Blessed Sacrament Parish

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 26, 2018

"But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

John 6:65

© Diocesan

Mural Painting in the Grotto at Blessed Sacrament Church, August 2018
by artists: Judith Gunter-Smalla, Diane Sumner, and Cheryl Rozek

Dear Blessed Sacrament Parishioners,
The mural painted in the grotto at Blessed Sacrament Church in Allegan, MI is one devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She stands on the center of the altar surrounded by an atmospheric sky. As humans we are born into this world living a life given to us by our Creator. The earth turns on its daily cycle of day into night and night into day. In the mural, the sky flows from dark to light with a dove flying from a star burst as a final focal point. During our life journey we may experience dark times of struggle, despair, sadness, loss, or feel the effects of evil. Our Catholic religion and respect for Jesus Christ teaches us that the Blessed Virgin Mary intercedes and answers our prayers and requests in these times of need. Light, peace, hope, joy, goodness and love become the enduring, shining triumph over adversity.

Above the Blessed Virgin Mary at the apex of the half-dome are gold rays emitting glory down upon her in a night sky. A star cluster named the Pleiades form a cross-like shape of five bright stars. They represent a connection to the nurturing mother of the infant Christ. The Pleiades spiritually indicate Divine wisdom and intelligence of the heart. A spiral galaxy placed nearby is a common formation in space. The spiral shape has been beautifully depicted in artistic imagery throughout world history. As a reflection of our own existence on earth, it symbolizes evolution, growth and being in constant motion. There are two distinct spectacles painted on the interior wall, just below the apex. A white arc with a star just above it is a rendition of the birth of a star from a photo taken by the Hubble space telescope. Newly formed stars are blue in color. The white arc contains dissipating clouds and gasses released from its birthing passage. Opposite this newborn is an elder. Orange intersecting elliptical rings are a rendition of a photo of the Hourglass nebula. Glowing orange with a small bright center is caused from the process of a very old star slowly dying away. The Hubble space telescope photographed countless images of fantastic light formations of color and shape. . If you have a chance to view more similar images online, these amazing heavenly spectacles are purely made, untouched by man.

In an old prayer book from my great grandmother, a chapter entitled, "DEVOTIONS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY", reads the following text :
"Cultivate a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus Himself gave her to us for our Mother, when He said on the cross to His beloved disciple St. John, "Behold thy Mother!" She is the most tender, the most compassionate, and most loving of all mothers. She will obtain for you great graces in return for the little acts of love and homage which you offer to her. In particular, do not neglect the devotions of the holy Rosary and the Litany."

Throughout this project many people need to be thanked for their contributions. ACE Hardware of Allegan donated all of the paint, Bill Creech set up his scaffolding, Sumner Plumbing let us use ladders, and many others donated supplies. Staff members at Blessed Sacrament helped us with all of our needs. Thanks to Ann Chestnut for the design and placement of flowers on the altar which turned out beautiful, and complement the overall effect of the grotto area. We would like to send a special thanks to all members of the Parish Council for listening to our ideas and putting their trust into our creative hands. Father Simon patiently answered all of our questions and generously put his faith in our ability to make the mural a success. Finally, we are thankful for the guidance of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

With gratitude, Cheryl Rozek

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday, August 27
No Mass or Communion Service

Tuesday August 28
No Mass or Communion Service

Wednesday, August 29
9:00 a.m. ✝ Frank Haefner Req. by Tom/Donna Rochow

Thursday, August 30
No Mass or Communion Service

Friday, August 31
9:00 a.m. ✝ Joseph Panjikaran Req. by family

Saturday, September 1
4:00 p.m.✝ Jane Papranec Req. by Our Lady of Good Counsel
Mass at St. Margaret at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 2
8:30 a.m. Offered for Blessed Sacrament Parishioners
Mass at St. Margaret at 11:00 a.m.

The Sanctuary Light will be burning
the week of **August 26– Sept.1**
For special intentions in our parish Book of Intercessions

Mass Appointments

Saturday, September 1 Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Servers: Owen McClelland, Jeff Clearwater
Readers: Kay Salo, Barb Thierwechter
Extraordinary Ministers/Holy Communion: Mary Wolfram, Cathy Rapa, Cindy Simpson, Joan Edgerton

Sunday, September 2, Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Servers: Drew Ellis, Jack Ellis, Luke Ellis
Readers: Dave Smalla, Sara Bauer
Extraordinary Ministers/Holy Communion: Joan Smith, Karen Morgan, Kelly Beckers, Loretta Cone

Blessed Sacrament Collections

August 19, 2018

Budget……$4550.00
Collection……$3356.00
Capital Improvements……$12.00

Feast of the Assumption……$823.00

Council of Catholic Women

Ministry of Care for August —Most Holy Rosary

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Hopkins Propane
Please patronize our Sponsors who make the bulletin possible!

PASTOR: FR. SIMON MANJOORAN
110 N. Cedar St. Allegan, MI 49010 Phone: (269) 673-4455
email: blsacch@frontier.com www.blessedsacrament-allegan.org
Parish office hours: M-Th: 10-3:00 Closed Fridays
Pastor cell: 269.370.6128 and email: simanjoo@yahoo.com
Fr. Simon's office hrs: Wed/Friday.- 9:30-12p.m. Tues/Thurs 1-4
Deacon Jim Bauer: 269-655-6510 deaconjimbauer@gmail.com
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Charlotte Baird
Alyce Baker
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Bennett Meyers
Mark Meyers
Pat Miner
Lisa Zugel Moul
Stewart Norby
Dan O'Brien
Christine Pilarczyk
Tonja Pinnell
Tom Rochow
Maya Shreve
Cooper Sousley
Lexie Suehr
Evelyn Tooker
Mark Vandermeer
Jack Zugel

And our home-bound
and for the special intentions in our Parish Book of Intercessions on our prayer altar.

Please help us maintain our list of people prayed for. If you see names that need no longer be on the list above, or if you would like names put on the list please contact the office. Thank you.

Here's what's happening In YOUTH GROUP!

In September , Youth Group is doing a Trivia Night Fundraiser. Save the date of Sept. 28. More details to come next week!

Our group is camping this weekend at Pine River! Watch for the photos next week!

The next CCW collection week for Treasures and Trivia Bazaar booth will be August 25-31. Bring items downstairs and thank you for your support!

Religious Education News

We are now taking registration

for our Religious Ed. Classes that will begin on September 16 for grades 1-12. We also are taking registration for a brand new program for Pre-school and Kindergarten. Visit the table in the narthex or call the parish office. Information sheets on our program are available at the registration table in the narthex, or call/email the office for info.

Late summer Pre-Bazaar Pie Sale. NOW!

Fill your freezer now ! Frozen Pies will be available for sale after Mass on Saturday Aug 25, Sunday Aug 26
Lg $10 small $8
Pies available, blueberry, cherry,
rhubarb, peach and limited number strawberry/rhubarb.
The ladies of the "Pie Ministry" thank you for your support.

Good Samaritans Pantry

We are asking for donations canned soup, canned sliced potatoes, and canned fruit. Items can be left in the box in vestibule. Thank you !

The Parish Directories are here! Please pick up your copy up in the narthex.

From the CCW! Bazaar news!

On November 3, We are celebrating the 50th Annual Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show, and we'd like to make it special by honoring past members. We are requesting any old pictures of past CCW members that parishioners are able to share, either by email/scan or sharing hard copies. Emailed pictures can be sent to Beth Higgins: esnave@live.com or placed in the office CCW mailbox, labeled with name of parishioner so they can be returned.

Does anyone have an item to donate for the raffle at the bazaar? It could be a handmade or purchased item, or even a service. It could be raffled off individually or combined in a basket. Have you won a basket elsewhere that you'd like donate?

Have you ever heard of a Mom 2 Mom sale? People rent tables and sell their gently used items (kind of like your own little garage sale). If we have enough interest, we would like to hold a sale in the classrooms upstairs while the bazaar is open on November 3, from 9-2 p.m. please contact Lara Voglewede at jlvoglewede@charter.net or 269.998.8696 if you are interested in participating.

BISHOP APPEAL REPORT

As of August 15, 2018
Total Pledges - 99
Total Pledged - $31,255
Amount Paid - $27,113
Amount remaining - $20, 955

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED FROM SEPT. 6, to SEPT. 5. 6:00 p.m.

from the PASTOR

Dear friends,
Greetings of Peace, Joy and Hope to each one of you.

In today's first reading, stands out prominently the figure of Joshua. At this time, he was probably 110 years old. His time on this earth was almost done, and he was delivering his final words to his people. After wandering with the Israelites for 40 years, leading them into the Promised Land, and shaping them into a nation, what was the most pressing thing on old Joshua's mind? A call to commitment.

Joshua knew that his people had a strange relationship with God. They were easily annoyed. They got distracted. They were impatient. They made demands. They wanted God to do what they wanted God to do. So, before leaving them, Joshua knew it was time to draw a line in the sand. He was calling them to a decision: Choose whom you will serve - whether it is God or something else.

What would that challenge sound like to us today? If serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves whom you will serve: whether career, where you sacrifice your time, or money, in which you place your trust; whether the praise of men, which fuels your ego, or possessions, through which you view your worth; whether guilt, which enslaves your mind, or pride, which hides who you really are; etc.. If not the Lord, whom will you serve?

Just like the Israelites in Joshua's time, we face an endless list of things we could put in front of God. Our false gods could look different today. But, the result is the same: These distractions come between us and God, and they compete with the Creator for our time and devotion.

As a result, just like our ancient ancestors, we're easily annoyed. We get distracted. We're impatient. We make demands. We want God to do what we want God to do. We're standing at the moment of decision, and Joshua is drawing a line in the sand for us, too: Choose this day whom you will serve.

May God, give us the strength and commitment to answer along with Joshua, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord".

In Christ,
Fr. Simon Manjooran

RCIA begins

<u>on October 28, 9:30 a.m.</u>

Do you have friends or family interested in learning what the Church is about?
Or ready to take the step to become Catholic?

A five week Inquiry class begins for those interested in learning what the Catholic Church is about, also to answer questions about the Faith. For more info, please call the office!

<u>Schedule:</u>
Oct. 28 - Intro. Church tour,
Nov. 4 - the Creed, What we believe
Nov. 11 - the meaning of the Mass
Nov. 18 - Mary and the Saints
Nov. 25 - Rite of Acceptance/Prayer

Classes– Sundays at 9:30 in School

POLISH NIGHT Sept 8

St. Mary's Catholic Church
939 Charlotte Ave. Kalamazoo, Mi 49048
WWW.STMARYPOLISHNIGHT.COM
269-342-0621

The Spiritual Life

"What you should have learned after Confirmation"

Fr. Dan Doctor will be offering an ongoing series of classes meeting twice a month starting Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7-8 p.m. at St. Monica Catholic Church, all welcome, no registration necessary.

We are still able to take names for our Memorial Society listed at the back of the bulletin. Donation is $50 for up to two separate listings. Your loved ones are prayed for at the First Friday Masses and also mentioned periodically at the weekend general intercessions. Call parish office for info.

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO - Office of the Bishop

August 19, 2018

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we join together to celebrate the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, many of us do so with a sense of shock, shame, and sadness in our hearts in light of the widespread recent news coverage of past clerical abuse by individuals in leadership within the Catholic Church. This news includes the allegations against former Cardinal, now Archbishop McCarrick, as well as the devastating Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report compiling allegations of sexual abuse by 301 priests in six Pennsylvania Dioceses over a period of 70 years.
irst and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with the survivors, praying for their healing. We are inspired by their courage, and we stand with them in our resolve to do whatever it takes to root out this heinous evil within the Church, and to ensure that it never happens again. I take this opportunity to urge anyone who has any knowledge of any case of sexual abuse by clergy, or anyone, to contact Deacon Pat Hall, our Victim Assistance Coordinator, directly at (877) 802-0115.

We cannot help but ask ourselves, how is it possible that one who is ordained to represent Jesus as a priest or bishop disparages that position and betrays that trust?

The simple answer is that no priest or bishop should ever do harm, and such betrayal has no place among those called to the Priesthood. Yet, we are faced with the stark realities before us. As we know, all human beings are imperfect and sinful, but we also know that all followers of Jesus are called to a higher standard of behavior, not just striving to avoid sin, but pursuing a life of virtue. Those ordained as Deacons, Priests, and Bishops are expected, without question, to be above reproach.
Here in our Diocese, we adhere stringently to the "National 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People". In doing so, we have trained, and continue to train, all volunteers and those who work in the Church's vast array of institutions and ministries to recognize predatory behavior toward children, and proactively create safe environments in our churches, schools, and institutions. We also conduct thorough background checks on all those who work with our children, which includes all of our clergy. Our seminary formation programs not only rigorously screen, but also prepare our men to live healthy celibate lifestyles, in purity and integrity, ensuring that only those who have demonstrated this gift and ability are recommended for Sacred Orders.

In light of this reprise of these past sins and failures, we clearly need to avoid all complacency and to strengthen all our efforts to reach the goal of zero incidents. With that goal in mind, I am encouraged by the announcement from Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, calling for a renewed and concerted effort to review all current policies and procedures and address any structure that poses deterrents from reporting any and all cases of sexual abuse by priests and bishops, and also calls for more substantial involvement of laity with various areas of expertise [see Cardinal DiNardo's full statement on our Diocesan website].

In my own name, and in the name of the Church, I can only offer my deepest apologies to our entire Diocesan Family of Faith for any brother priests or Bishops who have committed such abuse, and that we all must endure, yet again, the effects of this awful scandal and breach of trust. Beginning with myself, I ask my brother priests and deacons in our Diocese to renew our own commitment to be who we were ordained to be: the compassionate and healing Face of Jesus to those entrusted into our care. In addition to that, being mindful of Jesus' teaching that the forces of evil can be overcome only by prayer and fasting, I urge all our ordained clergy, and all people of good will, to join with me in voluntarily offering the next nine Tuesdays (from August 21st, the Feast of Pope St. Pius X, to October 16th, the Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque) to be days of more intense prayer and fasting, as well as to pray an extra Rosary on each of those Tuesdays as a weekly novena, meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries. We will pray and fast for healing for all victims of sexual abuse, for a conversion of mind and heart on the part of those in need of repentance, and for a renewal in our individual commitment to follow Jesus with conviction, joy, and purity of heart. I am also urging all our priests to gather with me this coming week for a Holy Hour in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and for a time to share with one another our own particular sorrows over this scandal which negatively reflects on the Priesthood in general, and to discuss ways that we can become even more committed to our holy vocation, and to maintain extra vigilance about protecting all young people and being good examples to all in our pastoral care.

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, in the midst of the sorrow, embarrassment and even anger we are currently experiencing, I ask you to resist the temptation to turn away from or to doubt the gift of our Catholic faith, or from the Church which is our spiritual home, since our faith and Church find their origin in Jesus, not in man. Instead, we must stand together in such trials firmly united in our love for Jesus and His Church, even in these times that are difficult and dark. Let us allow the Light of Jesus' Truth, and the fact that God's Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, to be our strength.

May the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians (Eph.5:15-20) in today's Second Reading be advice that we heed as well: Watch carefully how you live…because the days are evil. Therefore…try to understand what is the will of the Lord, and be filled with the Spirit…giving thanks always and for everything in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to God the Father.

Asking for the Holy Spirit's seven-fold gifts to be poured out upon each of us, and our entire Diocese, assuring you of my daily prayers, and humbly asking for your prayers for me as well, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley -Bishop of Kalamazoo