

PARISH PRIDE

St. Joseph Catholic Church • Kalamazoo Michigan
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We Welcome **Our New Pastor** and **Our New Associate**

Fr Antony Rajesh



Fr Maximilion Nightingale



Some Fun Facts about Fr. Antony

Fr. Antony has been in America for 5 years.

At one time he served as a priest in Tanzania, Africa.

Fr. Antony speaks several languages including Swahili. Ask him to teach you some Swahili words.

Before St. Joseph Church, Fr. Antony was pastor in Three Rivers, Colon and Centerville (where he raised money and built a new church)! Ask him about the challenges of serving 3 parishes.

Besides running, Fr. Antony enjoys playing Pickle Ball. Ask him all about that because he would like to get that started in our parish here.

There are rumors that Fr. Antony might also like to get parishioners interested in playing Euchre. Ask him if this is true.

If there are fun facts you might want to know about Fr. Antony, be sure and ask!

Some Fun Facts about Fr. Max

Fr. Max is left-handed.

He is the 2nd of 5 children in his family.

Fr. Max loves to read, especially classic literature, philosophy and history.

He tries reading 40 books each year and his favorite author is George Eliot.

Fr. Max has visited over 25 countries.

He loves going to operas and his favorite is Don Giovanni.

Another fun fact: he also enjoys listening to Rush & Pink Floyd.

Seems Fr. Max may also like apple crumble donuts from Sweetwaters.

Ask him about his favorite video game. Ask him about what kind of history interests him. Ask him about the countries he has visited. Is there a favorite? Where did he see Don Giovanni?

Get to know him better. Maybe you have other questions to ask.

St Joseph Church and the Heritage Community of Kalamazoo

St. Joseph Church has been involved with the Heritage Community for a long time, since way back when it [was known as Upjohn Nursing Home](#). It is located on Portage Street at Miller Road. It has grown from nursing care to being a retirement community as well.

[St. Joe's has been involved for over 18 years by one group that has been dubbed by the residents as "Happy Hymns."](#) This ministry was started by Elisabeth (Liz) Scheuer after consulting with Fr. Mike Hazard for the need of a program like this. With his encouragement she decided to take this on. What she wound up with was an hour long "service" that started with a prayer (sometimes early on, a scripture reading) then the rest of the hour was a singalong of Christian based music and ending with a prayer. She recruited a keyboard player and created notebooks of the music lyrics for the residents to follow. This grew into a collection of music big enough for the creation of a musical schedule to cover each week of the month.

This happens every Thursday afternoon. It originally involved an hour at Wyndham West (residential living) followed by another hour at Amber Way, the Alzheimer's ward. [Carol Brown](#) was the early keyboard player and [Geary North](#) would join when he could, since he was still working full time, to add guitar, recorder and help with singing. Liz was and continues to be our leader and is very good at sharing everyday faith with the residents between songs. For several years now [Margery Dusek](#) has been our keyboard player. Now that Geary is retired he can be there every week. Our group has recently grown to 6 people with the additions of [Darlene Smith](#), [Lil Manor](#) and [Jan Mackay](#) with her guitar.

At last year's volunteer appreciation brunch the group was recognized by being awarded

["Volunteer Group of the Year"](#) for bringing happiness and joy for so many years. This was the first year that the volunteer of the year award was opened to volunteer groups. (award is pictured)

There were other years when St. Joe volunteers were recognized for their many years of service in other areas as well. I'm sorry I don't have that specific information and some people just do their volunteering quietly.

One of these other areas is the Friday morning Mass presented by St. Joe's. This alternates between the nursing home on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month to directors hall on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. The volunteers help to call residents to remind them of morning Mass and to help transport them. They also help with the Mass as servers, readers and with water at communion when residents need it. This group varies in membership from week to week according to availability. [The known members are Lynn and Geary North, Pat Dent, Dave and Lun Schrepper, Liz Scheuer and Jane Sutton](#) (Jane is from another parish).

(Article submitted by Geary North)



The World Famous Monsignor Mike Golf Outing of 2019

STATS for the Golfers

1st PLACE (score 58)

Pat Buckley
Mike Buckley
Chris Buckley
Steve Ferguson

2nd PLACE (score 59)

Devin Bloomfield
Bob Vestal
Patrick Collins

3rd PLACE (score 60)

Mike Halpin
Bob Morrison
Neil Gajare
Jon Sikora

LONGEST DRIVE:

MEN-Jerry Christensen
WOMEN-Martie Anderson
SENIOR MEN-Steve Ferguson
SENIOR WOMEN-Lil Manor

CLOSEST to PIN on HOLE #3

MEN-Bob Vestal
WOMEN-Marti Anderson
SENIOR MEN-Ed Durst
SENIOR WOMEN-Lil Manor

RAFFLE WINNERS: HOLE #3

- Golf Clubs
 - Thomas Larthredge
- Four Ponto Hotel Overnight
 - Chris Hurst
- Gift Basket
 - Steve Ferguson
- Civic Theatre Tickets
 - Corky Cutsinger
- Auto Detailing
 - Neil Gajare

RAFFLE WINNERS: HOLE #10

- Radisson Hotel Overnight
 - Chris Haven
- Gift Basket
 - Martie Anderson
- Circular Saw
 - Jon Sikora
- Golf Lessons at Hickory Ridge
 - Neil Gajare

50/50 RAFFLE

- Marilyn Schlage



Left to Right: Annie, daughter of Chuck and Gwen Woroniecki, Fr. Mike, and Gwen Woroniecki with photo of Chuck Woroniecki and Fr. Mike at a previous golf outing.



Correspondence from our friend Bishop Dominic in Kenya

Recently I had the opportunity to celebrate **9** years since I was appointed a Bishop in Lodwar. It was a moment of thanksgiving to God for the many graces He has bestowed on me all these years. It was also a moment to thank God for the many people who have made it possible for me to be what I am and to do the things I am doing, especially my apostolate as the Bishop of Lodwar. I say a BIG thank you to you my beloved friends of St. Joe Parish. You have truly journeyed with me through thick and thin.



Way before our friend above was 9 years a Bishop, he was FATHER Dominic, here with Beth McElhone and Fr. Mike.

What amazes me is the fact that God never abandons all those who trust in Him. Looking at my situation when I took over the heavy responsibility handed over to me, humanly speaking, I never expected to have come this far. First of all **Lodwar is situated in a very remote part of Kenya: It is that area bordering Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia.** It is an arid area that hardly rains. The people are pastoralists living nomadic lives as they look for pasture and water for their animals. 70% still live nomadic lives moving from one place to another. The majority of them still adhere to their traditional religion and practices.

On the other side of the borders whether in Uganda, South Sudan or Ethiopia live tribes that are also pastoralists who survive by raiding the neighboring tribes. So **it is a conflict zone that has not known peace for many**

centuries. Consequently, apart from the work of evangelization that we are doing, there is also the task of reconciling these tribes so that they can embrace the way of peace and live together in an amicable manner.

When I came to Lodwar I saw clearly that we had to find ways of empowering the people for them to find solutions to the problems of famine, the high rate of illiteracy, water shortages and the many myriads of challenges they were facing. Education everywhere has proven to be the best way of empowerment.

Presently only 30 % of the children in Turkana go to school. The rest are busy herding their animals with no good prospects for the future. Since then as a Diocese **we have established 13 schools. We have come up with the policy of establishing a school in each of our 28 parishes.** Already we are seeing the fruits of these efforts to ensure that our children are getting good quality education. Many of our children who had no opportunities before are joining good national schools as far as Nairobi. Hopefully they will join good universities and be able to secure for themselves a good future with job prospects that will improve their living standards.

BUT WAIT . . . There's more on the next page!

I will never get tired of expressing my gratitude to the Parish of St. Joe for the collections you make every Sunday in order to support the initiatives we are undertaking as a Diocese. Some of you make personal donations and others support us through Mass Stipends. We are very grateful for this great support. This is the money we use to establish and improve the quality of education in our schools. To those of you sponsoring students in Queen of Peace Primary school for girls and St. Augustine Primary School for boys, you are doing something very crucial in the lives of these children. Since these schools are boarding schools, the children remain in school so that they can get food which at times they cannot get at home. In that case they will stay in school to pursue their education with no anxiety about where the next food will come from. For those who operate from home, last year we bought a bus for Queen of Peace and this year we have bought a school bus for St. Augustine to ease their travelling to and from home.

In collaboration with one of our partners we are about to commence the building up of classrooms for the nursery section of Queen of Peace where we have run out of space since we have 650 students. We need 4 extra classrooms in order to cope with the huge numbers. For St. Augustine we desperately need a dining hall for the children who are eating their food in the open, exposed to dust and other health hazards.

Regarding our Minor Seminary we are very pleased with the number of the students who joined us this year. In all we have 98 students from Form I to Form III. Next year we will reach Form IV. While this is good, unfortunately we have the challenge of coming up with a new dormitory for the new students come January next year. We are now praying and cracking our heads on how we will raise the money to build a new dormitory for 80 extra students.

Last year 2018 was not a good one for us because we had very little rain. As a result our people are desperate for food. At the moment our Caritas department, with the help of our partners, are struggling to feed over 9,000 households. So far it is only doing 3,000 households and so we have a huge gap. One

major factor why we are not reaching our target is what we call donor fatigue. It is not easy day in and day out to respond to the needs of the people who are affected by drought almost every year. However as Church we have to keep on doing what we have been doing for many years; reaching out to the needy and doing what we can for we consider that it is our mandate and our mission to support our brothers and sisters who are in need.

On the side of vocations to the priesthood, currently we have 13 Seminarians. Given that there are only 15 Diocesan priests, we still have a long way to go before we will achieve our goal of having enough priests from the Diocese to cater for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the people here. That is why we are very keen to ensure that we have a fully functional Minor Seminary for the purpose of promoting vocations to the priesthood. We have noted with concern that the Missionary Congregations that used to send their members to work in Lodwar are experiencing a shortage of vocations. Soon they will not be in a position to send members here. Already the Guadalupe Fathers from Mexico have notified us that they will be closing their mission in December this year. Therefore it is clear that we have to do more in the promotion of vocations.

I wish to conclude my article by letting you know that at long last, God willing, I hope to visit Kalamazoo in the month of October this year. I am eagerly looking forward to meeting all of you. We have a lot to catch up with since the last time I saw you was almost three years ago. On my part I wish to state that I have not given up praying that one day some of you will make a visit to Lodwar and see all these things I am talking about. Meanwhile it is my prayer that God will keep us safe until we meet again. God bless you abundantly.

Bishop Dominic Kimengich

(Letter presented by Sister Maureen Metty for the parishioners here at St. Joseph parish)

Farewell Fr. Andrew



Blessings on you in your new parish!

Happy Retirement Fr. Mike



Always
quietly helping:
Ron & Pat

Blessings on your Retirement Adventures!

LOOKING AROUND AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Our Parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Kalamazoo, is home to not only a very prayerful environment for worship, but also home to many beautiful works of art.

Sadly we sometimes neglect the opportunity to look closely at and to appreciate more fully the works around the interior of our church.

Parish Pride will be presenting highlights on the last page of future issues.

Photography credit for all images to Geary North.

This month, look up at the ceiling mural of the **Death of Joseph**.

The wall and ceiling murals were painted by Italian artists in approximately 1924-25. These artists stayed in the homes of parishioners while working on these paintings. We see Joseph, dressed in a cream-colored robe, propped up with pillows in his bed. His hands are folded across his stomach, and his eyes are closed. Jesus, dressed in a red robe, is bending over him, and his left hand is resting on top of Joseph's head. It looks like Jesus is either whispering something to Joseph, or kissing him on his forehead.

Mary is kneeling at the foot of the bed, with her hands folded in prayer. Her eyes are focused on Joseph and Jesus. She is dressed in a deep blue robe, and a white veil.

Two angels are on either side of Mary. The one on the left is standing, and wears a white robe. The angel on the right is kneeling, and wears a green robe. Both have their hands folded in prayer. A group of angel heads are visible on a cloud on the ceiling of the room.

In the background, we can see the countryside. Through a doorway or large window, Joseph is able to see this scenery.

There is a wealth of detail in the room. A table on the left is covered with a white cloth, and holds two bottles. Some ivy vines are at the base of the table. Another green plant is in a shiny pot, sitting on a wooden table in the foreground. A third green plant is in the far right foreground. The walls are made up of wooden boards, and there is a red curtain draped from the ceiling down along the wall on the left side.

A flaming brazier is in front of Mary. Was it needed for light or warmth? Perhaps Joseph was cold and needed its warmth.

It's interesting to note that Jesus is the only one with a halo in this picture. In all the stained glass windows, Mary has a halo. Artistic interpretation can vary so much.