

MONROE Vicariate

MONTHLY PUBLICATION FEATURING NEWS
FROM AROUND THE MONROE VICARIATE



FROM Our Vicar

FR. DAVID CYBULSKI

Reconciliation and Penance

On the first Sunday of Lent we heard Jesus' words: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." That sets the tone for Lent. The promise of scripture is fulfilled in the Lord Jesus, and he is ushering in the Kingdom of heaven on earth. Yet, we do not always find heaven on earth. For one, we ourselves have not yet fully risen from the things here below to the things of above, where Christ is. That means for us repentance, a change of heart and changing our life in harmony with that change of heart.¹ All of the things that we do during Lent, fasting, praying, and giving alms, we do to refocus on Jesus. We have Lent yearly because we need the help of the Church to keep us on track.

Closely tied to repentance is the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which we admit our sinful ways, do penance, and receive forgiveness and the grace to live the life of the Kingdom. Archbishop Vigneron has us know that in unleashing the gospel, this sacrament is one of the markers along the way. "A sign of a thriving parish community is a culture of sharing in the 'joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.' This entails

both clear preaching about the consequences of sin and generous availability and use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation." Our repentance includes forgiving others either in our family or our community, and that can be difficult. We do repeatedly ask "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Jesus not only is our example of forgiveness, but he gives us grace to be like him.



One of the hallmarks of Lent is the reconciliation of several penitents with individual confession and absolution that happens at most of our parishes. Let me echo your pastor as he encourages you to celebrate the sacrament in this way. As a community we come before Jesus in humility seeking healing. We all need it. We all need a Savior. Our communal prayers support each other. Someone made this suggestion to me, and it is a good suggestion. We

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can become absorbed in what we are going to say to the priest. Remember to pray for others standing in line. When you are finished with your confession, consider returning to your seat and holding others up in prayer so that they too may make a good confession and come closer to Christ.

Please remember that we are obliged to confess our grave sins at least once a year. May you have a blessed and Lent and as you are united to Christ in his sufferings may you also have great joy in his resurrection.

¹ John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia* (2 December 1984), 4.

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2018 ISSUE IS MONDAY, MARCH 26TH

Please email information to: Crysti Esper at communications@monroevicariate.com. Thank you!



St. Michael the Archangel

► Quartermania Party

St. Michaels Catholic Christian Women are having a Quartermania party in St. Michaels school gym on **Thursday March 15, 2018. Doors open at 5:30.** Bidding starts at 6 pm. Refreshments are available. Please come and have a fun evening.

Divine Grace

► The Divine Grace Parish Men's Club will be hosting all you can eat fish fry's on **March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.** Serving takes place between 3:30-7:00pm. Menu includes all you can eat fried and baked cod, jumbo butterfly shrimp, mac and cheese, fries, green beans, cole slaw, and dessert. Cost \$13 for adults, \$10 for Seniors and \$5 for kids 5-11. Kids 4 and under eat free. Come out and enjoy a great meal at 2996 West Labo Road, Carleton, MI 48117

IHM Motherhouse

► Students' Art to Be Exhibited

"Earth: Our Home," the next exhibit at the IHM Sisters' Motherhouse Art Gallery, will run Friday, March 16, through Sunday, April 29. Students from Detroit Cristo Rey High School, Marian High School, St. Mary Catholic Central High School, Meadow Montessori, Monroe Middle College and high schools throughout Monroe County have been invited to participate in this juried exhibit.

The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information about the exhibit, contact Sharon Venier at 734-240-9754 or email svenier@ihmsisters.org.

Pilgrimage to French Canada!

Join Fr. Kevin Roelant on Pilgrimage to French Canada, July 26-31, 2018.

This 6-day pilgrimage includes roundtrip coach transportation; city center hotel accommodations; Daily Mass; historic and spiritual highlights of



Catholic Montreal, St. Joseph's Oratory, Quebec City, St. Anne de Beaupre, and more!

For more information call **Corporate Travel: 313-565-8888 x 122** or visit www.ctscentral.net – under "Upcoming Pilgrimages"

St. Mary Parish

► Daytime Bible Study

Wisdom: God's Vision for Life

Video presentations by:

Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith

Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. In this study Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith examine biblical wisdom as it relates to daily life. In this program you will:

- Discover what wisdom is (and what it is not!)
- Learn new habits for increasing wisdom in your daily life
- Gain confidence through role models and practice, in living according to God's vision.

For more information or to register for this afternoon bible study, **which begins Monday, Monday, March 5, 2018; 1:00pm – 2:30pm in the St. Mary Parish Life Center,** please contact the Parish Office: (parishoffice@stmarymonroe.org) (734-241-1644). The series of 8 sessions are scheduled for **March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 9, 16, 23, 30. Cost for this 8 week session is \$20.00.**

Stations of the Cross at St. Mary Parish

- Friday, March 2; 6:30pm
- Thursday, March 8; 3:00pm
- Friday, March 16, 6:30pm
- Thursday, March 22; 3:00pm

► Called and Gifted

An Avenue to Personal Peace and Joy Discerning and naming the charism (spiritual gifts) God has given you brings a sense of awe and joy! For it is in using and exercising these gifts that we discover a deep sense of fulfillment!

Called and Gifted is a three step process to help people learn, discern and experiment with their charisms.

The first step is a day-long workshop facilitated by live presenters and scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2018 in the St. Mary Parish Life Center.

The second step, the Spiritual Gifts interview (1.5 hours), follow 3-4 weeks after the workshop.

The third step is: Discerning Charisms Sessions the small group process that encourages participants to experiment with their charisms and get feedback. There are three sessions each lasting approximately 2 hours.

For more information or to register for this **March 24th** workshop, which is limited to 75 people, please contact:

St. Mary Parish Office; parishoffice@stmarymonroe.org (734-241-1644).

The \$25.00 fee covers material needed, interviewer fee, as well as continental breakfast and lunch.

Jail Ministry

► SOCK IT TO 'EM IN THE JAIL

The Monroe Vicariate Jail Ministry group is again **collecting socks to give the inmates at the Monroe City / County Jail & Dormitory** facilities around Easter time.

We are looking for plain white cotton crew type pairs of socks for adults. **Please no colors, no tall tube socks, and it is preferred that they be without any color striping.**



Place socks in the box or where designated at your parish. Jail ministers from the various parishes, will pick up all the socks on **Tuesday, March 27. We plan to take the sock to the Jail & Dorm on Good Friday, March 30.**

Last year, with your generosity, our goal was 500 pairs of socks and we collected 547 pairs! Praise God!

Thank you again! If any questions, contact **Dcn. Mike Hammond, Monroe Vicariate Jail Ministry Coordinator at 734-856-3000 or mikeh@mlharchitect.com** .

Evangelization and Catechesis

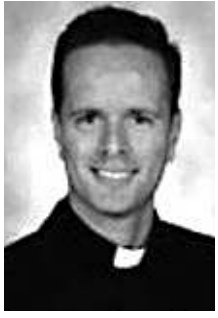
The Monroe Vicariate Evangelization and Catechesis Committee is sponsoring a Healing Prayer Day from 10am to 12pm on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 502 W. Front St., Monroe. Members of the prayer team stand with you, united in God's love, in prayer and in His desire to heal you. All are welcome and no appointment is necessary.



Priest Profile

REV. RAYMOND ARWADY, ADMINISTRATOR
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, MONROE

Priest Profile articles are brought to you by the Monroe Vicariate Vocations Committee.



I was born the seventh child to my parents, Judith and Lester Arwady in the city of Detroit. I have three brothers and three sisters. My first sister, which was my parents first born child died after a few days of being born.

I attended grade school at Amerman Elementary in Northville where I lived my childhood. My high school years were at Troy High School in the city of Troy. Then I went off to study engineering at Oakland University in Rochester Hills obtaining both my Bachelor and Master degrees from that institution. I never had the opportunity to participate in Catholic Education though I've been Catholic my whole life. I was one of the public-school men who heard their call to be a Priest while living a secular life style engaged upon a secular career.

I was 26 years old living a life of an engineer working for General Motors Corporation when I heard the Lord say to me, "Wouldn't it be more fun to be a priest than an engineer?" Naturally, my analytical and methodical mind immediately rejected the idea but the thought of being a priest was not going away and I could not shut it out of my mind. I began to visit my parish

Church—visit Jesus really, in the Blessed Sacrament—to talk to the Lord about this strong feeling. I stopped in to talk to Jesus every day for eight months, sometimes for 20 minutes, sometimes for an hour, sometimes longer, to primarily explain to God why I could NOT be a priest. During those eight months, I discovered my faith for the first time, appropriating all that I had been taught growing up in the Church. It was like an Epiphany or like the "lights finally came on." My relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ was formed in those eight months through all that constant dialogue. My six years of employment with GM came to an end when I was finally convinced that I could actually be happy as a Priest. I remember the biggest point of discernment was when I was accepted to the seminary and I still owned my condominium that I shared with my twin brother. He also entered seminary at the same time I did, and he's the Pastor of St. Christopher's in Marysville. I told Jesus that if He really wanted me to be a Priest, then He would have to sell my condominium for me. Ever hear of that idiom, "be careful what you wish for?" At this point, I still was not all that optimistic about being a priest. I was scared. I was actually hoping that I could use some excuse with God to tell Him that I could not go to seminary and be a priest. Well, you guessed it! God came through like He always does and that condominium sold in just two weeks and

my brother and I got the best price for it in the entire condominium complex. I had plenty of time to move my belongings to my parent's house, reorganize, and move into Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

One of my favorite things about being a Priest is helping a couple rectify their marriage situation in the Church with the help of the Metropolitan Tribunal and then Blessing or con-validating their marriage. I also love to preach and teach about Jesus. The most satisfying ministry that I have ever engaged in is when the Lord can use me to bring greater freedom to a soul through prayer. Watching someone get lit on fire with the Holy Spirit and receive the Father's Blessing of joy through what I learned in the Unbound Ministry taught by author, Neal Lozano is something that I never tire of. There are other great joys in the Priesthood such as when someone comes to you after Mass and says they're going to become Catholic because of what I just preached about in a homily. That brings me great joy. I always say that God does all the work and I get all the credit. The Holy Spirit changes hearts; we Priests just preach the message of the Gospel. It's also a great joy when someone returns to the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation after being away from it for decades! I always say to them, "Welcome back; Jesus has missed you!" Moments such as these make me glad that I'm a Priest.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St. Joseph's Catholic School Open House
Sunday, March 11 from 11:30 -1:30

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St. Joseph School is a Catholic community that helps all persons grow to the fullness of their potential in faith and knowledge. Find out more! **Call 734-848-6985 or visit StJosephErie.com**

Marriage... Just going through the motions or Living in Love?

The pace of life is incredibly demanding. Jobs, kids, school and activities, job stress, family stress, illnesses, tragedy, rushing here, rushing there... life can be one big heavy burden. Married for 24

years, 4 kids, lots of stress and a family tragedy, there was a lack of priority on our marriage and there was a disconnect. We knew we needed to do something and that's when the Living in Love Retreat-workshop came to our parish. That day and a half event, changed our lives! I can honestly say after 29 years of marriage, I am more in love with my wife today, than the day we were married! Whether you have been married for 5 months or 50 years, we invite you to treat yourself to this extraordinary experience on **April 14-15 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Temperance**. Child care will be provided free of charge! What are you waiting for? **Find out more or register for the class at LivingInLove.Org. Call or text right now: 734-347-0649**

Tom and Jeanne Stevenson
Living in Love Presenters
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Plymouth, Michigan

Brian and Denise Pigula
Strong Marriages in Monroe
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Temperance, Michigan





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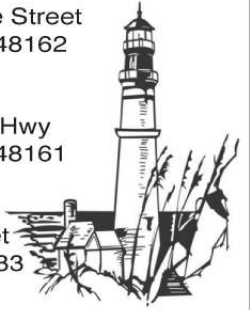
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