherine's Buildings and Grounds!

All these moves are intended to help us steward our resources as best as possible as we manage constant change. We are very excited to also be working with the Parish Council on reviewing our Mission and Vision statements to provide clear direction on how we move forward as a faith community in fulfilling God's calling in our lives, both personally and corporately.

Thank you each for your contributions of time, talent, and treasure! Please let me know if you have any questions and enjoy this beautiful summer God has given us!

God Bless,
Dan Hofford
Regional Finance Director