



# The Catholic Community of St. Jude

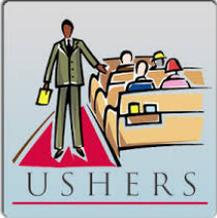
## Mission Statement

*We, the people of the Catholic Community of St. Jude, are followers of Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and under the guidance of our bishop and pastor, we strive to use our diverse skills and unique vision to build the kingdom of God in our hearts and in our world. We strive to live the Gospel and reflect the compassion and love of Jesus to all people.*

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2017

**Ushers Needed:** There will be meetings for all parishioners who are interested in the St. Jude Ushers Ministry in the community center after all Masses next weekend, January 14 and 15. Men, women and teens are welcome. We want to expand this ministry and give the few men left a hand for all they have done over the years. *Even if you are a current usher, please come.* We have some new information that you will need to know. This includes current ushers and anyone who would like to become an usher. So PLEASE come for 5-10 minutes after Mass.

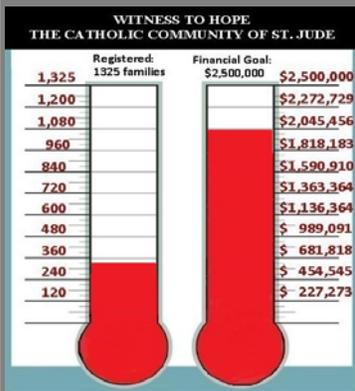


## Witness to Hope Building Campaign

We are now over \$2 million in pledges towards our \$2.5 million building campaign goal and that is with just over 300 households making a pledge or contribution. Now it is up to our other 1000 registered households to step up and help us meet and even go over our goal.

Please make a pledge as this building addition will help us to fulfil the vision of our Mission Statement "to build the kingdom of God in our hearts and in our world".

**Remember all contributions are tax-deductible.**



I am receiving calls about how to make payments for the capital campaign. If you went to the [witnessstohope.net](http://witnessstohope.net) website and made your payments by credit card or direct transfer from your personal account, you should be set. If you sent in a pledge form to make payments by check, you should be receiving a statement from the diocese and envelopes in order to mail in your payment. If you have a payment due and have not received envelopes, please contact Lisa Weber with the diocese at 517-342-2535 for assistance. Thank you! Rob Strouse

## An Invitation to the Parish

Please join the families and students who have been preparing for the

*Sacrament of Confirmation*

by celebrating mass with  
Bishop Boyea on

**Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00pm**



## Mass Intentions & Events for the Week

### Church & Community Center:

801 N. Bridge St. (517) 669-6049 Community Center

Parish Offices are located at 409 Wilson Street

Phone (517) 669-8335 Fax (517) 669-8343

Religious Formation Office Phone (517) 669-8341

After Hours Emergency phone (517) 803-0911

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Bulletin Deadline is 10:00AM Wednesdays

- Contact Tina Simon

### Other Parish Staff & Phone Extensions



Deacon Ted Heutsche

Email: deaconted@stjudedewitt.com

Deacon Kevin Orth

Email: deaconkevin@stjudedewitt.com



Parish Office Manager: Christina Simon

Ext. 13

Email: tinasimon@stjudedewitt.com

Bookkeeper: Rosemary Starn

Ext. 15

Email: rosiestarn@stjudedewitt.com



Maintenance: Ray Taylor

Helping Hands Ministry phone (517) 930-1383

### Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:00PM, Sunday, 8:30AM, 11:00AM

### Weekday Masses

Tuesdays at 6:00PM (Sept-May)

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 8:00AM

### Reconciliation

Saturdays, 4:00PM-4:30PM or by appointment

### Other Area Reconciliation Opportunities

St. Thomas Aquinas (E. Lansing) Saturday 3-4PM & following 4:30PM Mass

St. John the Evangelist (MSU) Mon., Wed. & Fri. 11AM-Noon, Tues. 8-9PM

St. Therese of Lisieux (Lansing) Saturday 3:30PM

St. Joseph (St. Johns) Saturday 4PM

St. Gerard (Lansing) Saturday at 9AM-10AM

[www.stjudedewitt.com](http://www.stjudedewitt.com)

Visit us on our Parish and Youth Facebook pages



### Sunday, January 8, The Epiphany of the Lord

*Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12*

#### 8:30AM Mass: *People of St Jude*

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Wee Believers

9:30AM Greeters Meeting, Faith Formation Program

9:45AM Adult Faith Update

#### 11:00AM Mass: *Virginia Nowak*

*by Richard & Gretchen Scala*

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Wee Believers

Noon Greeters Meeting

7:00PM CYC Rooted

### Monday, January 9, The Baptism of the Lord

*Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Mt 3:13-17*

7:00PM K of C Officers and Trustees Meeting

### Tuesday, January 10, First Week in Ordinary Time

*Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28*

Noon Senior Luncheon

3:30PM Praise Band Rehearsal

6:00PM No Mass

### Wednesday, January 11, Weekday

*Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39*

#### 8:00AM Morning Prayer

6:15PM Faith Formation Program

7:00PM St. Gregory Choir Rehearsal

8:00PM K of C Meeting

### Thursday, January 12, Weekday

*Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45*

#### 8:00AM Mass: *Raymond and Bernie Grachek*

*by Greg & Margaret White*

### Friday, January 13, Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

*Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12*

8:00AM Mass: *For the Unborn*

### Saturday, January 14, Weekday

*Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17*

4:00PM Reconciliation

5:00PM Mass: *Virginia Nowak* by Kurt & Lisa Grost

6:00PM Ushers Meeting

### Sunday, January 15, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34*

#### 8:30AM Mass: *Pat Price* by Gene & Kay Russell

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Wee Believers

9:30AM Ushers Meeting, Faith Formation Program

9:45AM Adult Faith Update

#### 11:00AM Children's Mass: *People of St. Jude*

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Wee Believers

Noon Ushers Meeting

3:00PM Youth Fusion

4:30PM Infused



## The FBI Report

Father Bob Irish, Pastor

669-8335 ext. 11

frbob@stjudedewitt.com

### Epiphany of our Lord: the visitation of the Magi

In the stories of Jesus' birth, two special groups of people came to visit the new-born babe: the shepherds and the magi. The church has no special feast to commemorate the visit of the shepherds but we have this special feast of Epiphany to celebrate the visit of the magi. Why is that? It is because the visit of the magi is an eye-opener. The shepherds learnt of the birth of Jesus through a direct revelation from the angels appearing in the midnight sky. This is direct and supernatural revelation. Many of us have no problem with that. The magi, on the other hand, learnt of the birth of Jesus by observing a star. The star did not say anything to them. They had to interpret this natural sign of the star to know what it meant and where it led.



Religious people of all persuasions tend to think that their religious tradition is the only way to God. This is what some of us hear when we hear such words of Jesus as: *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6). We hastily conclude that the way of God equals the way of our religious tradition. Yet the word of God cautions us against such a narrow interpretation. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord"* (Isaiah 55:8). That is why we are fascinated with the story of the visit of the magi. It is a unique story that opens our eyes to the fact that God is not limited to any one religious tradition.

Notice how people of different religious traditions came to know that the Son of God was born. The shepherds who were regarded as unclean and could not take part in Temple worship without undergoing purification came to know through a direct vision of angels. The magi knew through a reading of the stars. And King Herod's scribes came to know through searching the scriptures. Visions, stars, scriptures -- different ways of arriving at the same truth. Of course this does not mean that any religious tradition is just as good as the other. Notice how Matthew indicates that when the guiding star got to Jerusalem its light failed and the magi had to consult the scriptures to direct them to Bethlehem. Over and above the natural light of the star the magi still needed the supernatural light of scripture to finally get to Jesus.

Yet the crucial question in the story remains: Who actually got to find Jesus? Herod and his scribes who had the scriptures failed to find Jesus but the magi who followed the natural light of the stars were able to find him. Why? Because the Jewish authorities, even though they possessed the shining truth of revealed scriptures, did not follow it. They did not walk in the light of the scriptures. The magi, on the other hand, who enjoyed only a star light followed its guidance. It is not the possession of the truth that matters, it is how prepared we are to walk in the light of the truth that we possess. It is better to have the dim light of the stars and follow it than to have the bright light of the holy scriptures and neglect it.

As Christians we believe that our religion possesses the fullness of truth. But what does that benefit us if we do not walk in the truth? Nature worshippers or non-believers who are sincerely committed to following the dim light of natural reason may arrive at Jesus before Christians who have the exalted truths revealed by God but who do not walk the walk of faith. This is the challenging truth we celebrate today in the story of the pagan wise men who seek and find the Lord.

### Pilgrimage to Assisi & Rome

Looking for something to do in 2017? Join me on a pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome, November 3 - 10. To learn more, go to our parish website [www.stjudedewitt.com](http://www.stjudedewitt.com) and click on the link to take you to the travel brochure.

## Next Sunday's Scriptures



God lavishes upon us gifts beyond our merit. Today's readings demonstrate the gratuitous nature of God's love for humanity. Recognizing this benevolence, we, along with the Magi, prostrate ourselves and pay homage by offering our supreme gifts – our faith, hope and love – in the service of our generous, loving God.

In the first reading, Isaiah 60:1-6, the prophet reminds Israel that God's glory will shine on them. They will be a people to be admired by nations and kings. Saint Paul recounts for the Ephesians, 3:2-3a, 5-6, that Gentiles are co-heirs and co-partners in the promise of Jesus Christ in the Gospel. The Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12, recounts the Magi's visit to pay homage to the newborn baby Jesus.

### In Loving Memory

*Anniversaries of deceased friends and family from our parish*

|                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Robert Pylar</i>          | <i>January 8, 1996</i>  |
| <i>Marguerite Rademacher</i> | <i>January 8, 2008</i>  |
| <i>Joseph Dohr</i>           | <i>January 9, 1986</i>  |
| <i>Jacob Torrez</i>          | <i>January 9, 2015</i>  |
| <i>James Boyd</i>            | <i>January 11, 1986</i> |
| <i>Jean Cole</i>             | <i>January 11, 2008</i> |
| <i>Carl Hasselbach</i>       | <i>January 12, 1995</i> |
| <i>Patricia Tingay</i>       | <i>January 12, 2011</i> |

|                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Valerie Masterson Leonard</i> | <i>January 12, 2016</i> |
| <i>George Adsit</i>              | <i>January 13, 1983</i> |
| <i>Sarah Wical</i>               | <i>January 13, 1988</i> |
| <i>Betty Thelen</i>              | <i>January 13, 1998</i> |
| <i>Richard Powell</i>            | <i>January 13, 2002</i> |
| <i>Rosemary Miller</i>           | <i>January 13, 2007</i> |
| <i>Russell Orr</i>               | <i>January 14, 1983</i> |
| <i>Patricia Thar</i>             | <i>January 14, 2013</i> |

### ***We remember in prayer . .***

*All who are sick may be healed in body and spirit, especially:* Stephanie Dorr, Joanie Eckhart, Debbie Platt, Tom Adams, David & Eileen Church, William Steinman, Doris Welsh, Deacon Ted Heutsche, David Hanes, Larry Garagiola, Bill Pearson Jr., Jean Cramner, Bruce Ely, Sarah Swank, Ken Jensen, Sharon Hunt, June Dennany, Barbara Bernardo, James Irish, Irene Gilbreath, Don Williams, Steve Kelly, Jerry Strayer, Cathy Smith, Becky Schafer, Brian Byelich, David Starn, Larry Starn, Therese VanWormer, Robert Steinman, Barbara Katch-Smith, Brian Shellberg, Jackie Hunt, Mary Jo Picuch, Mary Therese Swanson, Robert Ataman, Samantha Sontich, Deanna Hartwell, Sarah Grondin, Jeff Church, Steffi Kracko, Tom Reid, Pat McCrackin, Camilla Smith, Kari Quimby, Cheryl Corr, Greg Gillispie, Peg Schmid, Kathleen Gladding, Mary Erickson, Rose Parks, Elizabeth Downie, Cathy Koski, Carol Haege, Daniel Thelen, Judy Welling, Ken Mohnke, Bethany Ames, Mary Montcalm, Jordan Ramos, Nick Robinson. ***If you have someone listed here who has recovered please contact Tina at 669-8335 x13 so their names can be removed.***



### Greetings Corner

Birthday Blessings to Julian Villarreal, Joyce Reed, Ruth Pline  
Rose Soule, Kenneth Winans, Alex Spitzley and Anne Thelen



Happy Anniversary on the Occasion of their  
53rd to George & Marleah Quimby



55th to Wayne & Christine Kangas    61st to Lloyd & Marjorie Ballard

Happy Belated Anniversary Blessings to Jim & Norma Skower who celebrated their  
50th Anniversary last week!

Celebrating a milestone anniversary, a milestone birthday, a notable accomplishment? If you happen to be celebrating a milestone birthday, 65 and older (we automatically print those who are celebrating 65, 70, 75, 80 and over) and we know about it, we will congratulate those folks. Contact the parish office at 669-8335 x 13 if you have someone to add.

## Parish Sacramental News

### Parish Sacramental Policies



**Baptism:** To schedule a baptism or register for the baptismal preparation program, parents may contact Laurie Seybert or Deacon Ted. Baptisms may be celebrated during the Masses on the second weekend of each month, except during Lent.

**Marriage:** Arrangements should be made with Fr. Bob at least one year in advance of your proposed wedding date. No weddings are celebrated during Lent.

**Pastoral Care of the Sick:** Please call the parish office if you are hospitalized or at home and would like a visit from a Eucharistic minister to the homebound, Fr. Bob, or to receive the Anointing of the Sick.

**Anointing of the Sick:** is also celebrated after each Mass the weekend of the third Sunday of each month.

**The next Baptism Preparation Class will be held Tuesday, February 21 at 7PM at the Parish Offices at 409 Wilson Street.**

Please contact Laurie Seybert at 669-8343 ext. 16 or by email at [laurieseybert@stjudedewitt.com](mailto:laurieseybert@stjudedewitt.com) to register or for information about preparing for your child's Baptism.

**In the Peace of Christ ...**

**Celestino Suarez**, age 62, died on Friday, December 16th. A funeral Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Robert Irish on Monday, January 16th at 11AM. Celestino is survived by his wife Louise and their daughters Emily and Patricia.

*“Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.”*

***Please remember in prayer our parish members and their families that are serving in our armed forces.***



Brett, Chandra, Christopher, Stephen, Matt, Vann, Kara, Robert, Tyler, Kyle, Michael, Joseph, Erin, Matt, Michael, Ryan, Tamara, and Dalton.

*Dear God, we pray to give all of our soldiers the courage and strength to do the duty that is required of them. May they always remember our appreciation for the sacrifice they are making for us. We are thankful for the men and women who are willing to risk their lives to protect our freedom. We ask you to go with each one of them and protect them wherever they go. Amen*



## Liturgical Ministry Schedule for January 14 and 15

### 5:00PM Mass

**Altar Server:** Cooper Schafer

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Janet Irrer, Lyle & Bev Nichols, John Sands, Kacey Schafer, Rosie Starn

**Lector:** Robert McCauley

**Mass Coordinator:**

Terry Schaefer

**Ushers:** Ray Drake, Paul Schaefer, Terry Starn, Gordon Vanderwier

### 8:30AM Mass

**Altar Servers:** Gregory, Amyah and Tristyn Seybert

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Ken & Cindy and Ryan Armbrustmacher, Kellie Hardenbergh, Therese Hudak, Sue Jesse

**Lectors:** Ken Armbrustmacher and Erica Martin

**Mass Coordinator:**

Dave Koenigsknecht

**Ushers:** Brian Ballinger, Gordon Bogner, Dnaie Smith, Lee Stauffer

### 11:00AM Mass

**Altar Servers:** Kaley Boyle, Aaron Ellsworth, Julia Ellsworth

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Christy Callahan, Bill Hussey, Bob Nieman, Eileen Phillips, Lisa Schroeder, Bob Swanson

**Lector:** Hallie Card

**Mass Coordinator:** Anna Neher

**Ushers:** Kenneth Ashbrook, John Baibak, Mark Kromer, Bob Schroeder



## Faith Formation News

Grades Pre-K through 8th: Mary Lippert, Director, 669-8341 ext. 17 • marylippert@stjudedewitt.com

### COMING SOON!

St. Jude will soon be opening a new on-line program called **My Own Church**, for updating your family information! Your family will easily be a part of this by visiting the St. Jude website to click a link and create an account. Church staff will approve your account, and you'll be able to update all of your family information, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. You'll be able upload your favorite family photo and chose whether you want that photo (or other information) to be visible to other members who've logged in—or you can keep some information private and available only to church administrators.

Here are a few things we think Faith Formation families are going to love about **My Own Church**:

- **Accurate records!** Whether we're preparing sacramental certificates or getting in touch by phone, mail, or email, having up-to-date information, with properly spelled names for all your family members, helps us serve you better.
- **Fewer forms! My Own Church** integrates with other systems we use, so you'll only have to update your information in one place.
- **Ministry preferences and schedule!** If you serve in ministries, or would like to do so, you can let us know when and where you want to serve, and we'll schedule you accordingly.
- **Contribution history!** View your family contribution history anytime you like—no need to ask for a statement. It's all right at your finger tips, but behind a secure login.
- **Online registration!** When it's time to register for Faith Formation classes, you'll be able to fill out and submit the form online.

### STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Formation Administration Assistant: Laurie Seybert Email: laurieseybert@stjudedewitt.com ext. 16  
Faith Formation Program Assistant: Lynda Roof Email: lyndarroof@stjudedewitt.com ext. 19



Youth Fusion and Infused  
January 15th  
"Resolve to Relate"



As the New Year begins, we turn to thoughts of making changes in our lives and make resolutions.

Volunteer Group C

**Confirmation Potluck and Rehearsal for students and sponsors will be on Friday, January 27 at 6pm in the Community Center. Bring a dish to pass or a dessert.**

**All members of the community are invited to share in the Celebration of Confirmation on Tuesday, January 31 at 7pm. Come and prayerfully support the young men and women who will complete the sacraments of initiation.**



## Faith Formation News

Hallie Card, Coordinator of Youth Ministry,  
Grades 9-12 669-8335 ext. 14  
halliecard@stjudedewitt.com



## Music Notes

Steve Kasperick-Postellon  
Director of Music Ministries  
(989) 787-2085 stevekp@stjudedewitt.com

## Youth Group This Week! **Be there**

# or be



Rooted Youth Group returns this week! After a break for the holiday season, we start off the new year with some faith-filled fun! If you have never been before or haven't been in a long time, consider making this part of your New Year's Resolution. Learn about your faith, grow in your relationship with Christ, make new friends, and have a ton of fun. **Join us this Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm for food, fun, friends, and faith!**

### Keep on coming for the following meetings!

January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
February 5<sup>th</sup>                      February 12<sup>th</sup>                      February 26<sup>th</sup>  
March 12<sup>th</sup>  
March 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> (Spring Retreat at the Bethany House – more information soon!)  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
May 7<sup>th</sup>                                      May 21<sup>st</sup>

*In case of inclement weather, check your email, facebook or Instagram!*

## Lansing Regional Lock-In

St. Jude teens are invited to join all other parishes from the Lansing region at a lock-in from 9pm Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> to 6am Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Westside YMCA! The cost is \$20.00 per person and includes pizza and chips at midnight, a rock climbing wall (with a signed waiver), a skating rink, swimming, basketball, and much more.



This is a fantastic way to join with our broader Church for a bit of fellowship. You will have a great time and meet other Catholic teens from the Lansing region. Deadline for registration is Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, or have any questions about the event, please contact Hallie Card.

## Steubenville Applications

We have a limited number of spaces available for our trip to Steubenville, Ohio for the Steubenville Youth Conference this July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in attending the conference are asked to fill out an application which can be found on the parish website or picked up from the parish office during regular office hours. For more information on Steubenville, please see the promotional video on the parish website or contact Hallie Card.

## Moveable Feasts

If you search the phrase "moveable feast" online, you'll find lots of catering businesses and food trucks. Everyone using this term for such purposes is playing on a Catholic concept: that some feasts (or liturgical celebrations) occur on the same calendar day every year—like Christmas on December 25—and others do not—like Easter. These are called fixed and moveable feasts, respectively.

Most of the moveable feasts are determined by the date of Easter, which varies within our sun-based calendar because it is determined by moon phases and the progression of the seasons: we celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (the beginning of spring).

It is an ancient practice of the Church to announce the dates of the moveable feasts for the coming year from the ambo after the gospel reading on Epiphany. In the current English translation, the text begins, "Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced in the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by the grace of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, [the resurrection of him] who is our Savior." It continues with the dates of Ash Wednesday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and the First Sunday of Advent.

As a means of conveying information, making this proclamation would be silly in the extreme in our modern setting; surely, if we want to know these dates, we could just look them up online. But there is value in this liturgical proclamation for other reasons. It makes more explicit the connection between Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. This connection is reinforced even by the music used: the text is sung to the same melodic formula as the Exsultet—the Proclamation of Christ's Resurrection sung each year at the Easter Vigil. It also affirms the central truth of our faith that God is not merely a distant watchmaker who started the universe and now ignores it, but rather is made manifest *in time*, and especially in the celebration of the liturgy. Further, it testifies to the truth found as far back as the creation stories in Genesis 1-2 and affirmed by the Incarnation of the Son of God as a human being: that the "stuff" of creation—physical matter and also time itself—reveals a God who created out of love. For this reason, physical matter and time itself play a part in leading us to that love of God.

A few weeks ago, I saw a little girl coming into church and heard her mother say to her in a singsong voice, "It's Advent! Look at all the purple!" That's the same joy present in the proclamation of moveable feasts. Can we incorporate some of that wonder and joy at the progression of seasons into our experience of each day that God gives us in this world?



## Adult Faith Enrichment and Pastoral Associate's Notes

Terry Humenik, R.N., B.S.N. M.P. S.  
517 669-8335 ext. 18 terryhumenik@stjudedewitt.com

### Why Do We Need Ushers AND Greeters?

While both Greeters and Ushers are Ministers of Hospitality they each have different duties. Greeters strive to ensure that everyone who comes to the church feels welcome and is here to take part in the parish community at Mass. They may distribute hymnals or worship aids on special occasions. They have the answers to where is this or that, who shall I speak to about . . .

Ushers serve God by serving our brothers and sisters at Mass. They assist people to find a seat at Mass, take up the collection, guide the communion procession and distribute bulletins after Mass. They are also our First Responders in case of illness or accident.

Occasionally the roles of Greeters and Ushers may overlap such as welcoming people to Mass but for the most part the duties are separate. An individual can take part in both ministries but NOT at the same time.

We invite men, women, teens, families with children all to participate as Greeters but Ushers should be adults and teens. Let's throw out the welcome mat so that everyone at Mass knows that we value their presence and want to make them comfortable and a part of the Celebration of the Mass.

### Resisting Happiness

Many parishioners have commented about how much they have enjoyed the book, Resisting Happiness. The author points out many of the ways we rob ourselves of the many opportunities to be happy and invites us to skip those habits and become happier in all parts of our lives.

If you have finished the book, even if you have written in it or highlighted it please consider passing the book along to someone else for their growth and enjoyment. This is a great time of year to avoid the frustration in life by developing some new habits that will make you happier in the long run.

Share this book with family and friends after you read it.



### Adults Desiring Confirmation

There are many reasons that an adult might have missed being confirmed during their youth. If you have not been confirmed, please take advantage of this opportunity to complete your full initiation into the Catholic Church. The abundant graces and gifts of the Holy Spirit that await you in Confirmation are waiting for you.

Preparation for adults who seek Confirmation involves 4-5 sessions. A time will be worked out according to the needs of those who are interested in receiving the Sacrament. Please contact Terry

Humenik for more information and to begin the process. You can be Confirmed either at the Easter Vigil or on Pentecost.

### A New Relationship for St. Jude Parish

This month we begin a new relationship for St. Jude parishioners with the people of the Flint area who have been struggling to cope with unsafe water for over a year now and who also struggle with poverty and a lack of jobs in the area. In addition to the things we have done last year to assist the people of Flint, it has become evident that there are other ways we can help the people of the Flint area. The Catholic Churches of Flint are reaching out to the people in their deteriorating neighborhoods to let them know that we care about them as individuals and we want to get to know them. We are doing this because they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, regardless of their faith tradition.

We want to help the parishes of Flint by developing relationships with the people in their neighborhoods. This relationship will grow and develop in different ways throughout the year but we would like to start by becoming "Prayer Partners" with some of the individuals in the area of St. Mary Church. Mary Dillon from St. Mary will be our contact and will provide names and some information about the people who are willing to participate. Anyone from St. Jude who would like to commit to pray for their assigned person for the coming year and send cards of encouragement frequently throughout the year is asked to email me or put your information in an envelope in the collection basket marked Prayer Partners. There are forms to use in the gathering space. Please include your name, address, and any helpful information about yourself. Rob Strouse and I will match you with a Flint partner and give you their name and contact information. We may have more than 1 person praying for someone from Flint in the beginning but no one ever has too many prayers on his/her behalf.

**Join us for Adult Faith Update** sessions on Sunday mornings between 9:45 and 10:45 (between the morning Masses). This is a great opportunity for anyone but especially for parents whose children are in faith formation on Sunday mornings. We discuss aspects of our faith that are of interest to adults. January 8: The Liturgical (church) Year, January 15 & 22: Prayer - exploring the many types and styles.

## Other News in Our Parish

Events, Reminders and Announcements of Activities in our Parish and others

### Marys & Marthas: *Happy New Year!*

Make it your new years resolution to do something for yourself! Join Us! Our January meeting will be Tuesday the 17th at 7PM. We will look at our schedule and plan our winter and spring activities.



This will also be a book discussion night on the chapters 5-8 of the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. If you haven't read the book, no worries— these are general discussion questions that help us reflect on our lives and experiences. Please bring a low-cal snack to share.

### Other Areas Announcements

**Employment Opportunity:** The Diocese of Lansing is accepting applications for Tribunal Notary. To learn more about the position and how to apply please visit [www.dioceseoflansing.org/employment](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/employment).

The **Association of Catholic Women** will have their monthly meeting **Saturday, January 14** at St. Mary Cathedral Parish Hall, 219 Seymour Ave. in Lansing at noon. The speaker will be Suzy Khoury, AG Office. If interested in attending please contact Jeanette before January 9th. The cost of the meal is \$12.00.

You are invited to a new evening marriage retreat at **St. Francis Retreat Center** on **January 20** from 5:15-9:15pm entitled: "**Learning to Love Each Other in the Little Things.**" Daily life can strengthen or weaken your marriage depending on your shared focus. Learn ways to deepen your love and commitment you promised each other on your wedding day. Enjoy an evening together. \$60 per couple and includes dinner and handouts. Directed by Tony Sperendi. Info and registration at <http://www.stfrancis.ws/> or [517-669-8321](tel:517-669-8321).

### **Attention Catholic Homeschooling Families:**

The Raising Saints Catholic Homeschool Enrichment Program is in its 5th year at St. Therese Parish. We come together on Friday mornings as a Catholic community of homeschoolers to attend mass and to sample the gifts and talents of one another as we supplement what we are doing at home with fun group activities. We welcome you to come get to know us and see if this is a good fit for your family. Our spring semester kick-off meeting will be held Tuesday, **January 24th at 6PM at St. Therese Parish**. For more information please contact Kristine Witkowski at [kristinewitkowski@gmail.com](mailto:kristinewitkowski@gmail.com).

**The Snow Ball:** Please come out and join the family and friends of **St. Therese Parish, Saturday, January 28** in the Fr. Murray Hall after the 4:30 mass. **Ticket Sales:** Call St. Therese Parish office at **517-487-3749**. **Entrance Fee: \$15 per family, \$10 per individual. Tickets Purchased before January 23rd are \$5 off.** Come eat, have fun, and dance the night away at St. Therese.

**Retrouvaille Programs for 2017** Marriage troubles? Is your relationship suffering? Or perhaps you have friends and relatives who are contemplating separation and/or divorce as the answer? "**Nothing changes if nothing changes.**" Over 1,000 couples have experienced hope and growth in their marriages through the Lansing Retrouvaille program. Struggling couples CAN find help. Retrouvaille is a non-profit Christian Peer Ministry focused on reaching out to hurting married couples longing for renewal and hope. Programs for 2017: March 31-April 2, October 6-8. **TAKE ACTION! It's never too late!** All calls are confidential. For more info or to register, go to [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org) or call [\(800\)470-2230](tel:8004702230).

**FATIMA: 100th Anniversary Pilgrimage:** Join Fr. Gordon Reigle, Pastor at St. Robert/Good Shepherd Parishes as we travel not only to Fatima, Portugal, but also through Spain visiting Garabandal, Santiago de Compostela and Santarem. Last day to register is February 24. Details: contact Suzanne at [248-931-0194](tel:248-931-0194).

Lansing Diocese Catholic Men's Conference featuring Deacon James Keating, Ph.D. Mass with Bishop Boyea. Fr. Tim MacDonald & Brian Flynn. **THE 2017 MAN EVENT** February 25 10am-5pm PIG ROAST \$40 (students \$30) register at [www.theMANevent.org](http://www.theMANevent.org) Our Lady of Fatima 911 Napoleon Rd - Michigan Center, MI

The **Diocesan Men's Conference** at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Michigan Center, **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, 10am-5pm. Keynote speaker - Deacon James Keating, testimonies by normal guys trying to live their faith, Priestly Challenge by Fr. Tim MacDonald, 30 minute Adoration segment, Reconciliation throughout the day, music from Brian Flynn. This conference is open to men of all ages. Its true focus is on those who want to take a deeper dive into their Catholic faith....those who might find themselves on the fence...those who are seeking the truth and want to utilize their Catholic faith to be the best version of themselves.



**From the Operations Managers Desk**

Rob Strouse, 669-8341 ext. 10    robstrouse@stjudedewitt.com

**Misc. thoughts.** Our Retired Religious collection has received \$1697 thus far and the DeWitt Community Christmas received over \$2000 to help DeWitt families with Christmas. A special THANK YOU to Audrey Fabus who has coordinated the DeWitt Community Christmas ministry for many, many years! For those of you who have pledged payments for the Witness to Hope Campaign and have not received your mail-in envelopes for making your payments, you should be receiving them soon. If you have questions about payments please contact Lisa Weber with the diocese at 517-342-2535. Statements for tax purposes on pledge payments made during 2016, will be mailed to you from the diocese similar to the way that DSA statements are sent. We are planning on your annual contribution statements from St. Jude being sent to you the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup> so look for them before the end of the month. This year we will be rolling out a new software application for the parish called "My Own Church". This application will allow parishioners to access their own general parish information, make changes to that information and even print out contribution statements at the end of the year. Be looking for that in early 2017!

**Parish Offerings**

**December 26– January 1 Contributions**

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Budgeted Expenses:    | \$13,592.00      |
| Offertory:            | -7,561.00        |
| On-Line Offertory:    | -6,937.00        |
| Non-Offertory Income: | <u>-1,250.93</u> |
| Surplus               | \$2,156.93       |

**Building Fund Collection**  
\$3,187.00

**Fiscal YTD 7/1/16-6/30/17**

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| YTD Budgeted Expenses:   | \$366,984.00      |
| YTD Offertory:           | -245,813.12       |
| YTD On-Line Offertory    | -115,867.58       |
| YTD Non-Offertory Income | <u>-25,705.01</u> |
| YTD Surplus              | \$20,401.71       |

**YTD Building Fund (Phase II)**  
\$36,676.71

**Counter Schedule:    January 9 — Team #6                      January 16 — Team #7**

**Food Pantry  
Update**

**The food pantry is in need of:**

Jello, rice and Tuna Helper and laundry detergent.

**FOOD DELIVERY SCHEDULE    January 9 — Bernie Fedewa  
January 16 — Anne Heutsche**

A special thanks to Jim Kurt and all his helpers that worked on the MSU home football games. The council will benefit from the funds raised to support projects. MSU wants us back for next year with as many workers as possible. Job well done!

**K of C Corner**

The council will host the DeWitt Football banquet on January 9th, Dave Fiedler is organizing and needs volunteers at noon for cooking and serving/clean up, dinner is at 6 pm. Contact Dave at 669-8141.

**The Knight of the Month for November- David Flees - Women's Tea.  
The Family of the Month for November - Bob and Lynna Nieman -  
Men's Retreat and Women's Tea.**

Any Catholic man that's interested in learning more about the Knights of Columbus, please contact Grand Knight, John Urbain at 517-669-5060.

See our website [www.DeWittKofC.com](http://www.DeWittKofC.com) for additional Council information.

The **Dresser Ministry** is going to be doing a diaper drive beginning with the weekend of January 14th & 15th. The diapers collected in the pack-n-play will be donated to the Student-Parent group at Lansing Community College. This is a group that has started it's own food pantry to help with student hunger and is in need of diapers for the students that are caring for babies and toddlers. These students have chosen life for their babies and are still trying to obtain a college education.



Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or know of someone that would benefit from this ministry, please don't hesitate to contact Leslie Feldpausch at [lpfzoo@aol.com](mailto:lpfzoo@aol.com).

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