





St. Mary Great Mother of God  
Catholic Church  
December 30, 2018



Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:45-47

## St. Mary Great Mother of God Masses for the Week of December 31, 2018

Mon	Dec	31	7:45 a.m.	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Bill Gamble	
Tue	Jan	01	7:45 a.m.	<b>Mass-The Solemnity of Mary</b> , the Holy Mother of God-All parishioners	
			12:10 p.m.	<b>Mass-The Solemnity of Mary</b> , the Holy Mother of God-All parishioners	
Wed	Jan	02	7:45 a.m.	Mass- for Leo & Madelyn Pfaller	
			8:30 am-6:45 pm-Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		
			5-6 p.m.	Confession	
Thur	Jan	03	7:45 a.m.	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Deb Mulderink	
Fri	Jan	04	7:45 a.m.	Mass-for Fr. Aaron Ferris	
Sat	Jan	05	8:00 a.m.	Rosary	
			8:30 a.m.	Mass-for the perseverance of all priests & religious	
			3-4:30 p.m.	Confession	
			5:00 p.m.	Mass- for the repose of the soul of Stephen Feldpausch	
Sun	Jan	06	10:30 a.m.	Mass- for all parishioners	

***"Christ came chiefly for this reason: that man might learn how much God loves him."--Saint Augustine***

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF January 5 & 6

#### Saturday, 5:00 pm

Lectors	Joann Serne
Altar Servers	
Ex. Ministers of Holy Communion	J. Hunter, K. Schnipke, J. Reagan
Laurels of Kent	
Fountain View/Green Acres	
Homebound	
Lacey's	
Sacristan	Diane Schmidt
Ushers	D. Ritzema, T. Hufstader D. Roskamp, J. Reagan
Flowers	Mary Helen DeLiefde



#### Sunday, 10:30 am

Lectors	Christie Huhn
Ex. Ministers of Holy Communion	J. Inbody, N. & L. Mills G. Reynolds, B. Vezino
Laurels of Kent	St. Patrick #1
Fountain View/Green Acres	B. Boland
Homebound	B. Boland
Lacey's	N. & L. Mills
Sacristan	Eric Pugh
Ushers	L. Mikulski, B. Rice, P. Serne B. Schultz, J. Mikulski

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE: Deposit for 12/23/2018 will show in a future bulletin

Adult Envelope Collection	\$
Loose Collection	\$
Children's Collection	\$
Total Weekend Collection	\$
<b>Total needed for budget</b>	<b>\$ 5300.00</b>

If you use auto-pay, please put your envelope number as the account number. Thank you!





## Faith Formation News

*Epic: A Journey through Church History* is a captivating and fast-paced look at the story of the Catholic Church. Beginning with

the lives of the apostles all the way up to the present day, *Epic* takes the immense history of the Church and simplifies it into twelve, color-coded time periods. In the course of twenty sessions, participants learn about the major people, places, and events that comprise the captivating story of Christianity. This study provides participants with an understanding of Church history that enables them to have a greater sense of meaning and identity as Catholics. We meet on **Wednesdays at 10 a.m.** To sign up for the study, contact Jennie at [stmarylowelldre@gmail.com](mailto:stmarylowelldre@gmail.com) or join us for a class to check it out! All are welcome!

**High School Youth Group** will meet again on January 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the St. Joseph room.

**Reminder:** There will be no faith formation classes on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> or Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

**Attention Men!** Mark your calendars and register NOW for the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Building a Legacy Catholic Men’s Conference on March 9, 2019 at West Catholic High School. It will be a day of dynamic speakers, powerful faith development and reinvigorating fellowship. This year’s line up includes Elvis Grbac, Matt Fradd and Matthew Leonard with Mass celebrated by Bishop Walkowiak. See [www.buildingalegacy.org](http://www.buildingalegacy.org) for details and to register. Questions? Call Deacon Jim at 616-292-0422. Early bird registration ends Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and is limited...don’t miss out!

The **Courage apostolate** is the Church’s invitation to people who experience same-sex attractions, who desire to live in accord with the Gospel call to chastity. Courage, a confidential support group led by a priest, accompanies men and women along the road of integration, freedom and discipleship. For more information, call 616-459-4662 or email [courage@dioceseofgrandrapids.org](mailto:courage@dioceseofgrandrapids.org).

To support families who have chosen life in coordination with the March for Life we will be collecting diapers to donate to the Baby Pantry. Please leave them in the cradle in the north vestibule. Thanks! God bless you.

Parish Priest: Fr. Aaron Ferris

email: [fatherferris@gmail.com](mailto:fatherferris@gmail.com)

Secretary: Rhonda Fitzpatrick,

616-897-9820, email: [stmarylowell@att.net](mailto:stmarylowell@att.net)

Director of Religious Education Jennie Forney

email: [stmarylowelldre@att.net](mailto:stmarylowelldre@att.net)

Web site: [stmarylowell.com](http://stmarylowell.com)

Office hours: Mon- Thurs 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Office closed on Friday.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 7:45 am

Saturday: 8:30 am & 5:00 pm

Sunday: 10:30 am

### RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Wednesdays 5-6pm

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesdays after the 7:45 am Mass ending with evening prayer and Benediction at 6:45 pm.

Please call the parish office to schedule the Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage and Anointing of the Sick. **All Are Welcome Here!**

### Happy Birthday to You!

12/29 Tim Hufstader, Hannah Flickinger

1/1 Gordon Reynolds III, Doug Weeks

1/4 Sydney Munson, Chris Nelson, Clay Brown

1/5 Destiny Schmidt, Brent Joyce

1/6 Scott Engerson



### A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel contains this truth about parenting: “but his parents did not know.” One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don’t tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?

As we come to the end of another year, I want to give a general thank you to all who helped make this parish work. It takes many hands to do the things that need to be done, many of them unseen. Thank you. This is particularly true during these special seasons with all the little details that often fall through the cracks. It takes many eyes to catch something that might be missing. Thank you.

*Thank You*

There is always something to be done around this place, and I am very grateful for all of you who have stepped up to help. There are many things that I am not good at, and I am grateful that you have shared your skills to make up for my weaknesses. May the Lord bless you and keep you and reward you for all your service of Him and His people.  
--Fr. Ferris



#### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is Saturday, January 19, 2019 after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. If you volunteered at the parish in 2018, please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the north vestibule or call the parish office to RSVP. We are so grateful and thankful for our volunteers!

**Congratulations!** The Knights of Columbus is pleased to announce the winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest:

Calvin Kelly (grade K – 2 division)  
Anthony Schmitz (grade 3-5 division)  
Matthew Doyle (grade 6-8 division)

Be sure to check out the winning posters in the vestibule! Thank you to all who submitted posters for the contest.



**Rest in Peace-for our deceased & their loved ones:** Victims of war, terrorism, natural disasters, and all the faithful departed.

**Support Prayers for comfort & healing to those who are ill or injured, for the homebound & for caregivers:** Chris Brigman, Betsy Davidson, Tom Rasch, Gary Whitney (Kathy Horsch's brother), Mike Roskamp, Rob Shay, Larry Patrick Sr., Larry Patrick III, June Horsch, Edna Corrigan, Marilyn Brown, Rita Gordon, Al Ketchum, Gloria (Fr. Fekete's sister), Keith Brown, Patricia Reynolds, Rosemary Gamble, Jane Finch, Elaine Miller, Don & Kathy King, Jim Bieber, Cory Radel, Donna Roskamp, Peg Hoover, Sarah Klein, Mark Smith, Cara Miranda, Carla Swain, Jeff Bowles, Michael Toczydlowski, Cara Sauber, Dawn

Huesing, Lee Rea, Dave & Martha Roskamp, Ron Geldersma, Eugene Smith, the unemployed, Michigan's economy, members of our armed forces and war wounded, justice and peace in the world, and for all priests and religious, and the Holy Catholic Church.

## LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Families are complicated systems. They can be the most transforming or the most hurtful of experiences. Our families of origin have a huge claim on who we are and who we will become. While families need to help us fulfill some of our human needs, this cannot be their sole purpose or focus. Healthy and happy families consist of folks who always have their eyes on the needs and best interests of the other individuals who make up their family unit. We live in the greater family of the world, which is also God's family. It can't only be about us. We must focus our gaze on the needs and well-being of our brothers and sisters. This whole seeing allows us to see others as God sees them. The Holy Family is the perfect example of how all families can work: our families of origin, the families in which we now find ourselves, and the family of our world. May we look to their example in helping us fine-tune our systems of family life so that God's presence can truly be revealed in and through them!

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Do you practice good stewardship with your family? Stewardship is about more than offerings to a church or charity. It is about continually giving of ourselves in a way that gives glory to God. Sharing our gifts with those in our immediate family honors God and is evidence of your gratitude for these people in your life.

How can we effectively accomplish this? One way is to reflect on how the 6 characteristics of an Everyday Steward are present in our family relationships. Are we mindful when we are with our family members? Do we focus on them and their needs rather than our phone or TV? Do we hold up our family in prayer? Their concerns should be our concerns. Do we find ways to show how grateful we are for having them in our lives?

When we find ourselves lacking in gratitude, we should reflect on what life would be like without them. Do we help one another without being asked because we have a gracious heart? It is easy to take for granted those we see all the time. Hospitality is not just for the stranger or guest. Are we committed to a life of stewardship that not only serves as a good example, but also helps our relatives thrive? Using our gifts without wisdom might mean we have little to give to those we love. Finally, do we hold each other accountable for our decisions and shortcomings?

We are on the journey of life together, and no one exists in the Body of Christ alone. Stewardship is about the entirety of our lives. Our faith life is not reserved to Mass on a Sunday. It all begins and ends with those we love.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 30, 2018 The Holy Family

"After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers." As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, this Gospel exposes us to a strange tension. While this family is one we can look to for an example, they are not quite the same family unit as everyone else. There is an otherness to Jesus, something profound. And yet, perhaps on second thought, are our families so different?

When Mary and Joseph encountered Jesus in the temple, "they were astonished." But at what? Mary's response is surprised. They're not astonished that Jesus is preaching in a place for respected teachers. They're not astonished that their son has captured the attention of the wisest men of the time period. They're astonished at his seemingly disobedient behavior! "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." All our children have an "otherness" about them, something that makes them unique and different. They are distinctly not "me." What will our own children become? What temple will they wander off to? Who will they astound?

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