

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday, September 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
7:30 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Tm 3:1-13/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:23-35
6:00 PM Marjorie Simon, Anniversary

Wednesday, September 15, Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian

1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35
9:30 AM Students and Staff of St. Patrick School
7:00 PM Devotions to Our Mother Of Perpetual Help

Thursday, September 17, Weekday

1 Tm 4:12-16/Lk 7:36-50
7:30 AM Sick and Homebound of our Community

Friday, September 18, Weekday

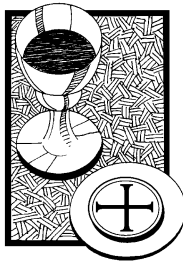
1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3
7:30 AM Eugene Owen, Anniversary

Saturday, September 19, Weekday

1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15
4:30 PM Joshua Bengel and Ed Bengel
Reynold Martin, 1st Anniversary

Sept. 20, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20/Jas 3:16-4:3/Mk 9:30-37
7:30 AM Jerry Scheurer; Marie DeBaldo, 1st Anniversary
9:30 AM Donna Heckman, Month Mind
Richard & Marian Schneider
11:30 AM For the People



Drilled Ears

Isaiah 50:5-9a

Listening can get you into trouble. Sometimes we hear things without paying much attention to them. But when we really listen, we find out what is going on.

Of course, not listening can get you into trouble too. You won't hear the directions clearly. You won't get the question right and will give the wrong answer. You won't appreciate what is very important to someone you love. And you may hear about it later.

But listening is also troublesome. When we really hear, we understand. And understanding may cause us to make a decision we'd rather not have to make. That decision may force us to pick sides. It may turn some people against us. Listening can get you into trouble.

Isaiah explains how he listens. It seems like he isn't even interested in listening because he says, "The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear." More literally, God "drills" open Isaiah's ear. God wants to make sure this prophet is listening.

And the message got Isaiah into trouble. People beat him, plucked his beard, buffeted and spat upon his face. What did the prophet do? Nothing. Isaiah says, "I have not rebelled, have not turned back." Why not? "The Lord GOD is my help." Hearing God's word satisfied him more than fleeing from his enemies.

It takes courage to really listen, and it takes trust that God will protect us after we do.

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Sunday Offering Report

July 1, 2009 through September 6, 2009

Weekly Parish Ministry Needs	\$ 17,980.00
Our Gifts for Sunday, September 6	19,491.34*
Our Gifts – Fiscal Year to Date	158,599.30
Parish Needs – Fiscal Year to Date	179,800.00
Over/(Under) – Fiscal Year to Date	(21,200.70)
*Includes Children/Youth envelopes	22.57
*Includes Automated Donations	2,645.00

Church Cleaning

We hear continually that we are called to be stewards of time, talent and treasure.

For many years the ladies and men of the Parish Districts have given of their time and cleaned church on a weekly basis. It seems as though the same parishioners volunteered over and over when their District's turn rolled around. These volunteers have aged and cleaning church is taking a toll on them. Not enough younger parish members have stepped forward to take up this task.

As a result, Jane Finkbeiner, of our maintenance staff will now clean church in addition to her regular duties.

We thank the many volunteers who have provided this service to our parish over the past years. May God bless you for the gift of your time.

ALTAR APPOINTMENTS – Sept. 19 & 20, 2009

LECTORS

4:30 PM Joyce Kransz 9:30 AM Brian Pohl
7:30 AM Dan Schrauben 11:30 AM Beverly Sobolewski

ALTAR SERVERS

4:30 PM Jessika Grapentien, Nicholas Coyne
 Brandon Fandel, Allison Hodge
7:30 AM Meagan Bond and Tessa Kreiner
9:30 AM Colin Gensterblum, Connor Hengesbach
 Amy Wieber, Amber Wieber
11:30 AM Royce Cook, Savannah Hodge
 Eli Hoppes, Haley Kihn

GREETERS

4:30 PM Mike & Sue Fox, Jim Wlodarczak
7:30 AM Pat Baker, Janet Kransz
9:30 AM Mary Beckhold, Kevin Goodwin, Eva Pung
11:30 AM Harry Klein, Jim Moses, Donna Schrauben

**Sponsor
Of the
Week**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH...

- SUN** Youth Ministry Kick-Off
- MON** Eucharistic Adoration, Noon to 5:00 PM
- TUES** Pastoral Council Meeting following Mass
Baptism Prep Class, SPS Room 110. Use Grand River Avenue entrance.
- WED** Eucharistic Adoration, Noon to 7:00 PM
Youth Ministry Walk-in-Wednesday, after school
Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM
Youth Ministry "Going Deeper", 8 PM, Youth Rm.
- FRI** Third Friday Communion Calls
- SAT** Rosary in the Chapel, 7:30 AM
Reconciliation, 3:00 PM



Knights of Columbus News

The Knights of Columbus are holding a membership drive after all the Masses this weekend. Imagine being part of an organization that fills your heart and your mind with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference. Knights are Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with your community; it is supporting your local Catholic Church, while enhancing your own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing your family life. We invite you to visit with us after Mass to find out more about becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Chicken BBQ Time - The Portland Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Chicken BBQ on Sunday September 20th at the KC Hall located at 690 Maynard Road in Portland. Starting at 12:00 PM. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 16. Take out will also be available. This dinner is open to everyone so come on out and enjoy some of Mark Simon's famous chicken. For more information contact Rich Schneider at 517-647-4567.

Remember to mark your calendars for the 2009 Fall Festival which will be held on Sunday, October 11. This is the 49th year that the Athletic Association has sponsored this event! The dinner will be as scrumptious as ever, with three kinds of meat, the largest salad bar you've ever seen, homemade desserts and much, much more. We'll also have raffles, kids activities, a 5K Race, a great Arts and Crafts Show and two new events---a Euchre Tournament and free Teen Activities.

We're already beginning to schedule workers, and **all parents of athletes (7-12) are expected to work a shift.** Call Mary Cook (647-2231) if you'd like first dibs on a time slot. If you have questions call Christine Wilcox (517-566-7788). For complete information about the 2009 Fall Festival, or to see some photos from previous years, please visit our website: Go to www.portlandstpats.com and click on Fall Festival (at the top of the home page).

Do YOU have any ideas that might help our parish become more welcoming to newcomers or guests? How about social activities that might help our parish family build stronger relationships? Or, are you able to help at any of the different activities we may have? **ALL** are invited to attend the next "Welcoming & Social Committee" meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7:00 pm at the Parish Hall. Hope to see YOU there!

**Protecting God's Children Awareness Session
Sunday September 27 – 2:00 to 5:00 PM**

St. Patrick Parish will be hosting a "Protecting God's Children" Awareness Session from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM Sunday, September 27, 2009 in the Parish Hall. Attendance is required for all parish staff and for all volunteers and chaperones who work with children. If you have not already attended a session, here is your opportunity. Note: **ALL Registrations MUST be completed on line.** Pre-registration is required in order to insure that enough materials will be shipped to the parish for attendees. Go to the Diocesan website at: www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org and select the "Our Diocese" at the top of the page on the left above the picture. Select "Child and Youth Protection" on the left side of the web page. Under the title "Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions" in the middle of the page, select Pre-register/Register. The organization is: Grand Rapids, MI (Diocese). You will be asked to create a username and password and fill out additional information. Please register by the end of the day Wednesday, September 23. If you have any questions or have any difficulties, please contact Deacon Don at 517-647-6505 x409.

Please note that because of the seriousness and importance of the video part of the session, there can be no admittance after the video portion has begun. Please arrive on time.

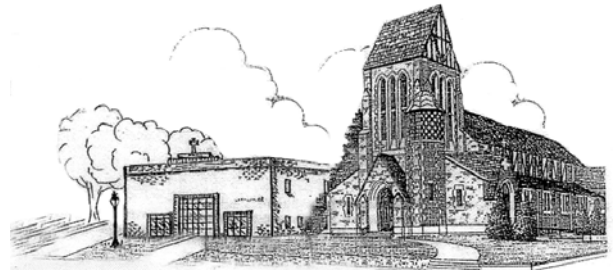
Faith Formation Notes

We are in need of volunteers for our Monday Night Children's Faith Formation Program.

If you are interested in helping as a catechist, catechist aid, substitute catechist, or a non-catechist assistant, please call Tom Jandernoa at 647-6505 ext. 418.

A Scrap Book Fundraiser will be held at the Hubbardston Library on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM. All meals will be furnished. Price is \$30. Contact Carol Schrauben @ 989-981-6874 or call the library @ 989-981-6106 to register.

St. Patrick Church
Parish Faith Formation
140 Church St.
Portland, Michigan 48875
(517) 647-6505



September 10, 2009

Dear Parents,

Does it seem to you as if Spring-time is extraordinarily busy? With all the events happening at that time – Easter, Spring break, First Communions, weddings, graduations, open houses, Mother’s Day, Spring sports, Memorial Day, etc., there seems to be too many things to do. Confirmation was just one more event among all the rest.

The Pastoral Staff has been looking for ways to ease this Spring-time congestion. Even though the Diocese is not able to let us choose the exact date of Confirmation, they do give us the option of Spring or Fall. There was always the likelihood that the date we are assigned by the Diocese in the Spring for Confirmation would conflict with one or more of the events just mentioned. Spring is also a busy time for the Confirmation Candidates to be finishing up with service projects, Sponsor meetings, interviews, etc. Besides timing and calendar, the Pastoral Staff began to ask if there would be any other benefits to requesting Confirmation for the Fall? When considering this option, we realized there would be many. Candidates would have more time to devote to their preparation in more thoughtful and meaningful ways. They would not be rushed to complete everything during/by Spring. Candidates would also have the opportunity to work on some of their preparation projects with their sponsors. This would be during the Summer months when their time is not in competition with school.

By completing their initiation into the Catholic Church in the Fall, it would also help the Candidates realize that Confirmation is the beginning of a faith journey as full members of the Church – that it is not a graduation from something they need to finish and be done with. It is the beginning of a new time in life to experience a deeper infusion of the Holy Spirit who they will need for strength and direction in their lives as High School teenagers, young adults, etc.

Based on these considerations, we have requested that the Diocese schedule our next celebration of Confirmation for the Fall. This means that instead of having Confirmation in April or May of 2010, this year’s 8th grade Candidates will be confirmed in October or November of 2010, when they are beginning their 9th grade year, 5 months later. Confirmation for all parishes in our diocese is celebrated at St. Andrew Cathedral in Grand Rapids.

With this change we hope that our Candidates will experience Confirmation as the beginning of a time to be more active and involved in their Catholic faith, a time to strengthen their relationship with God for the rest of their lives.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Fr. Larry King
Pastor

Tom Jandernoa
Director of Faith Formation

Right to Life Affiliates Ionia and Portland
Cordially invite you to the annual Ionia County Right to Life Benefit Banquet

Thursday, October 8, 2009, 6:30 p.m
Ionia Knights of Columbus Hall, 115 Steele St., Ionia
\$20 per plate; \$160 per table of 8

Please join us as people from around the county come together, committed to protecting the right to life of defenseless human beings, born and unborn. A fabulous meal, catered by Portland's Sue Kreiner, is featured.

Musical selections performed by Ionia's Eric Tempelaere and Brandon Bowker

Special Guest Speaker Pastor Paul Clark, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fowler

Born in Latrobe, PA, but raised in Michigan, Pastor Clark received his B.A. degree from Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin. He made his decision to study for the Holy Ministry and obtained a Master of Divinity degree in 1988 from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Upon graduation, he was called to serve as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in Fowler, Michigan, where he has served for the past twenty-one years. He has been active for nearly twenty years in the pro-life movement and has spoken at Right to Life banquets, rallies, and events throughout the state.

For the past eleven years, he has served as Pastoral Counselor for the State Board of Lutherans for Life of Michigan. He has also founded a local Life Issues group in his congregation. Keeping abreast of issues, they seek to educate and inform people concerning important matters of life and death. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married since 1980. They have three children through the miracle and blessing of adoption, Alexander, Thaddeus, and Abigail.

Pastor Clark believes that by educating and informing the public and applying love and compassion to those directly affected by the trauma of abortion and euthanasia, the pro-life movement will prevail, and our great nation will again uphold the principle of the sanctity of human life.

Dinner Reservation Form

Make checks payable to Ionia County Right to Life

Return this reservation form with payment by October 4 to: Pam Brown, 11744 Keefer Hwy., Portland, MI 48875
We will mail your dinner tickets to the address given below. Questions? Phone Pam at 647-7439

Enclosed please find \$_____ for _____ dinner tickets at \$20 per person

Enclosed please find \$_____ for _____ tables at \$160 per table (of 8)

I (we) regrettably cannot attend on October 8th. Please accept our gift of \$_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Donations to Ionia RTL and Portland RTL are not tax deductible)