



Dear Friends,

I wanted to bring you up to speed on some of the things we are working on in the parish over the next few months in terms of capital improvements.

Firstly, we are trying to get things in place to have a sort of "crying room" in the area of the gift counter in the back. This will consist of a TV on the wall broadcasting the Mass. We will put some chairs back there so that parents have a place to bring the kids when they are having their special moments. Of course, we should all try to be patient with our little friends because they are part of our community, too. But in certain cases they might be having an especially bad day, and might need to find a place to quiet down. Hopefully this project will be finished in the next couple of weeks.

We will also be getting some lamp posts for the walkway on the south side of church. During the winter months it gets pretty dark in that area between the church and the rectory, and we don't need to have people accidentally falling off the sidewalk or tripping over things because they could not see. Likewise, when I'm in the rectory, it can be pretty scary going out that side door. I mean, there could be anything out there: robbers, ax murderers, sas-quatch... The lights should make things a bit safer every which way.

In the parish center (where the church offices are) we are replacing some of the flooring that is original to the building (and looks it) and we are likewise getting bids on replacing the windows. The windows are also as old as the building, most of their seals are broken and they are just... well, their time has come.

We are getting some new fencing on the east side of the parking lot and around the rectory back yard. Likewise, I am hoping that this summer we can get the cemetery fence repainted and the two crumbling concrete pillars at either end of the fence rebuilt or replaced.

The day after I write this, I believe plants are being put in the gardens surrounding the church so hopefully it will look nice and pretty through the summer and in the years to come.

Thank you all for giving funds to help with the capital improvements in the parish. Those who came before us have built up for us a wonderful parish and school – it is up to us today to keep it nice and in good working order!

Lastly, I want to congratulate our 23 young people who have received first communion this weekend. This is a big step for our young people and we hope that this is only the beginning of a beautiful relationship between them and their Lord. May we, as their family and friends, keep encouraging them to be faithful people who will carry that gift of faith that has been nourished within them throughout their lives.

In Christ,
Father Christian



Saturday, May 6

3:30PM Confession

3:45PM Scriptural Rosary

4:30PM Catherine Payne (*dec.*)

by the Brian Parker Memorial Foundation

Sunday, May 7, Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30AM For the people of Saint Mary's Parish

11:30AM First Communicants

6:00PM For St. Mary's Hispanic Community

Monday, May 8 (Chapel)

8:00 AM June Gutschenritter (*dec.*)

by the Pierret family

6:30 PM Confession

7:00 PM Holy Hour

Tuesday, May 9 (Chapel)

8:00 AM Frank A. Scafaria, Sr. (*dec.*)

by Steve & Karen Persa

Wednesday, May 10, Saint Damien de Veuster (Chapel)

8:00 AM Patrick Vinnedge (*dec.*) Birthday

by his loving family

Thursday, May 11

No Mass

Friday, May 12, Saints Nereus & Achilleus (Church)

10:45 AM Tony Frucci (*dec.*)

by David & Shelly Chmiel & family

Saturday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima

3:30 PM Confession

4:00 PM Rosary

4:30 PM Bertha Hilligoss (*dec.*)

by her husband and family

Sunday, May 14, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Patrick Vinnedge (*dec.*)

by his loving family

11:30 AM For the people of Saint Mary's Parish

6:00 PM For St. Mary's Hispanic Community

CANDLE OFFERINGS



Blessed Virgin Mary:

Success of the Bishop's Appeal

St. Joseph:

World Peace



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Rudman, parishioner and former St. Mary's School teacher who has recently passes away. May God grant her eternal rest and peace and consolation to her family and friends.



THE WEEK AHEAD

May 7, 2017—May 14, 2017

Sat 5/6 & Sun 5/7 Anointing	After all Masses
Sun 5/7 First Communion Reception	After 11:30 Mass
Sun 5/7 Youth Group	6-8pm, PC
Mon 5/8 LCAB Meeting	5:30pm, PC
Mon 5/8 Boy Scouts	7pm, Gym
Tues 5/9 Book Club	7pm, PC
Tues 5/9 K of C Meeting	7pm, K of C Hall
Wed 5/10 Rise n Roll Pick up	2:45-4:00pm, Gym
Wed 5/10 11:30 Choir	6:45pm, Church
Wed 5/10 8:30 Choir	7:30pm, Church
Thur 5/11 Pax Christi	7pm, PC
Sat 5/13 Postal Food Drive	9am-1pm, CSC
Sun 5/14 Blood Drive	9am-1pm, P-lot
Sun 5/14 Youth Group	6-8pm, PC



St. Mary's School Niles, Michigan
Focused on Faith, Family, and Education

The Mission of St. Mary's School is to gather as a faith-filled community in union with parents to form students through the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Catholic tradition and to provide an excellent education.



RISE N ROLL

Order pick up: May 10, 2:45-4:00 pm
School Gym

For questions & more information call Mimi Herrick at 574.292.2203 or email, mtherrick529@gmail.com
Proceeds for air conditioning units for our classrooms.



Parish Support

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Weekly Parish Budget	\$ 6,730.77
Offering	\$ 8,004.76
OVER	\$ 1,673.99
Date Budget Variation	\$ 39,846.38
Capital Improvements	\$ 502.00
Easter	\$ 125.00
Votives	\$ 23.00
Diocesan Priest Retirement	\$ 50.00
Rice Bowl	\$ 54.33

THANK YOU

We continue to need your help, if you are away please remember your parish. We rely on your continued financial support through your weekly contributions to "pay the bills".



CONGRATULATIONS FIRST COMMUNICANTS!

On Sunday, May 7 at the 11:30 Mass, we welcome to the Table of the Lord the following Children:

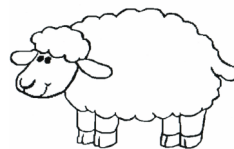
Karla Avina	Melissa Avina
Monserrat Avina	Gael Azpeitia
Joel Azpeitia	Riley Barger
Jimena Bravo	Adisyn Dombrowski
Alexa Garcia	Katelyn Kern
Chase Kidman	Beau Kirtdoll
Victor Lyons	Josue Mercado
Thayne Palmer	Louisa Peterson
Angel Silvestre	Britany Silvestre
Jesus Silvestre	Madelyn Stewart
Stephanie Tejada	Colyn Ucag

Maria Villafana

CAMP SANCTA MARIA

Looking for a fun and faith-filled place for your children or grandchildren to spend a week or two this summer? Want to help them unplug from technology, develop face-to-face relationships, exercise, experience nature and give them experiences they will treasure the rest of their lives? Look no further! Camp Sancta Maria (CSM), located in Gaylord, Michigan, provides wholesome recreation and adventure in an atmosphere of Christian faith. CSM is a Catholic camp with one- and two-week sessions for boys and one-week sessions for girls. Since 1933, CSM has provided countless youth with lasting memories. Do they like horseback riding or want to try it for the first time? They can do it at camp! Want to spend time at the beach and in the water? Enjoy CSM's own private beach on Lake 27! Enjoy playing sports? Have fun each day competing in different athletic contests! These are just a few of the activities offered at Camp. Other activities include daily Mass, a high- and low-challenge ropes course, a fifty-foot climbing wall, crafts, archery, a trip to Mackinac Island with a stop for Mass under the largest crucifix in the world, campfires (and s'mores!) and so much more!!! Fun, faith, and friendships included at no extra cost! Camp begins in June and runs through mid-August. We also offer Mother & Daughter weekends and Father & Son weekends. Please check out our website to learn more www.CampSanctaMaria.org or call, (248) 822-8199.

CONNECT WITH FLOCKNOTE



Get important updates from our church in a timely and convenient way. This tool lets you choose what information you'd like to receive from our various ministries and groups by text messages or email. You can unsubscribe at any time. Pick one of two easy ways to sign up. 1. Text [niles](tel:84576) to 84576 from your phone or 2. visit our church on the web at: www.flocknote.com/stmaryniles
Thank you St. Mary's Parish Staff.

FREE EDUCATIONAL SERIES FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Tuesdays, May 16– June 20, 2017
2:30-4:00PM

Royalton Manor
288 Peace Boulevard
St. Joseph Michigan

This program is offered through a partnership with Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan, Inc., and Region IV Area Agency on Aging.

Each session will be led by certified facilitators, who will present the best tools family members can put into action to help improve their lives as they care for their loved one. Participants will receive *The Caregiver Helpbook*, which has been developed specifically for this class. If you complete the 6 weeks, you may keep your copy, free of charge.

Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. To register: call Harbor House Adult Day Service at 269.934.7355 ext. 1 or 2.

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

On Saturday, May 13th, the Universal Church celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the first of several apparitions of our Blessed Mother to the three shepherd children in Fatima. Over the course of these 100 years, many graces, blessings, and conversions have taken place through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima. As we observe this very special anniversary here in our Diocese, all are invited to participate in the 8:45 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, May 13th, in Kalamazoo, celebrated by Bishop Bradley, and immediately following the Mass to participate in a very special praying of the Rosary outdoors (weather permitting) to pray for peace in the world and an increase of Vocations here in our Diocese. All are welcome!

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

The couple that shops together - may learn something. Many women enjoy shopping as an "experience" while many men shop with a "hunter" mentality (get what you need as quickly as you can.) Although these are stereotypes and not always true, shopping together can often be frustrating. Just once try shopping as a date. Enter into your beloved's world and learn something new about them.

PARENTING POINTERS

by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (1 Peter 2:7) Do you or your child ever feel rejected? Sooner or later everyone has this experience. It doesn't feel good but it's not the end of the world. When appropriate, share with your child a time that you felt rejected and how you grew from it.

Christian Service Center

Reminder: The Stamp Out Hunger Postal Food Drive takes place THIS Saturday, May 13th and you are asked to put your donations by your mailbox in the early morning. Workers will pick these up and later that day they will be brought to 3 area food pantries, including the CSC. We will have volunteers on hand all day to receive, sort and check dates on incoming items. If you would like to be part of the team, please call CSC to volunteer. We especially need help from 2-5:30. We also are in need of a volunteer with a pick-up who can help transport donations from the post office to CSC. If you are a baker, we would love to have some cookies or bars for our workers that day. Please let us know as they would be greatly appreciated. We are hoping for dry weather so donations and volunteers don't get soggy! Thank you for considering all of our requests and God bless you for continuing to support the CSC. We are very grateful to be part of this nationwide effort by the Postal Workers and appreciate their extra efforts on behalf of all who are in need of food for their families.

Pantry Picks:

Our needs are many but canned vegetables of all kinds, especially corn and green beans, canned beans all colors and sizes. Also all varieties of pastas, any kind of canned fruit, and of course anything on sale. These are all good suggestions for the P.O. Food Drive. As our clients say upon receiving groceries, "Thank you and God Bless."

Catholic CD and Book Rack!

Make sure to check out the Lighthouse Media rack on the North side of the front entrance of the Church. Here you will find audio CDs and books to help you understand your faith better. The CDs feature talks by famous catholic authors and speakers on different aspects of the faith. The titles will be changed out every few months, so keep checking back for more!



The Bishop's Annual Appeal 2017

This weekend we make our pledges to the Bishops Annual Appeal. As Christian stewards we recognize God as the source of everything we are and have. We are grateful for our blessings and seek ways to give back, to return some of these gifts to show our love for the Lord and one another. As disciples of Jesus Christ, all of us share in the mission of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. Only when we work together can we accomplish God's work. Please prayerfully consider a very generous gift to this year's appeal. Our parish goals are 100% participation and \$70,426. With your gift we can achieve them. You may want to consider increasing your last year's gift by a percentage or specific dollar amount in order to meet increased needs in our diocese and beyond. This past week the parish had 23 families pledge \$16,865.00 to the Bishop's Appeal. Remember, no gift is too small or too large, and every gift makes the work of Jesus Christ possible.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct

A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo's Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: 1-877-802-0115. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free telephone number has been established as a part of the Diocese's effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within Diocesan institutions and ministries only. If you have some other concern about Diocesan schools, parishes, or ministries, please contact the appropriate Diocesan school, parish, or office directly.



**St. Mary's Church is hosting a
Blood Drive**

**Sunday, May 14
9:00 am—1:00pm**

Be sure to eat a healthy meal and
drink plenty of water before hand.

WALK INS ARE WELCOME



MINISTRY SCHEDULES

May 13-14, 2017

GREETERS

4:30 pm: J. Cramer, T. Cramer
8:30 am: K. Sharkey, M. Sharkey
11:30 am: P. Heyn, K. Heyn

LECTORS

4:30 pm: K. Marazita
8:30 am: K. Stark
11 :30 am: J. Clancy

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

4:30pm: M. Seppala CV, P. Wilson, M. Casto, N. Coquillard
8:30 am: P. Mollison CV, R. Murphy, C. Ralston, M. Ratkay,
C. Ripley, C. Sabat
11:30 am: P. Johnson CV, S. Johnson, E. Kidman, J. Kidman

ALTAR SERVERS

4:30 pm: J. Capula, Y. Capula
8:30 am: T. Peterson, J. Podlin, N. Podlin
11:30 am: G. Deranek, D. Knoll, E. Knoll

USHERS

K. Crouch, B. Daron, C. Deranek, T. Fron, E. Gutschenritter, N. Hawley,
M. Johnson, B. Kessler, M. Kessler, F. Mercado, J. Mollison, A. O'Connor,
C. Sabat, M. Scott, D. Shelton, T. Skalla, M. Smith, L. Sopczyński,
J. Taylor, J. Uebler, J. Vreden, R. Wurz, B. Wozniak