



3700 Harvey Lake Rd, Highland MI 48356

May 2nd - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Wayne States Universally

When the Families of Parishes concept was rolled out, we were told that the main factor driving the bus was a shortage of priests. I conveyed this message to the Parish and Finance Councils, and through the bulletin, to you. Last week, I "Zoomed" into the monthly Families of Parishes clergy meeting and we were told differently. A representative from the Catholic Leadership Institute showed a PowerPoint presentation based upon studies from CARA [Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate], the Pew Research Center, as well as their own work. It was called *Understanding the US Catholic Landscape*. Disturbing information was revealed about the future of the Catholic Church in the United States. Based upon Sacramental and other statistics gathered over the past 30 years, the report indicates where we will be 20 years from now. The picture is not pretty, actually, it is downright ugly.

Since 1990, the number of Catholic marriages has decreased, on average, 55%. I am surprised that it dropped by only that. I was ordained in 1990, and at my first parish assignment, the pastor, deacon, and I presided at 80+ weddings a year. Two years ago, I presided at 2 weddings. There were no weddings at our parish last year. There aren't any scheduled this year, only one is scheduled for next year. The report indicates that by 2040, the average number of Catholic marriages in this country will have decreased by 79%.

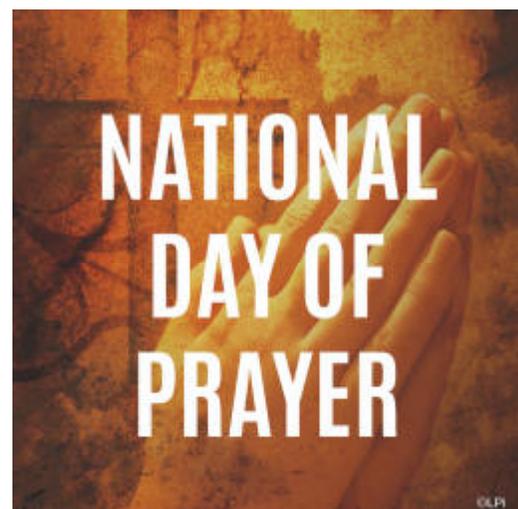
Currently, 1 in 5 children baptized will not receive First Communion, 2 in 5 will not be Confirmed. Of those who are Confirmed, 85% will stop practicing their faith by age 21. Although there are a couple of ways that one can do the math, the statistics show that of 100 children Baptized, only 6 or 12 will grow into adulthood as Catholics. In any instance, the numbers are not good. That's an 88 or 94% mortality rate! The presenter made it ever so clear "**current models of diocesan and parish life are unsustainable.**"

He also noted sobering trends and the resulting impact for Baby Boomers (ages 54-73) and Gen X'ers (ages 38-53), two significant population groups in the American church, whose donations represent roughly half of the Church's income. He estimates that by 2040, there will be 8.3M less Catholics in these age groups. As a result, the Church's income will decline annually by \$5B dollars.

Noted also were the current ages of clergy and Lay Pastoral Ministers. 70% of priests in active ministry are 60 or older, 30% are 59 and younger. Lay Ecclesial Ministers trail by a decade: 70% are 50 and older, 30% are 49 and younger.

Of the 171 Diocese in the United States, 40 have enough or more native-born priests than there are parishes. 131 Diocese, on the other hand, have fewer native-born priests than parishes. Currently, the Archdiocese has 218 parishes and 183 native born priests in active ministry, a deficit of 25 priests. In the Archdiocese there are 50+ foreign born priests in active ministry. Their presence, while augmenting the shortage, highlights the need as well as the fact that less young men in this country are seeking a vocation in the priesthood.

Continued inside cover . . .



Wayne States Universally

Continued from cover . . .

The beliefs and practices of Weekly Mass Goers were also noted. Without going into detail, it is best to say that are we an insular group. We don't even invite our own to Church services and activities much less anyone else beyond our parishes. Parishes are well advised to focus on the development and strengthening of relationships rather than activities. Strong headwinds are before us. They are not going away.

The unvarnished truth: The American Catholic Church as we know it is in trouble and is beyond the point of no return. In my estimation, we will run out of priests, people, and money at about the same time. Historians will consider this a chapter in the story of the Rise and Fall of the American Catholic Church.

The study does not tell us why the American Church is in the predicament that it is in. It only tells us that we are. It's just as well. Finger pointing won't do any good. The point is: In the near future, the American Church as we know it will change significantly. Navigating the rough waters ahead will require that we travel lighter and leaner: Much lighter; Much leaner. Catholic Store Front Churches, modern day variations of the early Christian House Churches are within the realm of possibility.

Regardless of how these changes unfold, they will have a significant impact upon the Universal Church, who in innumerable ways, relies upon us. Often, Pope Francis speaks of a "Poor church for the poor." This could well be where the Spirit is moving us. It would be an opportunity. In it lies great possibility. Therein is our hope. God only knows. Right now, he's not telling.

The only thing guaranteed for those who choose to stay in the boat is a rough ride. And although the future appears bleak, we are not dead in the water. We also have to keep in mind what Christ promised: "I will be with you until the end of the age."

Take Care,
Be Well,
Fr. Wayne

Holy Spirit Church

Calendar at a Glance

Monday, May 3

Office Open 9am-3pm
11am-AA
7pm-Bible Study

Tuesday, May 4

Office Open 9am-3pm
10am-Women's Prayer Group
12pm-Bible Study

Wednesday, May 5

Office Open 9am-3pm
10am-Bible Study

Thursday, May 6

Office Open 9am-3pm
6pm-Living Rosary / Women's Club

Friday, May 7

9am-Mass

Saturday, May 8

5pm-Mass

Sunday, May 9

9am-Mass
11am-Mass
7pm-Bible Study

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

Since we missed it last year, we want to make this year incredible for the children. Planning is underway for Rocky Railway... The Power of Jesus Pulls Us Through.

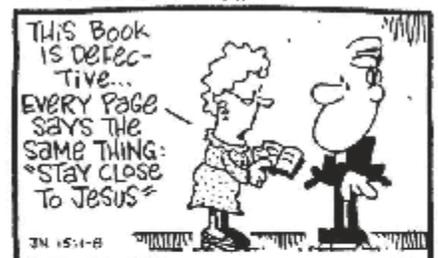


VBS will be held the week of August 2 from 9am-noon. Registration forms will be ready in June.

CURRENTLY we are in need of Adult and Teen Volunteers! Without our volunteers, we cannot hold VBS, so the volunteers are critical to the success of the program. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this week of fun. We have many opportunities.

Contact Jillian Peck jillian@holyspirithighland.com or 248-887-1634 for more details. Thank you.

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER



Parish Vision: To Be Christ to All.

Our Mission Statement: Led by the Holy Spirit, we accompany others to encounter Jesus, to give witness to Him, and to grow as missionary disciples.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does He prunes so that it bears more fruit.”

Jn 15:1-2

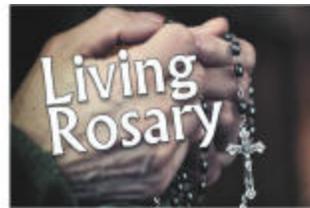
MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS



RIGHT TO LIFE WILL BE HANDING OUT CARNATIONS TO ALL MOTHER'S ON MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND. DONATIONS ARE WELCOME.

Living Rosary & May Crowning

Thursday, May 6th at 6:30pm in Church



Please join the Women of Holy Spirit as we say the Rosary and crown a statue of the Blessed Mother as a symbol of the honor we give her as the one chosen by God to bear his Son.

This beautiful candlelight ceremony is open to all members of our community.

A short business meeting will follow afterwards in the social hall. Refreshments will be served.



We are now accepting donations for our annual Rummage Sale. The sale will take place June 10 – 12. As long as your items are clean, have all the parts and are in working order; we will accept them. (No clothing or stuffed animals please). Donations can be dropped off Monday – Thursday 9-3 or by appointment. Call Jillian Peck 248-887-1634 for more information. No donations after June 4th. As always, proceeds fund youth events. Thank you!

Please Prayerfully Consider Adoring in Our Chapel

We are looking to have the following hours immediately filled.

Sunday	3-4AM, 2-3PM
Monday	2-3AM, 3-4AM
Wednesday	2-3AM, 3-4AM, 4-5AM, 2-3PM
Thursday	5-6AM, 9-10PM
Friday	5-6AM
Saturday	5-6AM, 11AM-12PM, 12PM-1PM

COVID Cleaning Schedule

Weekdays 12PM-1PM closed for cleaning

We are always looking for substitute adorers. Please call, Jenna Konarzewski 248-891-1623 Or Autumn Woodcox 248-872-6607

Meditations for May 2
Acts 9:26-31

He tried to join the disciples. (Acts 9:26)

There’s a lot of adventure in today’s first reading, isn’t there? Paul, fresh from escaping death threats in Damascus, arrives in Jerusalem, where he faces suspicion from Christians and an attempted murder from some Greek-speaking Jews.

Why so much drama? Quite possibly God was using all this upheaval to “prune” Paul, to further purify him from remnants of his old life (John 15:1-3).

We are so used to talking about the saints as if their holiness were a given, but that’s rarely the case. For many of them, the road to holiness was as long and winding as it is for many of us. After all, we know that Paul had a strong, assertive personality. Humility doesn’t always come easily!

By his own admission, Paul was “an arrogant man” before his conversion (1 Timothy 1:13). You can imagine how some of that arrogance might still have been present as he tried to convert people. Maybe the man who had once spent his life “breathing murderous threats” against Christians still needed to learn Jesus’ teaching about being poor in spirit (Acts 9:1). So it’s possible that God was using the chaos Paul encountered in Jerusalem to help him examine his heart and see where he still needed to change.

Anyone who has lived more than a few decades will tell you how valuable it is to be pruned by the Lord. They probably didn’t enjoy it at the time, but looking back, they could appreciate the fruit of such pruning. Coming face-to-face with our selfishness or arrogance or resentments can move us to turn to Jesus and ask him to purify us and set us free.

So let Jesus prune you from time to time. He promises that if you do, you will bear “more fruit” (John 15:2). You’ll become more like him, just as Paul did.

“Jesus, you are a wise and gentle gardener. Keep pruning me so that I can become more like you.”

Prayer REQUESTS

The names of the sick will be removed in 6 weeks. To re-list, or to add a name, please call the parish office at 248-887-5364.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Debbie Adams | Morgan Elliott | Robin Motley |
| Patrick Amrine | Ruthie Glover | Jeff Mummery |
| Greg Azzoli | Juliann Heidt | Jamie O’Brien |
| Jeannine Aubry | Wendy Hiebert | Don Owens |
| Samantha Barlow | Scott Hoensheid | Pam Parker |
| Rosemary Barnard | Carol Johnson | Josephine Polcyn |
| Kathy Bergen | Jim Kelly | Anthony Pilarz |
| Brooklyn Bridson | Tracy Kelly | Cole T. Quirolo, F3 |
| Amanda Burger | Ken Kost | Sylvia Ramirez |
| Kevin Burger | Bob Kotulak | Paula Reynolds |
| Margaret Chenier | John Laskey | Kelly Rodgers |
| Dan Cole | Pete Lillemoen | Betty & Ken Simmons |
| Jennie Collins | Maurie Luther | John Skelly |
| Nancy Cooper-Bass | Roberta Luther | Kimi Stephens |
| Gayle Crawford | Christina McCarthy | Courtney Thompson |
| D’Ambrosi Family | John Matchinski | Linda Tudman |
| Gene Demey | Tom Mitch | Terese Tuohey |
| Steve Demey | Ed Meyer | Louie Weglarz |
| Jason Dull & Family | | |



Weekly Offertory Collection

Date	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under)
	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
04/25	\$ 8,146	\$ 9,885	(\$ 1,739)
Y-T-D	\$535,612	\$515,055	\$20,557

This report is based on the Offertory Collection line in the budget. It includes weekly envelopes, loose and children’s collection, holy day collections, and online giving. It does not include Christian Service, fuel, or kitchen fund envelopes, the Christmas collection, Parish fundraisers, grants received, CCE tuition and fees, or other miscellaneous income. It is based on a yearly budget where we anticipate the expenses of the Parish. Just because there may be a deficit here, it does not mean the Parish is operating at a deficit. To Feel free to direct questions to the Parish Finance Council.

The weekly offertory is the life-blood of any parish. We have utility bills to pay, a large physical plant to maintain, staff that we have hired to run our day-to-day operations, youth to teach, worship and music ministry to support, Christian Service neighbors to help. We need everyone who can to put something in the offertory basket each week. We are so grateful for all who give weekly and are consistent contributors.

Readings for Sunday, May 9

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 |
1 Jn 4:7-10 | Jn 15:9-17

Explore the Sunday Gospel



The Vine and the Branches
Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Take Time to Chat

1. What happens to a branch when it is cut off a vine? What is Jesus trying to teach us through this analogy?
2. In what way does the story of the vine and the branches describe your relationship with Jesus?
3. Jesus says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you." What would you ask of Jesus today?
4. In the story of Sts. Timothy and Maura, why do you think Maura encouraged Timothy to keep the faith? Who encourages you to keep the faith?

Family Prayer

This prayer will help you to stay close to Jesus.

It has a simple formula using the acronym, **ACTS**.

Spend time reflecting and sharing on the following prayer prompts.

- A**—Adoration —I praise You, God, for...
C—Confession—I am sorry for...
T—Thanksgiving—I am thankful for...
S—Supplication —I ask You for.

Christian Service Corner

We are in need of the following items:

Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap,
Mayo, Peanut Butter, Tuna, Vegetable Oil, Granola Bars

**Due to COVID we can no longer take plastic or paper bags. Also, at this time, we cannot accept expired food.*

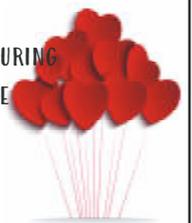
Meet Our Extended Family



Sts. Timothy and Maura suffered for the faith during the persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. Timothy came from Egypt and was the son of a priest. Raised in the Church, he became a lector and spent his evenings preaching the Gospel as well as keeping the holy Scriptures and liturgical books safe in his home during the persecutions. In the year 286 Timothy married a pious 17-year-old woman named Maura, and the two began a life of prayer and Christian witness together. When Timothy and Maura had been married for only 20 days, Timothy was denounced as a Christian and a keeper of the holy books. His captors, on the authority of Diocletian himself, demanded that Timothy surrender the books of Scripture to them. Timothy refused and was tortured. Arian, the governor, tried to convince him to give in for Maura's sake. Maura was brought to Timothy and encouraged him to stand firm and not deny Christ. She confessed to be a Christian herself and was subject to torture as well. Afterward, she was immersed in a pot of boiling water, but remained unharmed. While the governor was impressed by the miracle, he soon resumed his tortures by having the young couple nailed to two crosses facing each other. For 10 days they prayed together, sang hymns, and encouraged each other as they suffered for Christ. Ultimately, both found themselves welcomed into the arms of Christ as glorious martyrs. The witness of their courage and joy so inspired their torturer that he soon became a Christian, was martyred himself, and is venerated in the Eastern Church as St. Arian of Alexandria.

MY DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

I THANK YOU ABUNDANTLY FOR YOUR EVERY PRAYER DURING MY TIME OF KNEE SURGERY AND RECOVERY. I'VE MADE A FULL RECOVERY IN A RECORD AMOUNT OF TIME. GOD HEARD YOU AND I'VE BEEN VERY BLESSED. BLESSINGS TO EACH OF YOU, MARY JOHNSON



Mass Intentions

Lector Schedule

Monday, May 3

1 Cor 15:1-8 | Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday, May 4

Acts 14:19-28 | Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 5

Acts 15:1-6 | Jn 15:1-8

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Andrew & Lindsey Alexander

9:00 a.m. Our Parish

Thursday, May 6

Acts 15:7-21 | Jn 15:9-11

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Andrew & Lindsey Alexander

9:00 a.m. Holy Souls

Friday, May 7

Acts 15:22-31 | Jn 15:12-17

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Andrew & Lindsey Alexander

9:00 a.m. +Don Dopierala

Saturday, May 8

5:00 p.m. (PPP) Andrew & Lindsey Alexander

5:00 p.m. +Dan Doyle

Sunday, May 9

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Andrew & Lindsey Alexander

9:00 a.m. +Joanne Nestor

9:00 a.m. +Paul Wayne Frankovich

9:00 a.m. +James Gonder

11:00 a.m. (PPP) Andrew & Lindsey Alexander

11:00 a.m. +Yvonne & Vincent Spampinato

11:00 a.m. +Sisina Gazzola

11:00 a.m. +Jean Luichinger

11:00 a.m. +Angeline De Maria

Let's Plant a Garden!

We are in need of large planting containers. We will also accept any extra vegetable plants you might have. It is still a little early to put tomatoes and peppers in the ground, but if you buy a 6-pack and only have space for 5 in your garden – we will take the extra! The Grotto Garden will provide fresh vegetables for the clients of our Christian Service Food Pantry.



If you are interested in helping transform the Grotto into a vegetable garden to help feed the clients of our Food Pantry, please contact Jillian Peck 248-887-1634, jillian@holyspirthighland.com Thank you.

Saturday, May 1:

5:00 p.m.

William Dillon

Sunday, May 2:

9:00 a.m.

Mike Perrera

11:00 a.m.

Cindie Audia

Church of the Holy Spirit

3700 Harvey Lake Road

Highland, Michigan 48356

248-887-5364 Fax: 248-889-1374

www.holyspirthighland.com

(Vicariate of the Lakes)

Rev. Wayne Ureel, Pastor

Michael Somervell, Deacon

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY - 5:00 p.m., SUNDAY - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

HOLY DAY - 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS - Saturday, By Appointment Only

Parish Offices

Business Manager:

Kay Young - Kayoung@holyspirthighland.com.....248-887-5364

Pam Glover - Glover@holyspirthighland.com.....248-889-5888

Fax.....248-889-1374

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m. Mon.-Thur.

RCIA: Ron Shankin.....248-245-1608

Stephen Ministry:248-887-5364

Christian Service: Gayle Greene.....248-887-1441

Faith Formation

Director of Faith Formation:

Jillian Peck - Jillian@holyspirthighland.com.....248-887-1634

Youth Ministry & SAGS

Julie Owens.....248-887-0027

Jojo Kind.....248-887-0027

Email.....TAG@holyspirthighland.com

Minister of Music

David Popovits - Music@holyspirthighland.com...810-629-8807

Pastoral Council

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Baptisms

Contact Deacon Mike at 248-887-8813

Marriages

Contact Fr. Wayne 6 months before your wedding date.

Bulletin Deadline: Thursday at noon

Changing your address or phone number? Please notify the office when making these changes.

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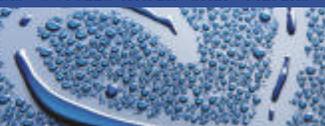


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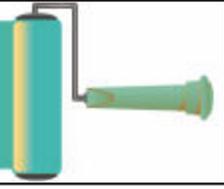


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