

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Heart to Heart with Jesus

Father Richard Veras

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down, begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. (Mk 1:40-42)

I was about twelve years old and was coming out of the movies with my friend. In the lobby was a boy of about nine and his sister of about six. They were sitting on the floor by the phone booths, I assume waiting to be picked up by their parents. I was deeply moved by the sight of them. To this day when I recall this moment, significant only because I have inexplicably remembered it, I see the faces of me and my own little sister. There is a certain tenderness in my heart that belongs only to her (even at the ages of forty-five and forty-two!). I was moved at that moment because I know the love of brother and sister, the simple joy of being at a movie together. There is something deeply and mysteriously human that was moved in me and is moved even as I write about it.

How could Jesus be so moved by that leper? Because he had become human. He knew the trustful and faithful beseeching that came from that poor man when he said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." For Jesus must have stretched his own hands out to his foster-father and to his mother many times in his younger days. He knew that deeply human mystery that welled up in that request, in that humble and certain beckoning. Jesus' response, "I do will it. Be made clean." must have arisen from that deeply human place in his own self. Taking on human flesh means taking on a human heart and entering into the very depths of the mystery of our humanity.

Perhaps I am most truly myself in those moments when I can recognize my own face in the face of that leper. When the depth of my humanity cries out and is touched by the depth of Jesus' humanity, and somehow divinity happens.

Heavenly Father, in your tenderness take pity upon me to my very depths, that my belonging to you through your Son Jesus Christ may deepen daily.

Readings for the week of Feb. 13 through Feb. 18, 2012:

Monday: Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67-68,71-72,75-76 Mk 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-15,18-19 Mk 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27 Ps 15:2-5 Mk 8:22-26
 Thursday: Jas 2:1-9 Ps 34:2-7 Mk 8:27-33
 Friday: Jas 2:14-24,26 Ps 112:1-6 Mk 8:34-9:1
 Saturday: Jas 3:1-10 Ps 12:2-5,7-8 Mk 9:2-13

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 11, 2012

5:00 p.m. †Shirley Kelly by Bob & Edie Ferguson

Sunday, February 12, 2012 ~ 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. †Robert Hill, Sr. by Bill & Wendy Rohn & Julie & Barb Hill

11:00 a.m. †Angela Wilson by Ron & Joan Brown

5:00 p.m. †Rev. William Reitz by the Parish community

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

8:00 a.m. Intentions of this Parish community

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

8:00 a.m. Intentions of this Parish community

Thursday, February 16, 2012

8:00 a.m. †Dorothy Allwood by Joan & Bill Derr

Friday, February 17, 2012

8:00 a.m. Intentions of this Parish community

Saturday, February 18, 2012

5:00 p.m. †Iris Lamboy by Bart Atkins

Sunday, February 19, 2012 ~ 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. †Edgar & Joan Stein by Vince & Kris Desmond

11:00 a.m. †Donald Wentz by William & Sompong Wentz

5:00 p.m. Intentions of this Parish community

Scripture Readings for:

Sunday, February 19, 2012 ~ 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25 Ps 41:2-5,13-14 2 Cor 1:18-22 Mk 2:1-12

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

Neighborhood 0

Bob & Donna

Huebner

Donna Driscoll

Neighborhood 1

Tom Bahns

Norman Czerniak

Neighborhood 2

Frank Gerke

Neighborhood 4

Cecelia Bennetts

Eugene Nawrocki

Joan Rademacher

Neighborhood 5

Pauline Hafke

Geneva Ritsema

Neighborhood 6

Karen Ann Smith

Neighborhood 7

Tammy Hickey

Neighborhood 8

Bartholomew Atkins

Neighborhood 9

Ted Cipponeri

Pauline Parent

Neighborhood 13

Conrad Balazs

Joan Hawley

Neighborhood 15

Sophia Blaser

Evelyn Kehoe

John Edelyn

Helen Ranta

Leon Rutka, Jr.

Neighborhood 16

Ann Syrba

Neighborhood 17

Sherry Gaines

Neighborhood 20

Kevin & Kyle Friar

Neighborhood 22

Lisa Kane

Don Rexford

Neighborhood 23

Michelle Groh

Neighborhood 24

Ruth Borek

Esther Brown

Tom Fitzgerald

Joseph Najar

Neighborhood 26

Gary Maher

Ronald Parini

Andrew Polaschik

Neighborhood 30

Harry Boersma

Neighborhood 33

Carolyn Sheeran

Neighborhood 35

Sophie Anderson

Neighborhood 36

Michael Chatterson

Kenneth Terpstra

Neighborhood 37

Darren White

Others to remember:

Robert Ash

Baby Parker Grace

Robert Dean

April Scheen

Mary Drake

Diane Camminga

Daniel Ferguson

Lyndsey Freiburger

Gordan Grant

Bill Louwers

Doug Meyers

Jim Szyperski

William Redmond

Leocadia Jaworski

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We offer our prayers and condolences to *Long Nguyen* on the death of his father, *Mao Nguyen*. May he rest in the peace and love of God.

YOUTH MINISTRY

We've been experiencing the revised version of the Roman Missal for 12 weeks now. Slowly as the words become more familiar we are able to deepen our understanding of the words we are saying, the belief we are expressing. So what about the word 'consubstantial', such a conglomeration of syllables, what are we really saying? Below is, I believe, a helpful explanation taken from our High School curriculum. More is available at Lifeteen.com/consubstantial.

"If you've ever had a best friend or been completely in love, or if you've known someone almost your whole life, you know what it is like to say "We're basically the same person." If you've known twins, you've probably noticed how they seem to know what the other is thinking, whether they are identical or not.

But when we talk about the union of God the Father with God the Son, it is not enough to just say that they are the same. They are both God – one God in three unique Persons. By asking us to now use the word **consubstantial** when we pray the Creed (remember, the Creed is a statement of what we believe as Catholics) the Church is reminding us of the importance of professing that the Father and the Son are the exact same substance.

That means we believe that what they are made of, what they both are at their very core, is the same, just as Jesus Himself said: "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30).

The Church believes that Christ must be consubstantial (of the same substance) with the Father because He was fully God. He is not "half God, half man." He is not some other God. He is not a "lesser God." He is the same God as the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus Christ must be the same substance as the Father and the Holy Spirit.

This is one of the ways we try to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity. We now say that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father when we pray the Creed... You might also want to check out the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 242, 262, 467, and 663, for some further explanation... Consubstantial is one of the ways that the early Church answered against heresies about who Jesus was. When some wanted to say that Jesus was not fully human or was not fully God, or when others did not believe that He was eternal, the Church professed her belief that Jesus and the Father are One God of the same substance. The concept of homoousion, which is now translated into consubstantial, was first clearly articulated at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD (which is where the Nicene Creed came from).

HIGH SCHOOL

If you have missed the deadline to register for the High School Mission trip to St. Louis and would like to participate, please contact Mary Evett or the Parish Office to be placed on a waiting list. With a trip of this size there are often a couple of people who find they must forgo the trip for one reason or another.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Faith and Fun will not be held on Feb. 23rd to allow for Middle School Retreat preparations. This retreat will be held on Feb 24-26. Middle School students can pick up a form in the Gathering Area or online at stmmagdalen.org, under the Faith Formation tab. Can't wait to see you there!

FAITH FORMATION

Hello Everyone,

Like many of you I have been concerned about the issues facing the Catholic Church regarding the ruling by the Department of Health and Human Services forcing our institutions to provide medical insurance coverage for things contrary to our beliefs. I will not recap what has been said by the media and the USCCB, but instead my thoughts have turned to another area, our children. The fact is that our children are facing prominent moral issues in the world and I am asking myself how prepared I am to answer the questions that arise from these issues?

Our world is changing and that has me struggling to keep up. I know that almost every generation has felt the same way, but as a parent, I know that I am now not only responsible for keeping up, but for helping our children to understand, embrace and survive this world as an informed and faithful Catholic.

When our children were young, we knew that our role was to teach them about God, teach them to pray, to be reverent and show them what it meant to be faithful. Those things have not changed. What has changed is the lens with which they view their world. Their world extends beyond our home, our family and our faith community. As they seek to find their place within that world, it becomes evident to me that planting that seed of faith was only the beginning. We have to continue to cultivate the instinctive response to look to what our faith calls us to believe and how we are called to act in any and every situation. It is through prayers for guidance that I will be able meet spiritually the challenging questions that are most surely to come my way.

God's Blessings,
Molly Wisdom

Thank You!

I would like to thank all of the High School and Middle School students who volunteered to serve as wait staff at the Couple's Retreat last Saturday evening. They did an awesome job serving a four-course meal. They also helped with the set up and tear down, making it possible to offer the couples a relaxing evening in which to celebrate their marriage. The kitchen crew also did a fantastic job again this year! Many, many thanks!

Prayer Request

Please remember in your prayers the men of the parish, who traveled to St. Lazare Retreat House this weekend and those who attended our Men's Retreat held right here at home. We hope their experience renews them in spirit.

Faith Formation Reminder

There are no Faith Formation classes on **Wednesday, February 22nd**, due to the **Ash Wednesday** liturgy.

St. Mary Magdalen Middle School Retreat 2012

February 24th-26th

Registration Forms are Available in the Gathering Area!

Forms due by 2-17-12

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

Looking for a special night out with friends? Come to the Wine & Cheese Party on February 18. We will have a variety of wines from a local winery to taste, along with a wide variety of appetizers to choose from. There will be a pasta bar available, where you can select fresh vegetables to be sautéed, add a pasta and top it off with 1 of 3 made-from-scratch pasta sauces. There will be a table full of wonderful desserts. Add a few friends and you have an evening that will be remembered for a long time. Tickets are available for purchase in the Gathering Area after Mass as well as in the office during the week. Cost is \$20 per person in advance and \$25 per person at the door.



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CANCER SURVIVOR DINNER: You are invited, along with a caregiver, to a Survivors Dinner sponsored by the Kentwood Relay for Life on February 16th in the Family Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is all part of the ACS Relay for Life event that will take place on April 27 & 28. Please contact the office to RSVP.

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SEMI-ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE: Every year, more than 4 million Americans would die without blood transfusions. In our own community, today and every day year-round, hundreds of people need blood – approximately one out of every ten hospital patients. Some are victims of trauma; others need surgery; still others are undergoing treatment for chronic, often life-threatening diseases, such as cancer. Some may be people you know and love. But whether you know their names or not, you may be able to help save their lives, through the ‘good work’ of donating blood.

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Help for the Christian Service Raffle: At our festival last summer we added a *Christian Service Raffle* where items were donated and you purchased tickets to place in the bag of the item that you were hoping to win. We had a lot of fun on the Saturday night when the names were drawn, and we are looking forward to that again this year. The festival committee is seeking donations of items to auction off. These can be kitchen related, personal care products, work shop items, camping items, gift baskets, or services. Please contact Ruth in the office if you have anything you would like to donate.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendars for March 3rd and come and test your card playing skills with St. MM's best!! Review and learn the game at 6:30 PM with the round robin tournament starting at 7:00 PM. There is a \$5.00 per person fee and all card players are welcome. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided throughout the evening. Sponsored by St. Mary Magdalen Men's Group.

FINANCIAL NEWS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over (Under)</u>
Feb 5, 2012	\$ 11,753	\$ 14,120	(\$ 2,367)
Year to Date	\$ 425,663	\$ 451,840	(\$ 26,177)

334 envelopes used.

I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world. – Mother Theresa

In Memory of: It is still possible to have a hymnal dedicated to a loved one who has passed away or in honor of your family. The cost of each hymnal is \$16.50 and the remembrance is put in the front of the hymnal and placed in a pew. Call the Parish Office if you have any questions.

MEN OF EMMAUS PRAYER GROUP: A new endeavor is beginning here at St. Mary Magdalen for all men of the parish. You are invited to meet for prayer and reflection on the upcoming Sunday Scripture readings on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9 p.m. (following Faith Formation) in the Family Center. Come prepare yourselves for Mass by hearing God’s word and reflecting on it. For more information, call Bob Dodde at 554-1941.

PARISH STAFF

Pastoral Staff:

Ruth Bush:	Coordinator of Christian Services, x16 <i>rbush@stmmagdalen.org</i>
Mary Evett	Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, x15 <i>mevett@stmmagdalen.org</i>
Jenna Fowle	Director of Music Ministry, x25 <i>music@stmmagdalen.org</i>
Molly Wisdom	Coordinator of Faith Formation, x12 <i>mollyw@stmmagdalen.org</i>

Administrative Staff:

Joe Hakeem	Business Manager, <i>jhakeem@stmmagdalen.org, x14</i>
Nancy Baum	Parish Secretary, <i>nbaum@stmmagdalen.org, x10</i>
Sharon Mascarenhas:	Admin. Assistant, <i>smascarenhas@stmmagdalen.org</i>

Maintenance Staff: Bobby Jackson Jr., Supervisor & Brenda Bush

Pastoral Support Staff:

Deacons	Mike Dordan & Michael Wood
Sacristans	Wayne Ball, Joseph Nguyen
Music Ministry	Dave Doppel
Nursery	Lisa Jackson ~ <i>boblisajackson@comcast.net</i>

Pastoral Council:

Bob Dodde	Laurie Emelander	Patricia Guzzo
Pamela Kosten	Kim Levesque	Daniel Moomey
Mark O’Gorman	Luisa Ortiz	Tom Richer
Tom Roos	Ronald Stephan	Josh Theisen (Youth Rep)

Finance Council:

Matthew Bielecki	Brent Hawkins	Lynie Huynh
Tom Nawrocki	Becky Vetter	Cathy Wells

Stewardship: Mike Bush Monica Dean Chris Loerch

Parish Registration: Contact the Parish Office for information, 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.

PARISH NEWS

WOMEN'S GUILD will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16th for lunch at Brann's Steakhouse & Grill, 4157 S. Division. **Second Best Sale** plans (scheduled for the week of May 7th) and other matters will be discussed. All women of the parish are welcome.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT: We will be preparing the church environment for the Lenten season on Tuesday, Feb. 21st beginning at 11:30 am. If you are able to help us, it would be appreciated.

BRING YOUR OLD PALMS to church next weekend. These will be used for making ashes for Ash Wednesday services.

Ash Wednesday—February 22nd. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. with distribution of ashes.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday, February 13, 2012

6:00 p.m. Tacets Practice in Church

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

8:45 a.m. Adult Study Class in Room 3

4:00 p.m. Children's Choir practice

5:15 p.m. Parish Supper

6:15 p.m. Faith Formation Classes

8:00 p.m. Men of Emmaus Scripture Study

Thursday, February 16, 2012

3–5p.m. MS Retreat Core Team Mtg in Room 15

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir practice

6:30 p.m. Adult Choir practice

6:30 p.m. Cancer Survivors Dinner in the Family Cntr

Saturday, February 18, 2012

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class Service Day

9:30 a.m. Language School in Family Center

6:00 p.m. Wine & Cheese Party in the Family Center

Sunday, February 19, 2012

12:30-3:30 pm HS Leader Mtg for MS Retreat in FC

We are very much in need of PHAT HOUSES for the Middle School Retreat the weekend of Feb. 24th through the 26th. Please call Molly or Mary at the Parish Office if you are willing to house our students!