



ST. BENEDICT PARISH

80 S. LYNN, WATERFORD, MI | 248.681.1534 | STBENZ80@GMAIL.COM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" - Mk 1:23-25



REMEMBER
in your prayers

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS...

Judy DeKyser, Marge Flanigan, Phil Hanson, James Hildebrand, Kathy Lauinger, Alben Lipar, Nellie Mojica, Stan Slavsky, Mike Somerville, Norma Swift, Linda Tongko, Wally Wetherbee.

...Loved ones who are ill and in need of prayer:

Kate Banaszek, Bryan Green, Heather Halls, Robyn Hamilton, Jennifer Harmon, Ethel Jaruzel, Dennis Jaruzel, John Kleinschmidt Jr., Joy Long, Fr. Tom Mazur, Janel Nadeau, Sebastian Vincent, Alan Ratcliff, Suzie Skidmore, Susan Smith, Rosemary Tovey, Samuel Walker Sr. Names run four weeks. To re-list, please call 248-681-1534.

...For all active military personnel from our parish family: Keith Armstrong, Max Evans, Jon Hamel, Daniel D. McKinstry, Don Meyer, James Watson, Jr.

24 HOUR PRAYER LINE...

Nuns of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament have a twenty-four hour prayer line. Even if your call goes to voicemail, the Sisters are attentive to begin the requested prayers promptly. The prayer line phone number is 248-626-8253.

SVDP FIRST QUARTER 10/1/20-12/31/20

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| # Visits | 19 |
| # People Assisted | 43 |
| Food | 13 People |
| Referrals to other agencies | 16 |
| Motel Stay | 6 People |
| Rent | 3 Families |
| Car Insurance | 1 Person |
| Car Payments | 2 People |
| Utilities | 1 Family |
| Mattress Sets | 2 People |
| Clothing Vouchers | 7 People |
| Twinnig to assist other conferences | 2 for Rent |



Monday, February 1
12:15 p.m. - Theresa Felice req Barb Swatz

Tuesday, February 2
The Presentation of the Lord
12:15 p.m. - Sharon Canterbury (16th Anniv.) req family
Barbara Hornbeck req family

Wednesday, February 3
St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr, St. Ansgar, Bishop
12:15 p.m. - Dorothy Miracle req family

Thursday, February 4
12:15 p.m. - Steve Tomsick req friend

Friday, February 5
St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
12:15 p.m. - Ida Calvin (9th Anniv.) req family
*Special Intentions for Vocations

Saturday, February 6
St. Paul Miki and Companions; Martyrs
4:00 p.m. - Rick Clifton req Virginia Hasting, Norma Fay
Joelle Saffron req Steinhelper family

Sunday, February 7
9:00 a.m. - Catherine Hoover req Barbara Fairbrother
Kyle Kirn req Paul & Shelley Kruszewski
Virgil Sheipline req Bruce & Mary Sheipline
11:00 a.m. - Mort Flanigan req Team 4 Counters
Raymond, Irene & Mickey Roman req Roman family
Raejeanne Saunders (1st Anniv.) req St. Benedict Parish
Tom Worthy req John & Paula Dawson



MARY'S MANTLE CONSECRATION

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR HEAVEN'S HELP

LENTEN RETREAT...

We can all agree that these past few months have been very challenging. We are still unable to meet as a group due to the circumstances of Covid. Therefore, we are suggesting that parishioners participate in a self-guided retreat titled **Mary's Mantle**.

It is a prayer program to the Blessed Mother. The primary focus of this is the recitation of the rosary (daily), fasting and contemplating the virtues and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, ending with the consecration to Mary.

There are 46 stars on Mary's Mantle and there are 46 days between Ash Wednesday and the Easter Vigil. Each day (or star) there is a virtue or gift to read about.

There is also a prayer journal to accompany the book consisting of reflections and space for personal thoughts. See Connie Cunningham if you are interested in participating.

JIM'S GEMS...

The Myth of the Good Old Days
Our Sunday Visitor Oct. 8, 2020

I have a longing to return to the times when I did not know what a coronavirus was and had never heard of COVID-19. Of course, my ignorance would not have prevented the pandemic, but in some ways, it was

blissful ignorance. No social distancing. No masks. No gallons of hand sanitizer. No isolation from friends and family. No missing in-person Mass for months. Less economic gloom. Less worry and anxiety about what the future holds. I can't help but ask, "When, O Lord, do we get back to the good old days of pre-COVID-19 times?"

But, in truth, the idea of the good old days is built on a myth. There is no golden age of our world or our Church. Yes, there are times in which the Church

flourished, but many of those times came with great persecution, peril, war, disease, injustices or other crosses. Moreover, for many of those times, the

flourishing was only for some, and never have we had a global age where all flourished. We never will, at least not on this side of heaven. Still, we live in the

richest, healthiest and safest age of any the world has known. But, we also live in an age of growing godlessness (in the West) and immorality.

No matter the age we live in or the issues we face, there is never a time that the Church's call to fulfill her mission goes away. As St. Paul wrote, "proclaim

the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching" (2 Tm 4:2). In other words, there is never a time that the Good News the Church offers the world is supposed to be paused, and yet that is what has happened in some places. Many Catholics do not see the pandemic as an opportunity, but a threat to the way things have always been done.

Looking back?

Looking back to our recent past, we must first ask: Why would we want to go back to the Catholic parishes and dioceses as they existed? Many parishes were closing or having to merge. Diocesan bankruptcy was common. We were (and are) still suffering from the fallout of the clergy abuse scandal. We have little

cultural relevance. We aren't fulfilling our mission to make disciples in the way in which we operate, and the statistics prove it.

~Continued on page 5~

ANNIVERSARIES...

Fr. Jim will be recognizing 2021 wedding anniversaries the weekend of February 13th & 14th. If you will be celebrating a 5, 10, 15, 20 and so on in five year intervals anniversary please send in a photo in an envelope with your name, anniversary year and phone number. You may place in the collection basket. 60 years plus will be recognized yearly (60, 61, 62 etc.)

St. Benedict Church

80 S. Lynn St., Waterford, MI 48328

Pastor - Rev. James Mayworm

(248) 681-1534; Fax (248) 681-4501

Daytime Office Hours: Mon. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tues., Wed., Thurs.- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Closed for lunch from 12 noon - 1 p.m.

Website - stbenc.org

Face book: St. Benedict's Catholic Church

Deacon Tom Mohan - 248-761-7016

Office Manager - Joyce Miracle

Liturgical Minister - Connie Cunningham

Minister of Music - Pam Tucker

RCIA/Faith Formation Director- Gloria Armstrong

Faith Formation Coordinator - Vicki Krier

Youth Ministers - Deacon Tom Mohan, Julie Mohan, Mary Allan

Business Manager - Larry Edwards

Administrative Assistant - Rose DeAnda

Building Manager - Greg McInally

Maintenance - Dale McCleery, Eileen Kell

Weekday Mass Schedule

Mon - Fri. 12:15 p.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 4 p.m.; Sunday - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedule

12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Sacraments

In order to get married or to have your child baptized, you must be a registered member of the parish. This means that you are participating in the life of the parish, regularly attending Mass and using your envelopes.

Baptisms

Arrangements must be made at least three months prior to desired date. Parents must be a registered member of the parish for 6 months.

Marriages

Arrangements must be made at least six months prior to desired date. You must be a registered member of the parish for 6 months.

Sick Calls and Communion for the Homebound

Please call the Parish Office 248-681-1534.

Faith Formation

Grades 1-8 - Wednesdays - 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (Oct.-May)

R.C.I.A.

Mondays - 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Parish Center (Sept.-Easter Vigil)

St. Vincent de Paul—St. Benedict Conference

248-681-1534, ext. 206

Bulletin Copy Deadline

Friday at noon

Suicide Hotline (Common Ground)

1-800-231-1127

Project Rachel Post Abortion Ministry

1-888-722-4355

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

Report Sexual Abuse Hotline

1-855-444-3911

EMBRACING CHANGE IN CHRIST

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What

have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I GET ANNOYED WITH MYSELF WHEN I AM DISTRACTED WHILE I PRAY. IS IT A SIN? HOW CAN I BE MORE ATTENTIVE?

The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us "no!" This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life-dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just "re-collect" ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.



JIM'S GEMS...

Our Sunday Visitor Oct. 8, 2020

~Continued from page 3~

Are there signs of renewal, growth and fruitfulness? Of course, but not in wide swaths. The unfortunate reality is that our current Catholic culture is managing the decline we are going through. The pandemic is merely fast-forwarding the decline that would have been spread over 5 to 10 years and now might happen in one year. Many of the people who stopped going to Mass will not come back, especially those who only attended out of obligation. In many places, we will have lower budgets, fewer attendees and an even more rapid decline than we thought. But that isn't the end of the story or opportunity.

If there is ever a time the Church needs to offer some Good News to both those inside and outside the Church, it is now. So, how do we do this? We start by stopping. The first thing we need to stop doing is asking when can we get back to the pre-COVID-19 days. The reason we ask such questions is that we have a desire for what is "normal" to us. But does God want us to return to our old "normal"? I would argue he does not.

Our God is a God of renewal and revival. He wants new wine poured into new wineskins. He wants transformed hearts and renewed minds. He wants salvation for the world. He wants holiness in his people. He wants a bold witness and proclamation of his Gospel. God wants to do these things through you and me.

Knowing these things pushes us to ask more important and pertinent questions, such as:

What does God want of us now and into the future?

How can I help spread the Good News of Jesus?

Who can I serve today that might need my help?

How do we form leaders for our new reality of a post-COVID-19 world?

How do we build meaningful communities where people feel valued and loved?

How do our parishes and dioceses pivot to be even more fruitful than we were before COVID-19?

How do we go beyond just running programs, events and classes to form missionary disciples who can bring the Gospel outside the walls of our buildings?

What things are we currently doing that prevent us from doing these things?

Going forward

There is no "normal" to return to. It is behind us. Furthermore, we ought to allow the Lord to transform our hearts and minds into desiring what he desires. Doing what he asks of us. Moving forward with faith, hope and love, as his followers.

The Church will need an age of creativity and courage, where we aren't afraid to try something new, plan everything we do according to the mission of making

disciples and stop doing the things that distracted us from our mission. We have an opportunity to reboot our parishes and dioceses, to wipe the slate clean. We need to act as if we are starting our families, parishes, dioceses, schools, etc., again — and then choose what God would have us do differently.

Treat your own heart, your family, your parish and your diocese as a startup venture, not an established corporation, by doing these things:

Start with identity. You are a son or daughter of God who is valued beyond anything else. You are meant to be holy, glorify God, go to heaven, and get as many others to join you as you can. This is our identity, and our mission is born out of it.

Our mission is to make disciples of all nations. Thus your Catholic parish, diocese, school, etc., also exists to make disciples, nurture disciples and send them back out to the world.

Be bold and creative. Use this time wisely to plan for the future, not look to the past.

Do what you need to do to grow as a disciple of Jesus. Find help if you need it. Reboot your prayer life. Ask others to join you in growing as a disciple. Start to grow your skill in sharing your faith. Use the multitude of resources we now have. Learn about an area of Catholicism you are ignorant of. Find others to accompany.

If you are a Catholic leader, seek out others who have walked this path before you and can help. Find a mentor. Be humble enough to say you don't have all the answers because none of us do. The current opportunity for renewal is unparalleled in our lifetimes.

This pandemic is a unique time with unique challenges, but God is not dormant and neither should we be nor should our institutions sit still. We need to courageously act for the good of each other and the world. So, let us set out on the path of our Lord once again. Let us be leaders for a renewed Church that starts in our own lives and spheres of influence. There really aren't any good old days we are capable of returning to, but there may be many good days in front of us if we choose wisely.

MORE GEMS...

Progress is impossible without change, those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

Pray hardest when it's hardest to pray!

A moment of patience in a moment of anger saves you a thousand moments of regret.

My exercise program consists of having lot's of stairs in my home and forgetting things.

When the voice of the church is but an echoing of the culture's voices and not a voice from beyond, it may not be the right voice.

Riverside Chapel



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