

THE OUTREACH

St. Basil Catholic Church

South Haven, Michigan

Lending a Hand, During Lent

Deacon John and Martha Help Victims of Recent Flooding



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Join yourself to God through your whole way of life, so that your life becomes one continuous and uninterrupted prayer.

— St. Basil

Homily on the Martyr Julitta

The phone rang, and off they went.

Deacon John Lohrstorfer and his wife, Martha, have been 40 miles south in recent weeks, helping victims of flooding in Berrien Springs, Michigan. They volunteer for the Red Cross in disaster relief.

Martha assumed the role of shelter manager, setting up temporary quarters at Berrien Springs Middle School, helping put up nearly 70 people who staggered through the doors with nowhere else to go.

For weeks, shifts at the Red Cross shelter ran twelve hours as they helped meet the basic human needs of food, water and shelter. They assisted dozens of people to get on their feet again, to return to their mobile homes or find new housing.



The Lohrstorfers have done Red Cross relief work nationwide for eight years. Martha has written about her encounters in a keepsake for family members she titled, *When Disaster Strikes*.

“I see this as ‘Mother Teresa’ work,” Martha says outside the shelter one afternoon, referring to the saint known for her charitable work among the poorest of people.

“These people have no money, no families, no friends,” she adds. “Why would I *not* do this?”



Courtesy ABC 57 News

Martha assists those applying for help.

Answering Need, With Needles and Yarn

A Ministry Weaves Time, Talent Into Prayer Shawls

The click and clack of needles. Fingers pinching yarn. A single string woven into knots that will bind hearts.

Over the past five years, six to eight women of St. Basil have sat quietly at home, knitting in their laps, making more than 300 shawls.

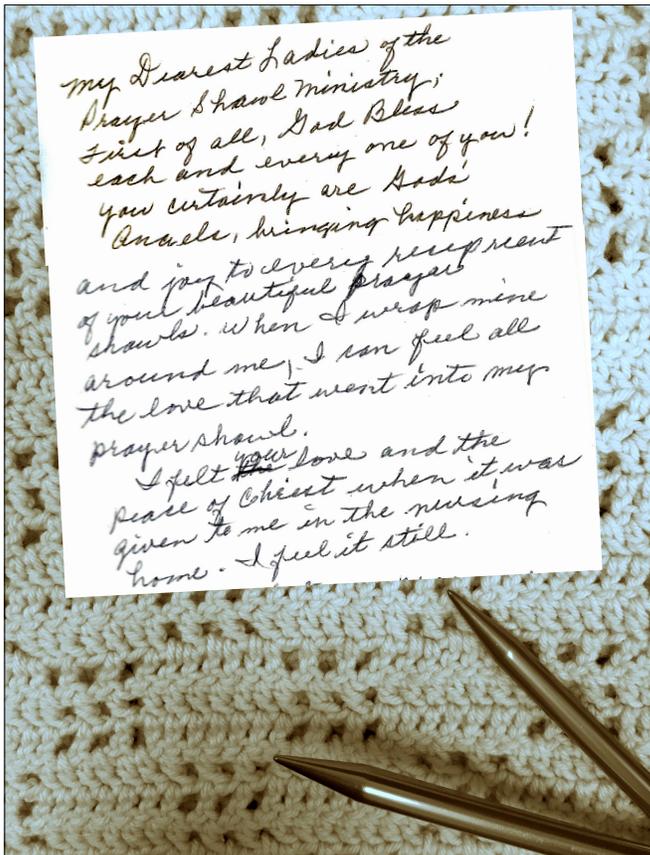
The Prayer Shawl Ministry donates the knitted wraps to women enduring loss in all its colors. The newly widowed. Illness in the family. Passage to a nursing home.

Parish members typically request the prayer shawls. Sometimes they go to women expecting, or to those with newborns.

Church members have donated yarn to the ministry, or some money to pay for it.

It takes about twelve hours to knit each shawl. A half day for fingers to turn yarn into healing.

“Everyone who has received one has been touched and grateful,” says Kathy Craig, one of the knitters. “It’s a simple act. It lets people know they’re cared for.”



'I felt your love and the peace of Christ when it was given to me in the nursing home. I feel it still.'

Raising the Roof

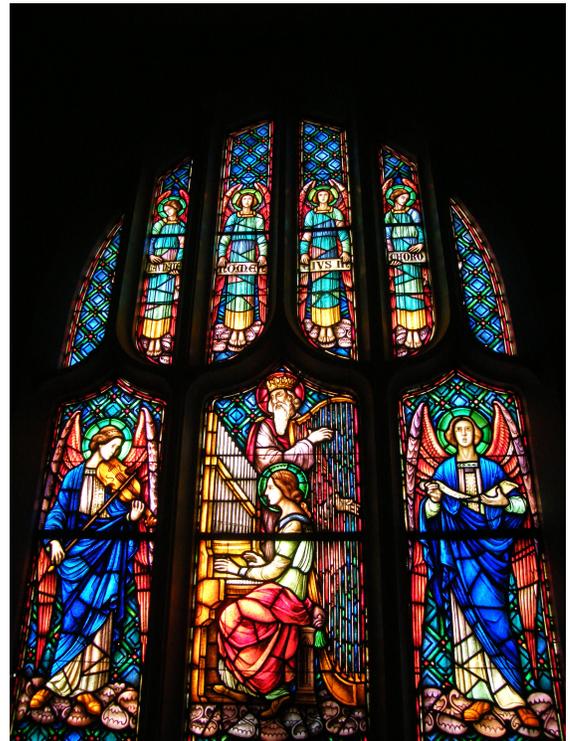
Easter Approaching, Practice Makes Perfect for Our Gifted Choir



At the keyboard is Cecilia Wondergem, music and liturgy coordinator. A bulletin board in the choir loft shows a heavy rehearsal schedule, preparing for Easter morning.



March 4
rehearse
March 11
rehearse
sing at 11
March 18
sing at 9
rehearse
Sing Easter 9:30 a.m



The magnificent stained glass in the balcony—up on the west wall—remains hidden for most of us. It centers around St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians.

Resurrection Day



Dear Fellow Parishioners:



We are open to story ideas, and new writers, for *The Outreach*, published every two months. Please reach out to us at:

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The risen Christ visits his mother on Easter. Michelangelo made a chalk sketch of a touching reunion scene that appeared in his mind, though not in the Bible. The drawing was recently on display in New York City.

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