

**APRIL
2019**

**NEWS FROM AROUND
THE MONROE VICARIATE**

MONROE Vicariate



VICAR

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PASTOR, DIVINE GRACE
CARLETON/MAYBEE**

www.monroevicariate.com

Annulments: Healing and Moving On

What is an annulment? It is a declaration by the Church that someone who has married previously in the Catholic Church may remarry in the Catholic Church. Before I describe the annulment process, here's the reason for annulments: the Catholic Church does not recognize the civil marriage of a Catholic, or a marriage of a Catholic in another Christian Church without permission, nor does it recognize a civil divorce. So, for those who have been divorced and remarried outside the Church, there's the unresolved question of official recognition by the Church—to whom am I married in the eyes of the Church? The annulment is a pastoral response.

In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus assures the Pharisees who question him about divorce, that God intends marriage to be a life-long union. That's the ideal, but there is the human reality of broken marriages; despite the best of intentions and a sincere effort, things don't always work out. A Church annulment allows one to remarry and rebuild one's life. Unlike a civil divorce, an annulment goes back to the very beginning of a relationship and asks, "What was missing from the very beginning in one or both parties that kept this marriage from being a truly sacramental one?" For example, they were too immature or did not really know their future spouses, or they did not or could not commit as faithful, equal, or life-long partners. These illustrate a "defect of discretion" or a "defect of will."

Someone who is seeking an annulment should speak to their parish priest or deacon, or a lay pastoral minister trained and approved by the Archdiocese to procure annulments. They can give out the proper form to be filled out and a brochure about the process from the Archdiocese. In the case of a formal annulment, there is a lengthy personal history form to be

filled out. It is very helpful to respond to each section completely and give concrete examples. The reason for this extensive interview on paper is to see the totality of the picture. Again, what was missing from the beginning that prevented a truly sacramental, life-long union? At least two or three witnesses who knew both parties before, during, and after the marriage must fill out a questionnaire from their perspective.

Having to fill out such a lengthy history with so much personal information can be daunting, and can raise up the old, painful feelings and memories that one would want to leave behind. If one perseveres, this can be a healing catharsis.

After going over the responses with the priest, deacon, or pastoral minister, the completed annulment form is sent to the Tribunal (the Church or ecclesiastical court deciding the case) along with proof of baptism, marriage, and civil divorce. The completed form is only seen by those deciding the case, and is not a public document. The entire formal annulment process can take a year or two. Until the final annulment decree is in hand, no date can be set for a future wedding, not even penciled in. Not every annulment that is applied for is granted—sometimes there is insufficient evidence, or the facts just don't fit.

In the case of a Catholic that was married outside of the Catholic Church and later divorced, there is the possibility of a "lack of canonical form" annulment. This form is extremely simple, requiring only proof of Catholic baptism, marriage outside the Church, and divorce. The Tribunal can complete such an annulment within two months.

Other forms of annulment exist in the Church for those previously married to a non-Christian, now

marrying a baptized Christian such as the Petrine or Pauline Privileges. This is based on St. Paul's understanding that a Christian abandoned by an unbelieving spouse may remarry a believer.



"Although there is some work to be done, it allows one to put the past behind them and move on."

There are some myths and misconceptions that keep people from seeking an annulment such as expense or the status of children born of that union. First, there is no cost; in the Archdiocese of Detroit the work of the Tribunal is financed entirely through the CSA. Second, an annulment does not imply that the parties did not enter the marriage in good faith or that the offspring of that marriage are illegitimate—this is a major misunderstanding. Finally, although there is no absolute guarantee, it's absolutely worth trying. In some cases, people who applied many years ago and were not able to get an annulment have reapplied and received one more recently. In recent decades, the Church has reached new understandings of the psychology of marital relationships. Psychologists are often consulted in the Tribunals' proceedings.

If you have been divorced and remarried outside of the Catholic Church, or you know someone who is, I would urge you to get in touch with your priest, deacon, or approved pastoral minister, and get the annulment process going. Even if you are divorced and not planning on immediate remarriage, why not start the annulment process now? Although there is some work to be done, it allows one to put the past behind them and move on.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2019 ISSUE IS MONDAY, APRIL 22ND

Please email information to: [Crysti Esper at communications@monroevicariate.com](mailto:Crysti_Eesper@monroevicariate.com). Thank you!



St. Charles Borromeo

Because, as Catholics, we believe that Christ is truly and substantially present in the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament is given the same adoration and devotion that is accorded to Christ.

► Celebrating 30 Years of Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins after the 8:30 am First Friday mass until 9:00 am First Saturday mass each month. Please know that all are invited to pray and worship in our Adoration chapel at any time. **For more information, please contact the parish office at 586-2531.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

► Pre-Marriage Workshop

**Saturday, April 13, 2019
11 AM - 5:00 PM**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Temperance is hosting a Pre-Marriage Workshop for all couples actively preparing for their Catholic wedding. This workshop includes a segment on Natural Family Planning, and is approved by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

- The \$50 fee per couple includes materials, lunch & snacks. Casual dress. Registration is required. Space is limited.
- A registration form can be requested by email: olmc@bex.net. Call **734-847-2805** or visit mountcarmeltemperance.org for more information.

St. Mary, Monroe

► St Mary Christian Women Soup Luncheon

**Wednesday, April 3
(Donation to St. Vincent de Paul)**

11am-1pm, Parish Life Center. Assorted soups, homemade bread, desserts, and beverages. **Donation \$7.00**



St. Joseph, Erie

► Fish Fry

18th Annual Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 p.m. every Friday from March 8 through April 19. We are located at 2238 Manhattan Street, Erie, Mi. 48133. All you can eat perch and tilapia. We also have popcorn shrimp, cheesy potatoes, french fries, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, roll, dessert, and beverage. Meatless spaghetti is also available. Dine in or carry out. Again this year is our dedicated "Carry Out Line". Adults \$14, seniors \$12, kids 10 & under \$6. For more info, call (734) 848-6125 or visit St. Joseph Parish, Erie MI (734) 848-6125

Divine Grace

► All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry

The Divine Grace Parish Men's Club will be hosting ALL YOU CAN EAT fish fry's on **April 5th and 12th**. 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 \$14 for adults, \$11 for Seniors 65+ and \$8 for kids 6-16. Kids 5 and under eat free. **Come out and enjoy a great meal at 2996 West Labo Road, Carleton, MI 48117**

St. Anthony Catholic Church



Wednesday, April 3, 9am - 7pm, & Thursday, April 4, 9am - 6pm. St. Anthony Kenna Hall, 4635 St. Anthony Road, Temperance (between Secor & Whiteford Road). Thursday is \$2 Bag Day!

For more information, Please call the Parish Office: 734-854-1143 or visit our Website: stanthonytemperance.org

► St. Luke Production: "Tolton: From Slave to Priest"

Sunday, April 7, 2019, 7:00pm,
St. Anthony Kenna Hall; 4635 St. Anthony Road,

75 Minute Live performance; Suitable for ages 10 & up; Free-will Offering. Actor Jim Colman performs this powerful production of the life of Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first African American to be ordained a priest. From his dramatic escape from slavery to his courageous struggle in the face of prejudice, Fr. Tolton's inspiring life centers around his message of reconciliation and hope. Directed by Leonardo Defilippis.

IHM Motherhouse

► Day-long IHM Lenten retreat

Thursday, April 11, Rev. Thomas Lumpkin, MDiV, will facilitate a "Day of Reflection on Living the Cross and Resurrection." Rev. Lumpkin will offer Gospel-based reflection on the meaning of the cross and the resurrection for our Spirituality. Rev. Lumpkin is a priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The registration deadline is March 29; the requested offering is \$50 (includes lunch; please indicate dietary needs at the time of registration). **To register, contact River House - IHM Spirituality Center at riverhouse@ihmsisters.org or 734-240-5494.**

IHM River House

► Spring Time of Reflection

We invite you join us for this time of reflection, prayer and sharing choices for living into Lent and discovering the seeds of new life. The registration for "Spiritual Springtime" on March 14 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. will be held open until Monday, March 11. If you would like to register for the program at River House, call or email the River House at 734-240-5494 or riverhouse@ihmsisters.org.

EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

The Monroe Vicariate Evangelization and Catechesis Committee is sponsoring a Healing Prayer Day on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 10am to noon 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, to intercede for physical, emotional, spiritual and/or generational healing. All are welcome.



Need more details for events? Check our event calendar at www.monroevicariate.com or our Facebook page for full details!

YOUTH MINISTRY

► **Catholic Youth Group (CYG)**

Children in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to attend the next Catholic Youth Group gathering on **Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 6-7:30 pm**. Located at the school hall of St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Rockwood. Private, public & homeschool students from ALL Catholic parishes are welcome! CYG meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. March's theme is; "Stations of the Cross". No FEES to attend. Dinner will be provided. Parents may stay or drop off. **Please RSVP to: catholicyouthgroup@yahoo.com or text (734) 244.6883. Also, find us on Facebook/Catholic Youth Group.**

► **Divine Mercy Sunday**

In celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Catholic Youth Group is sponsoring an Easter Bake Sale after the following Masses the weekend of April 27 & 28.

Saturday, 4:30pm and Sunday, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:45am & 3:00pm, St. Mary Our Lady of Annunciation Catholic Church, Rockwood, MI.

Fundraisers for CYG contribute to the monthly Gatherings & youth charity missions!

If you're able to contribute baked goods to our Sale, please drop them off Sat. April 27th at 4:00pm in the Church Gathering Space!

"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Peace & Justice

St. Mary Catholic Central High School Student Accommodation plan, similar to a 504 plan or an IEP at a public school

The Director of Academic Support typically works with students who are mainstreamed in the general education classroom but seek assistance for various academic accommodations (tests read aloud, extra time on tests, organizational skills, homework help, clarifying questions on tests, small group instruction, scaffolding information, etc.). Students who can benefit from this resource: Students with learning disabilities, medical disabilities, emotional disabilities, or other health impairments. Students who receive assistance might have a documented learning disability, attention deficit disorder, reading or processing disorder, autism spectrum disorder, or generalized anxiety disorder.

For more information, **contact Mr. Nicholas Cousino, Director of Academic Support, ncousino@smccmonroe.com or (734) 241-7622 x213. If your parish provides resources for people with disabilities, please contact Valerie Tyldesley, valerie.tyldesley@gmail.com**, so the information can be published in the Monroe Vicariate Newsletter.

St. Patrick School
Spring Open House

Thursday, April 11th 5:30-7:00



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9207 Joseph St., Maybee
Canned goods and fundraiser for Oaks of Righteousness Homeless Shelter. **For more information call J.T. Stevens 734-755-3926**

Vocations



Holy Hour for Vocations and Priests

Thursday, April 11 St. Gabriel Parish, Ida • 7:00 pm

8295 Van Aiken Street, Ida, MI 48140

Join in praying for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and permanent diaconate and for our ordained priests. **Sponsored by the Vicariate Vocation Committee.**



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

The Knights of Columbus are asking those who are actively observing the 40 Days of Lent to consider donating to the "40 Bucks for Lent" fund to help Middle Eastern Christians who are suffering religious persecution.

The Knights began its Christian Relief Fund in 2014. To Date nearly 10 million has been raised to provide housing, food, medical aid, education, and general relief to persecuted Christians. No administration fees of any kind are taken from the funds. If you wish to join the Knights in the 40 Bucks for Lent donations can be made to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund at "christiansatrisk.org", or by sending a check or money order to Knights of Columbus Charities - PO Box 1966 - New Haven CT 06509. Please place Christian Relief Fund in memo portion of check.

Join Us and be a part of the nearly 2 million men whose principle work involves helping others please check us out at www.kofcmonroe1266.com

Top "Liked" Facebook photos in March



St. Joseph Catholic Church in Erie recently broke a record for the number of fish dinners sold. Pictured here is Fr. Mark Prill with St. Joseph parishioners.



These St. Charles 8th grade leaders organized and planned the American Heart Association Service Project, Assembly, and Prize Distribution. Great job!

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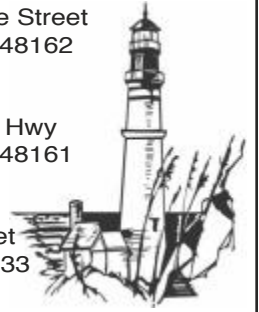
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