PASTORAL COLUMN

“Home Free”

Last weekend at each of the Masses we heard from a member of the From Ashes to Living Stones committee chairs. The following is an excerpt of their update. This is important information for all of us to take note.

We are very excited that so many very generous people have contributed to our 3 to 4 year FATLS Campaign that we are now only $200,000 from paying off our mortgage. This is an outstanding accomplishment. This building is our parish community’s building. This mortgage is our parish community’s to pay off. Paying off this mortgage is also our parish community’s accomplishment to celebrate. Additionally, paying off our mortgage will save monthly interest payments. We have better use for this money.

We are now launching a campaign to be “Home Free” and pay off our mortgage by our 60th anniversary this July. This is a do-able task and will sure make our celebration a very special one. A donation/pledge to our “Home Free” Campaign is separate from current pledges and payments. We are each being asked to make a contribution towards this goal. Please consider a gift in addition to what you may have already given or, for some of you, especially new parish members, this may be a first time gift/pledge. We are all in different financial positions. We must all prayerfully consider what we can do. Please realize that each dollar, each sacrifice is meaningful. You may send a contribution marked “home free” directly to the office or pick up an envelope in the Gathering Area brightly marked for this campaign to deposit in the collection basket.

With all of us working together on this we will soon own ALL of our church by this summer. A very worthy goal indeed.

“From Ashes to Living Stones/ Home Free”

If you are still paying on your 3 or 4 year pledge for the Ashes to Living Stones pledge Drive begun three years ago, please continue to use the plain white envelopes we have available in the Gathering Area. If you are joining with many others in making a donation or a pledge to the “Home Free” Campaign to help pay off the mortgage, please use the envelopes with the bright colored label also found in the Gathering Area.

Readings for the week of March 21 through March 25, 2016:

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5ab-6, 15,17 Jn 13:21-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of Lorraine Weiland and Mary Hale (both charter members). Both women died this past week. May they rest in the peace and love of God.

Scripture Readings for:
MARCH 27, 2016 EASTER SUNDAY

Let us pray for one another with one mind and heart to the Lord our God

Neighborhood 0
Carol Aldrich
Lucille Morrison
Bob & Donna Huebner
Barbara Kuhn
Brenda Shaver
Neighborhood 1
Norman Czernek
James Emelander
Neighborhood 2
Linda Piechcki-Wyngarden
Neighborhood 3
Elizabeth Gorkowski
Neighborhood 4
Karen Smith
Neighborhood 5
Bartholomew Atkins
Melanie Potter
Matt Potter
Carol Delaney
Neighborhood 9
Ted Cipponeri
Pauline Parent
Neighborhood 10
Kevin Douglas
Neighborhood 11
Elise Christensen
Neighborhood 12
Blaze Radic
Mary Alice Kelly
Neighborhood 14
Gary Tryon

Neighborhood 15
Evelyn & John Kehoe
Leon Rutka, Jr.
Janet Pallantto
Bill Derr
Neighborhood 16
Ronald Coon
Jean Lindsey
Ann Sybra
R Jay Wagner
Neighborhood 20
Kevin & Kyle Friar
Sherry Patterson
Neighborhood 22
Don Rexford
Neighborhood 30
Dorothy Daniels
Neighborhood 33
Carolyn Sheeran
Jeremy Sheeran
Others to remember:
Baby Wade Syers
Pat VanderMeulen
Stan Barron
Mel Johnson
Baby Lila
Margaret LaHuis
Sue Fairchild
Jeanne Witgen
Captain Jordan Smith
Baby Brayson
Richard C.

Margot Saladino
Madison Williams
Chuc Nguyen
Bill Louwers
Daniel Ferguson
Lyndsey Freiburger
Joe Jakubowski
Becky Yonker
Kathy Jo Fraher
Kelly Sheeran
Pamela Hoffman
Mary Petersen
JoAnne & Patti Case
Jim Nawrocki
Delores Kloke
Jackie Volink
Mike Case
Ross Family
Christine England
Trudy Swing
Rosalene Burd
John Chirco
Jim Searfoss
Mary Postellon
Suarn Kabbab
James LaDuKe
Rachel Sowers
Mary Jane Aalders
Jim Jolliffe
Fritz & Norma Riese
Fr. John Thome
Emily Asselin
Chris Norman

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 19, 2016
5:00 p.m. †Stella Kaminski by Jean Albert

Sunday, March 20, 2016 – PALM SUNDAY
9:00 a.m. Intentions of the Parish Community
11:00 a.m. Intentions of the Parish Community
5:00 p.m. Intentions of the Parish Community

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
8:00 a.m. Intentions of the Parish Community

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
8:00 a.m. †Stella Kaminski by Carroll & Vickie Albert

Thursday, March 24, 2016—HOly THURSDAy
7:00 p.m. Intentions of the Parish Community

Friday, March 25, 2016—GOOD FRIDAY
3:00 p.m. Intentions of the Parish Community

Saturday, March 26, 2016—EASTER VIGIL
9:00 p.m. Intentions of Catechumens & Candidates

Sunday, March 27, 2016 –EASTER
9:00 a.m. Intentions of the Parish Community
11:00 a.m. Intentions of the Parish Community
NO 5:00 P.M. MASS EASTER SUNDAY
SECOND BEST SALE - COMING APRIL 6 & 7
Please collect all of your good
and usable items—clothing, jewelry, toys, small household
appliances, kitchen utensils, small tools, etc. Bring your
items and drop them off on the
Family Center stage anytime between 9 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
during the week. Thank you.
Sponsored by the Women’s Guild to support our church and charities.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS
Hello Everyone,
I found the following excerpt from an article on
a Catholic Culture website and found it served as a
good reminder of what we are celebrating today. I was
especially awed by the last sentence and have spent
my morning prayer time contemplating the accuracy of
it and how I could amend that attitude.

Holy Week begins with the sixth Sunday in Lent. This Sunday observes the triumphal
entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds who were in Jerusalem for Passover waving palm
branches and proclaiming him as the messianic king. The Gospels tell us that Jesus rode into the city on a donkey,
enacting the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, and in so doing emphasized the humility that was
to characterize the Kingdom he proclaimed.
The irony of his acceptance as the new
Davidic King (Mark 11:10) by the crowds
who would only five days later cry for his
execution should be a sobering reminder of
the human tendency to want God on our
own terms.

God’s Blessings,
Molly Wisdom

Faith Formation News:
Wednesday, March 23rd-No Faith Formation Classes
Wednesday, March 30th-No Faith Formation Classes
Wednesday, April 6th-No Faith Formation Classes
Wednesday, April 13th-Faith Formation Classes Resume

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
HOLY THURSDAY—MARCH 24
7 P.M. —Triduum Begins; Mass of the Lord’s Supper;
Adoration until Midnight
GOOD FRIDAY—MARCH 25
2 P.M.—Stations of the Cross
3 P.M. Good Friday Liturgy
HOLY SATURDAY — MARCH 26
11 A.M.—Blessing of Easter Food in front of Chapel doors
9 P.M.—Easter Vigil Mass
EASTER SUNDAY —MARCH 27
Easter Morning Masses at 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.

Oh Lord,
On this day of
great
rejoicing,
we welcome
you as our
King and Savior.
Hosanna! We cry.
Blessed are You who have come in the name
of the LORD to save us.
Hosanna!
Strengthen our faith on this Palm Sunday
so that when the time comes to carry our
cross
we might still call out to you with heartfelt
praise.
Give us the grace and courage to follow You
this Holy Week
from your death to
resurrection,
from darkness to
the fullness of light.
We need You, O
Christ, Our Savior.
Hosanna!
Amen

March 20, 2016
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

The Feeding America West Michigan Food truck will be here Saturday, March 26. Everyone is invited to come and help with the distribution of food to others in the community who are in need at this time of year. Come around 8:30 a.m. to the BAC - distribution will begin at 9:00 a.m. Remember to dress for the weather.

+++ When you return your Rice Bowl, please convert the coin into a check. You can place it in an envelope marked ‘Rice Bowl’ and put it in the collection basket.

+++ The Men’s Group Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 26 at NOON (note change of time). This is for kids ages 1-10 years old. Please bring a basket to hold all of the treats.

+++ Help will be needed next Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m. to decorate the church for Easter. This is one of those times when many hands make light work.

+++ There is a need to have adults age 18 & over to come to Valleywood Middle School during their lunch hours to spend time getting to know some of their students. We have hand picked a few of the students that could use some positive interactions from a mature, kind & caring adult. Lunch times range from 11 am to 12:30 pm and are 30 minutes each. Please contact: Cherita Smith (Valleywood Community School Coordinator) at 616-538-7670 X 34233 if you are interested.

+++ Our Lenten faith journey must be more than a self/centered activity. Christianity was never intended to be simply a religion of the book, an intellectual exercise or a private affair. The good news of Jesus Christ is not so much what happens to us but what must be done by us. Being Catholic needs to be what we do and how we act. If we call ourselves Catholic, we declare that we are about encountering the other, opening our heart in relationship, healing the wounded of the world and making everything whole and blessed. Being Catholic is the way our love gives birth to God. St Vincent de Paul Church; Baltimore MD.

FINANCIAL NEWS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Over (Under)</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 13, 2016</td>
<td>$12,055</td>
<td>$14,100</td>
<td>($2,045)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to date</td>
<td>$485,309</td>
<td>$521,700</td>
<td>($36,391)</td>
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253 envelopes & 24 electronic contributions

God can have our money and not have our hearts, but He cannot have our hearts without having our money. – R. Kent Hughes

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL – 2016

Assessment: $ 87,737
Pledged to Date: $ 36,205 (41.3% of goal)
Needed for Goal: $ 51,532
No. of Responses: 163 out of 1,133 Families

Through your donation to CSA, you are able to further the great ministry of the Church, and to communicate God’s mercy. With your contribution, you reach thousands through your support of priestly vocations, Catholic education, cultural ministries, Catholic charities, catechist training and diocesan-wide communications. Anything raised in excess of our assessment is returned to the parish.

FROM ASHES TO LIVING STONES ~ PLEDGE DRIVE

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total needed:</td>
<td>$2,173,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total pledged:</td>
<td>$1,672,277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges paid:</td>
<td>$1,545,694</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resurrection Fund Donations</td>
<td>$303,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income:</td>
<td>$1,849,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total balance needed:</td>
<td>$324,458</td>
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<td>Pledges outstanding:</td>
<td>$126,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional pledges needed:</td>
<td>$197,875</td>
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</tbody>
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PARISH STAFF

**Pastoral Staff:**

Ruth Bush: Coordinator of Christian Services/Volunteers, x106 rbush@stmmagdalen.org
Chad Roden: Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, x104 croden@stmmagdalen.org
Molly Wisdom: Coordinator of Faith Formation, x103 mwisdom@stmmagdalen.org

**Administrative Staff:**

Joe Hakeem: Business Manager, jhakeem@stmmagdalen.org, x102
Molly Reppuhn: Parish Secretary, mreppuhn@stmmagdalen.org, x107
Michelle Mason: Admin. Assistant, mmason@stmmagdalen.org, x112

**Maintenance:** Joseph Schmidt
**Housekeeping:** Brenda Bush

**Pastoral Support Staff:**

Deacons: Mike Dordan & Michael Wood
Sacristans: Wayne Ball, Joseph Nguyen

**Pastoral Council:**

Nathan Jeruzal—Chair
Laurie Emelander: Patricia Guzzo, Jesus Hernandez
Mary Ann Bergevin: Mark Vandervoord, Charles Mason
Daniel Mooney: Kathy Leeuwenburg, Ronald Stephane
Wayne Westbrook: Matt Richer (Youth Rep)

**Finance Council:**

Becky Vetter—Chair
Lynne Huynh: Tom Nawrocki, Jamie Taggart, Cathy Wells

**Parish Registration:** Contact the Parish Office at 616-455-9310.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Call the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please call the Parish Office to register for Baptism Prep.
NOTEWORTHY NOTES

2016 CHURCH DIRECTORY
LIFETOUCH
PICTURE TAKING DATES & TIMES:
MAY 10 through MAY 13 ~ 2 PM TILL 8:30PM
SATURDAY, MAY 14 — 9:30 AM TILL 3:30 PM
MAY 17 through MAY 20 ~ 2 PM TILL 8:30PM
SATURDAY, MAY 21—9:30 A.M. TILL 3:30PM
It is not too soon to check the dates and inform family members that you’d like to have a family photo taken for our Directory. You may schedule your own appointment by visiting our website at www.stmmagdalen.org or by calling Nancy Baum at 340-8707 or the Parish Office at 455-9310. Please, make this a priority.

Widows Group -Will meet for lunch on March 28 at 1:00. Come to Arnies on 54th and Clyde Park. All who have lost a spouse are invited to come and enjoy lunch and friendship.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
9:15 a.m.  Rosary Group
9:30 a.m.  Women’s Bible Study
7:00 p.m.  Boy Scouts—BAC
7:30 p.m.  Men’s Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
9:00 a.m.  Morning Adult Scripture Study
NO Faith Formation Classes
7:45 p.m.  Men of Emmaus

Thursday, March 24, 2016—Holy Thursday
NO MORNING MASS
7:00 p.m.  Triduum begins:
          Mass of the Lord’s Supper
          Adoration until Midnight

Friday, March 25, 2016—Good Friday
NO MORNING MASS
2:00 p.m.  Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m.  Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, March 26, 2016—Easter Vigil
9:00 a.m.  Mobile Food Truck
10:00 a.m.  Church decorating for Easter
11:00 a.m.  Blessing of the Easter Food—near Chapel
12:00 p.m.  Easter Egg Hunt
9:00 p.m.  Easter Vigil Mass

PLEASE NOTE: Parish Office will be closed on March 28th, the Monday after Easter.