

Twenty-NINTH Sunday of Ordinary Time



Liturgy Schedule

Monday, October 20, Weekday

Eph 2:1-10/Lk 12:13-21

7:30 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, October 21, Weekday

Eph 2:12-11/Lk 12:35-38

7:30 AM Reynold Martin, Month Mind; Marie DeBaldo

Wednesday, October 22, Weekday

Eph 3:2-12/Lk 12:39-48

9:30 AM Karl Noren, Anniversary

7:00 PM Devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Thursday, October 23, Weekday

Eph 3:14-21/Lk 12:49-53

7:30 AM Katherine May, Anniversary

Friday, October 24, Weekday

Eph 4:1-6/Lk 12:54-59

7:30 AM Victims of Violence & Abuse

Saturday, October 25, Weekday

Eph 4:7-16/Lk 13:1-9

4:30 PM Helen Pung, Richard Pung Sr. & Richard Pung Jr.

October 26, Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ex 22:20-26/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40

7:30 AM For the People

9:30 AM Leo & Isabel Russman and Marie DeBaldo

11:30 AM Jack Stegenga

ALTAR APPOINTMENTS – October 25 & 26, 2008

LECTORS

4:30 PM Joyce Kransz

9:30 AM Laura Goostrey

7:30 AM Dan Schrauben

11:30 AM Brian Pohl

Altar Servers

4:30 PM Dana Hengesbach, Chelsea Pline
Mackenzie Smith, Anna Bosworth

7:30 AM Ben Lawless and Laura Spohn

9:30 AM Cameron Bartlett, Sydney Bartlett
Gracelyn Pearson, Preston Beard

11:30 AM Cody Cathcart, Marin Pline,

Royce Cook, Samantha Kramer

GREETERS

4:30 PM Freda Bauer, Keith Cook, Randy Pung

7:30 AM Sandy and Tom Meitler

9:30 AM Eric & Mary Berry, Connie Mallek

11:30 AM Bob & Cil Gross, Dawn Moffatt

Sponsor of the Week

Church and State

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

"I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me."

The separation of church and state can lead to the assumption that God works in the church but never in the state. We expect government to act honorably, but our cynicism removes surprise when civil leaders fail.

Isaiah tells of a case where the wall between "church" and "state" completely collapsed. Israel, plundered by enemies, had survived in exile. Now, almost unexpectedly, the king of the conquering nation, Cyrus, let the exiles go home. Amazingly, Cyrus, a foreigner, is called "God's anointed."

In Isaiah's view, God had given Cyrus sufficient forces and strength of character to play a pivotal role in the divine plan. Even though Cyrus never knew Israel's God, God used Cyrus for Israel's benefit.

God can still use the state to advance the plan of salvation. As God's influence prompted Cyrus to perform a magnificent good, the influence of the faithful can prompt the state to bring justice to the oppressed.

Do you know who your legislators are? Do you let them know your opinions? With their help you can feed the hungry, release those unjustly deprived of liberty, and protect human life. Under the direction of God's Spirit you can witness the cooperation of church and state.

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Sunday Offering Report

July 1, 2008 through October 12, 2008

Weekly Parish Ministry Needs	\$17,980.00
Our Gifts for October 12	13,828.13
Our Gifts – Fiscal Year to Date	251,842.92
Parish Needs – Fiscal Year to Date	269,700.00
Over/(Under) – Fiscal Year to Date	(17,857.08)
*Includes Children/Youth envelopes totaling	19.63

Concerning Human Life and Proposal 2

Voters will decide during next month's general election to support or oppose a ballot proposal that seeks to allow for unrestricted human embryo research in Michigan. Certainly we all want cures for disease, and the Church supports proven and ethical adult stem cell research that does not destroy the human embryo. Proposal 2 fails to advance ethical stem cell research while seeking to amend the state constitution to allow for the destruction of human embryos. Embryo destruction, regardless of its intentions, is morally unacceptable. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: "Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being." We must work to defend and protect human life, in all its stages, from conception until natural death. More information about Proposal 2 can be found at www.micause.com. 2 Goes 2 Far: Vote NO on Proposal 2!

October 19, 2008

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH...

SUN RCIA, 9:30 AM
GIFT, 1:00 to 3:30 PM

MON Eucharistic Adoration, Noon to 5:00 PM
Knights of Columbus Social, 8:00 PM

TUES Pro-Life Rosary following Mass in the Chapel
Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon to 5:45 PM @ the
K of C Hall
Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:00 PM

WED Eucharistic Adoration, Noon to 7:00 PM
Sr. Citizen Euchre Party, 1:00 PM @ K of C Hall
Confirmation Sponsor Meeting, 7:30 PM
Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

SAT Confirmation Sponsor Meeting, 10:00 AM
Reconciliation, 3:00 PM

SUN RCIA, 9:30 AM
Jr. High Youth Ministry, 4:30 PM
Sr. High Youth Ministry, 6:30 PM

Church Cleaning for September – District 9

Shamrock Sport Raffle Winners for September

Doug & Brenda Smith Shayla Schneider
Jim & Jean Klein Dan & Kathy Hendershot

Script/Gift Card Alert

The pace continues to pick up in the Scrip/Gift Card department. Thank you for your continued and growing support. Remember that anyone who purchases even one Gift Card is entered into the October promotion. Principal Hodge says to make the November promo a big one. So the person or family that records the highest dollar volume total will be the winner next month. There is no limit to the number of people who can purchase Gift cards and credit the sale to your account.

On the advice of one of our school family members, we now have Marathon cards in stock. We carry \$25.00 and \$100.00 denominations that both rebate back 3%. We can order \$250.00 cards that offer a 4% rebate.

We are also carrying both \$25.00 and \$100.00 Wal Mart cards and have added \$100 Kohl's cards to go along with the \$25.00 cards already in stock.

Look for more news in the coming weeks as we prepare for some big opportunities. Please send any questions or suggestions to Mary Willemin at 517 647-2462 or ladybug48875@yahoo.com

Congratulations to the Fall Festival winners

Early Bird Winners, \$25.00 each

Tom A. Hoppes, M/M Michael Schafer & Norm Nephew

Raffle Winners

\$500	Jack Shattuck	\$100	Sandy Pearson
\$500	Joyce Hausen	\$100	Berniece Miller
\$500	Don Shaffer	\$100	Gayle Thelen
\$500	Deb Coyne	\$100	Dale Cook
		\$100	Barb Sandborn

Today is World Mission Sunday

We are called to this Eucharistic celebration – along with Catholics in every parish, chapel and church throughout the world – to recommit ourselves to the missionary task, telling, as the prophet Isaiah says in today's first reading, "God's glory among the nations."

Let us pray at this Mass for all who long to hear the hope-filled message of Jesus' love and salvation. Let us offer generous financial help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in support of more than 1,150 local churches throughout Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America.

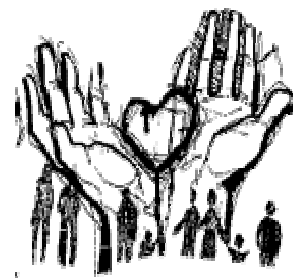
Holiday Giving Program

Applications for the Portland Community Holiday Giving Program are available at the parish office or at Portland City Hall. They must be returned by Thursday, November 20. A Christmas dinner will be provided to families in need and gifts will be provided to family members 18 and under. Any family in the Portland school district that may need assistance or anyone that knows of someone who could use extra assistance should fill out an application.

Attention Snowbirds

Please call the parish office and let us know when you will be leaving for your winter homes and when you anticipate returning to Portland. We can save the parish some money by terminating the delivery of your offering envelopes while you are away. With our budget crunch, every dollar saved is appreciated.

Caught in the Act ~Of Good Stewardship~



The "Faith Formation Commission" helps to develop and support goals and programs for faith formation for all of our parish family.

Thank you for all the sacrifices you make to help develop our life-long learning.

An added THANK YOU goes out to the work you do for the children.

They are the present and the future of OUR church.

May God bless this ministry abundantly!

St. Patrick Parish, 140 Church St., Portland, MI - Oct.
19, 2008

Our heating renovation project is nearing completion. While we will welcome the warmth it will bring us later this fall and winter, we need to pitch in to clean up after the construction. Dust and dirt are everywhere. A thorough church cleaning is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 25. Men are asked to volunteer and arrive at 8:00 AM. Please bring an extension pole if you have one to assist in cleaning the beams. Ladies are asked to arrive at 9:00 AM. Please bring pails and rags. Many hands will make light work.

Notes from our Neighbors

- **FOWLER CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW:** On October 25, 2008 from 9a.m.- 2:00p.m., there will be the 8th annual Fowler Craft and Vendor Show at the K of C Hall in Fowler. Discounts will be available and there will be a free drawing for an item from each booth. Lia Sophia, Beadwork by Mindy, Tupperware, Uppercase Living, Shorty's Cakes & Bakes, At Home America, Baby bibs, books and other crafts will be there.
- **34TH ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR:** St. Mary Parish, Carson City, invites you to their annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 25, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM to be held at St. Mary Parish Hall. Door prizes every ½ hour and raffle drawings. Refreshments will be available. Vendors are still welcome. For more information call 989-584-6044.
- **A NIGHT OF IRISH ENTERTAINMENT** featuring Kin Fyre and Twin Thistle. Sponsored by the K of C Council #944, 115 S. Steele Street, Ionia. October 25, 2008. Doors open at 7:00 PM. \$5.00 per person cover charge. Twin Thistle will perform from 7:30 to 8:30 and Kin Fyre begins at 9:00 PM. Cash bar and food available. Must be 21 to attend. Call 616-527-4850 to reserve seating, minimum 6 per table.
- **HARVEST DINNER:** Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Ionia, invites you to its Harvest Dinner and Raffle on Sunday, October 26, in Apostles Hall. Roast Beef and Ham dinner from noon to 3:00 PM. The dinner is \$8.00 for adults, \$5 for children 12 thru 5 and free for children 4 and under. Raffle drawing for 11 cash prizes with a top prize of \$1,500 begins at 3:00 PM. For raffle tickets or more information, please call 616-527-3610.
- **K OF C BENEFIT BREAKFAST:** The public is invited to the Westphalia Knights of Columbus Corporate Communion Breakfast on Sunday, October 26th, from 8:00 am until noon at our parish hall. The menu consists of sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, potatoes, donuts, and beverages. The cost is \$6.00 for adults; children (5-12) \$3.00; 4 years and under-FREE. Proceeds will be donated to St. Mary's School and Right to Life.
- **COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY:** St. Michael Parish, Grand Ledge, is seeking a part-time Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Candidate must be a faith-filled, practicing Catholic who possesses the gifts of collaboration, creativity, and has a heart for teens. For a copy of the job description and qualifications, please see our website at www.stmichaelgl.org Please submit cover letter and resume to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, St. Michael Parish, 345 Edwards Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 or e-mail merryoswill@stmichaelgl.org no later than October 20, 2008.

Giving Through an IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are over the age of 70½, you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA. Normally, this distribution is taxed as ordinary income.

New federal legislation enacted on October 3, 2008 extends the opportunity for you to make a direct distribution from your IRA to a qualified charity such as your parish, the Diocese of Grand Rapids, or the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan. These distributions, while not subject to income tax, will still count toward fulfilling your required minimum distribution.

For both 2008 and 2009, you can exclude up to \$100,000 from your gross income for qualified charitable distributions made directly from your traditional IRA. For married couples, each spouse can make a separate distribution.

For more information about how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact the parish office or Dave Baerwalde, Stewardship and Development Director with the Diocese of Grand Rapids, at (616) 243-0491, extension #1529.

Give the gift of comfort.....Know anyone who just had a baby, just had surgery or could use a little love? Over 100 women of our parish have volunteered to prepare and bring meals as a service to those who could use it. If you know of anyone who could use a little comfort, call Sue Kreiner at 566-8010; Kathy Mauren at 647-2632; or the Parish Office at 647-6505.

*Wouldn't it be nice to find one thing that is good for whatever ails you?
Try Eucharist Adoration!*

Upcoming Retreats

“Jesus, Ever Ancient, Ever New”

The Ladies of our parish are invited to make their annual retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt on the weekend of October 24 – 26, 2008. By looking at Jesus who belongs to all humanity, we may see Him more clearly, love him more dearly and live our faith more deeply. His life and mission is as much for us today as it was for his contemporaries. So come be with Him on this retreat. Retreatants may register by calling the Retreat Center toll free at 866-669-8321. You may also register by visiting the website www.stfrancis.ws. Suggested donation for the weekend is \$130.00.

Attention – Singles (mid-30s to mid-50s)

Are you interested in making new Catholic friends? Revitalizing your inner-self? Renewing your relationship with God? Finding peace and meaning for your life? If so, you may want to consider attending a **REFLECT** encounter weekend at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, Michigan. **REFLECT** is for and about single adults (mid-30's to mid-50's, but it's also open to adults in their mid-20's to 55 who may be divorced or widowed). It's a great way to get to know and share with other single adults in a caring, Christ-centered environment.

The next **REFLECT** weekend is **October 31-Nov. 2, 2008**. The cost is \$130.00, which covers lodging, meals, and retreat materials for the weekend. Step outside of your comfort zone and into a wonderful opportunity for personal growth. For more details, visit www.reflectsingles.com or call Libby (989)450-0993 or Pat (616)458-1236. To register for the retreat, contact the St. Francis Retreat Center toll free: (866)669-8321 OR sign up online at: www.stfrancis.ws

REFRESH Retreat

Are you interested in making new Catholic friends? Revitalizing your inner-self? Renewing your relationship with God? Are you 21 to 35 years of age and single? If so you may want to consider attending a **REFRESH** Weekend encounter.

The next weekend will be held in Howell, November 7 – 9, 2008. For more information feel free to contact Michelle @ (810) 923-9904 or Shawn @ (989)245-7051 or email at refreshlansing@gmail.com.

Please remember all the military personnel in service to our Country, whether they are serving here at home or abroad. If you would like the parish to be aware of your son, daughter, husband, wife or other loved one serving in the armed forces, please contact the parish office so all can pray for their safety. Please remember the following in your prayers:

Sgt. Nathan Quinn – U.S. Marine Corp.

CW4 Todd McElmurry, U.S. Army

Spc. Aaron Shattuck

Pfc. Rob Feldpausch – U.S. Army

Todd Fox

Lt. Col. Judy (Simon) Fryover – Army Nurse Res.

Pfc. Rob Marvin – U.S. Army

2Lt. Jeff Erb – U.S. Marine Corp.

M. Sgt. Bill Smith – U.S. Marine Corp

G. Sgt. Joseph Weirsky – U.S. Marine Corp

Sgt. Matthew Patrick – Army National Guard

L-Cpl. Bryan May – U.S. Marine Corps

Greg Strickling – U.S. Army

Joel Rockey, U.S. Navy, HN

Capt. Ron Flora – U.S. Marine Corp.

Pfc. Brian Gallagher – Army National Guard

Danny Kellog – Army National Guard

M.Sgt. Thomas D. Meitler II. U.S. Air Force

Spec. Ryan Goodman, U.S. Army Reserve

Spec. Daniel James Noffke

1Lt. James Arrasmith- U. S. Marine Corp.

M.Sgt. Lou Bennis – U.S. Marine Corp.

M. Sgt. John Hayes – U.S. Marine Corp.

Airman First Class Luke May – U.S. Air Force

CPO Rick Manning – U.S. Navy Reserves

Pfc. Travis Tichvon – U.S. Army

M. Sgt. John English, SA – U. S. Air Force

Shamrock Happenings: Notes from Mr. Hodge

I would like to provide the parish with an overview of events that have been taking place at the school recently. We are well into the first marking period at St. Patrick School and there are many positive activities occurring. Here are the highlights of recent developments at St. Patrick School.

Academic News:

Many individuals have asked me about our Michigan Merit Exam (MME) scores. The MME is the test mandated for high school juniors in the State of Michigan and is tied to the Michigan Promise Scholarship. As you can see from the chart below, St. Patrick School scores are among the highest in the county. The scores represent the percentage of students who met or exceeded state standards.

2008 Michigan Merit Exam Scores

School	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Writing	ELA
Belding High School	39	46.5	45.9	70.4	33.3	42.1
Fowler High School	60.4	75	70.8	89.5	60.4	68.8
Ionia High School	47.9	65.8	65.7	78.6	43.3	53.9
Lakewood High School	47.8	64.1	60.4	85.2	37.4	50.8
Portland High School	55.7	63.6	58.6	86.7	40	52.9
PW High School	68.4	77.6	78.9	93.4	63.2	75
Saranac High School	61	69.5	74.4	91.5	51.2	63.4
St. Patrick High School	71.4	81	81	90.5	61.9	66.7
State Totals	46.2	61.9	56.6	79.9	41.1	52.3

Spiritual News:

Students in grades 1 – 12 attend an all school mass each week. Students in grades 7 – 12 are “Church Buddies” and sit with students in grades 1 – 6. One of the school goals is that our students will be good stewards of service to others, therefore, secondary students go to the elementary classrooms before mass and fill out “Time and Talent” envelopes with their “Church Buddy.” Elementary students put the envelope in the collection basket at mass. Each week, a different class takes responsibility for providing a lector or readers, altar servers, ushers for collecting “Time and Talent” envelopes, and bringing forth the offertory gifts. The high school choir and middle school choir rotate each week in serving as song leaders.

Community Service News:

We are bringing back “Pay it Forward Day.” This is a day where our students go out in the community and complete tasks that others are unable to do. On October 31, students from the school will rake leaves for senior citizens around town, rake the Portland Cemetery and Alton Park, and complete other tasks for members of the community. If you are in need of assistance with raking leaves or other small tasks, call St. Patrick School at (517)647-7551. Leave your name, address, and what it is you need assistance with.

Jeans Days have come back for all students at St. Patrick School. Students in grades 7 – 12 pay \$1.00 to wear jeans to school on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. The money is donated to a group within the school or a charity. For the month of September, which is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, DK – 12th grade students wore a hat to school with their jeans as we hosted “Hats on Day.” The students made a collective donation of \$409.51 which was donated to The Foundation for Childhood Cancer. Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, money collected on the 4th Friday Jean Day will be donated to this cause.

Extracurricular Activities News:

New this year at St. Patrick is a Chess Club for students in grades 4 – 8. Mr. Patrick Burdick is the advisor for the Chess Club. We currently have 10 – 12 students participating. The Chess Club meets after school from 3:30 – 4:30 every Tuesday. There is still room available for others to join.

The middle school now has a student council and participated in homecoming activities with the high school this month. Speaking of middle school, the Athletic Association is planning to start girls and boys track this spring.

Staff News:

We are now fully staffed in our computer/technology and art courses. Thank you to Mr. Chuck Dumas and Portland Public Schools for creating a shared time position for computer/technology and art.

More than 90% of our staff is certified in CPR and First Aid. The staff was trained to use an epinephrine (EPI) pen and reviewed how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). We currently have two located in the building and are looking to add a third AED so they will be strategically located throughout the building.

I would like to thank the teaching staff for all their efforts in making sure the children of St. Patrick School are provided with a quality Catholic Education. I would also like to thank the maintenance and custodial staff for keeping the building in fine shape and the secretarial staff for everything they do in keeping our school running in an efficient manner. Your efforts on behalf of the school are priceless. Finally, I want to thank the students of St. Patrick School for their positive attitude, effort and conduct in representing their faith, families, school, and themselves.