

This week, on Ash Wednesday, in union with the Church throughout the world, we enter again upon the Lenten pilgrimage of repentance that will lead the elect to the baptismal waters of rebirth, and us penitent sinners to the renewal of our own baptismal vows in the paschal celebration of Christ's death and resurrection. "Trusting in God's merciful love, rejoicing even now in the salvation he offers," let us enter into the celebration of this Eucharist with thanksgiving for God's bountiful goodness.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

February 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

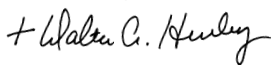
As we approach the holy season of Lent, I write to invite you and your family to once again consider participating in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl. This Lenten program provides us with an enriching Lenten experience and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who struggle with hunger and poverty.

By responding to the simple, yet powerful Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving through Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, the faithful in our diocese are making a positive difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who are most in need. This truly is a faithful response to Jesus' teaching that "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Annually, Operation Rice Bowl raises close to \$6 million for Catholic Relief Services development projects and an estimated \$2 million that is retained by dioceses in the United States for local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Last year, our Grand Rapids Diocese sent over \$62,000 to the national office and used 25% of the total funds collected for local relief efforts. Operation Rice Bowl local grants, managed by Catholic Charities West Michigan, were given to Degage Ministries in Grand Rapids and the Sacred Heart Food Pantry program in Muskegon. Overseas, Catholic Relief Services helps fund development projects that help increase and maintain communities' access to food

On behalf of the poor, both overseas and here in the U.S., who benefit from Operation Rice Bowl, I thank you for your prayers and support which continue to make this program a success each year.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Walter A Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids

Readings for the week of Feb. 20 through Feb. 25, 2012:

Monday: Jas 3:13-18 Ps 19:8-10,15 Mk 9:14-29
 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10 Ps 55:7-11,23 Mk 9:30-37
 Wednesday: J1 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-6a,12-14,17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6,16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-4,6 Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-6a,18-19 Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-6 Lk 5:27-32

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 ~ Ash Wednesday

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

7:00 p.m. Intentions of this Parish community

Thursday, February 23, 2012

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

Friday, February 24, 2012

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

Saturday, February 25, 2012

5:00 p.m. †Kathleen Finn by Peggy Finn

Sunday, February 26, 2012 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m. †Elizabeth Hoekstra by her loving family

11:00 a.m. †Thomas Oppenheer by Rosalie & Andy Polaschik

5:00 p.m. †Huynh Thi Nhung by Huynh Thi Luong

*Scripture Readings for:***Sunday, February 26, 2012 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent**

Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

Let us pray for one another with one mind and heart to the Lord our God**Neighborhood 0**

Bob & Donna Huebner

Donna Driscoll

Rosalie Subins

Miranda Vu

Carolyn Bays

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

Michael Cook

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 *Mike Groelsma* on the death of his wife, *Alma Groelsma*. May she rest in the peace and love of God.

YOUTH MINISTRY

I am so very glad, so very thankful, so very joyful, that our God is such a God who takes us *as we are*, who takes us *where we are*. At the same time, I am thankful that our God, even in His love and acceptance, doesn't lie to us and say, "You are *fine* as you are"... I know better-- I am *not* fine...I am sinful...and broken. Our God is a God of Truth. I am thankful that our God, who takes us as we are, doesn't leave us as we are; but works within us, healing our brokenness, calling us out of our sin, into wholeness—and holiness. Praise be to God for His Mercy and Love reaches from age to age, from generation to generation calling us to Himself. Lent is upon us... the invitation to be taken as we are and transformed into what we can become if we but accept what is offered, life in our desert, healing in our brokenness, dignity in our shame. May we respond with a resounding "yes!" entering fully into all that the season of lent offers us.

*"Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;
see, I am doing something new"* Is 43:18

There will be no **Faith and Fun** meeting this week to allow for Middle School Retreat preparations. This high school-led faith experience absolutely should not be missed by any middle school student! Preparations are "elaborate and creative" and while it is incredibly fun, it is also a deeply meaningful opportunity to encounter God and grow in faith. This retreat will be held on Feb 24-26th.—can't wait to see you there!

To our Parish Community: Please keep all of the middle school youth, their high school leaders, the adult volunteers, adult leadership and PHAT House families in prayer during this week of final preparation and throughout the retreat weekend.

May God bless the work of our hands, answer us in our searching and reward our efforts, by leading us all ever deeper into loving relationship with Him. Amen.

FAITH FORMATION

Hello Everyone,

As we enter into the final week of preparation for the Middle School Retreat, a hymn that has been playing in my head for several weeks now seems to be getting louder. I think it is because we have witnessed a group of High School students, young adults and parents pull together to plan and lead this retreat. The hymn is, "The Servant Song". It seems to exemplify the feelings and the actions of our leaders. They are willing servants and yet willing to let others have the joy of serving them, too. My intention was not to encourage anyone to, "borrow" one of the new hymnals, so I have included the lyrics to the hymn in this column. I hope that as our final preparations are taking place, you will recall these words and pray for all those who are willing servants.

Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

By Richard Gillard/Betty Pulkingham

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank truck will be here Saturday, February 25. Everyone is invited to come and help with the distribution of food to others in the community who are in need. Come around 8:30 a.m. to the B.A.C., distribution will begin at 9:00 a.m.

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Blood Drive: Look at the people around you – friends, neighbors, loved ones. Someday, they may need blood. Meanwhile, someone else’s friend, neighbor, or loved one needs blood right now. You can help. Please support your faith with the ‘good work’ of giving blood at our next blood drive on March 18.

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Parish Festival: This parish has a large number of ethnic cultures within its doors. We would like to recognize those cultures during our festival on July 20 -22. If you have a favorite food or dish, please contact me and we will work together so the whole parish can enjoy it as well. Or is there a cultural dance that you could do during the entertainment portion of the festival? Please contact me if you are able to help in either of these areas.

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Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for the Prison and Jail Ministry? We are in great need in **Kent/ Muskegon** Counties and for bilingual individuals! Come find out more at the upcoming Informational Session on **Tuesday February 21st from 6 – 9 pm at Cathedral Square – 360 Division Ave S.** Please RSVP by Monday February 20, to Jennifer Stroud, Program Assistant at 616.246.0592 or email her at jstroud@dioceseofgrandrapids.org.

Your Catholic radio station, **Holy Family Radio**, is planning its Spring Sharathon, a crucial on-air pledge drive to support our mission of evangelization. This May 9-11 event will involve parishes, schools and organizations throughout the Diocese. We need volunteers and donors from St Mary Magdalen to help make Sharathon a success. Can you work on a planning committee? Can you donate gifts or gift certificates for hourly incentives and drawings? Can you donate food or beverages during Sharathon? Can you work the phone bank? Call us at 616-956-1140, visit our website at HolyFamilyRadio.net and sign up as a volunteer, or drop by our studios at 2504 Ardmore Street SE in Grand Rapids. We need you! We thank you!

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 12, 2012	\$ 11,557	\$ 14,120	(\$ 2,563)
Year to Date	\$437,220	\$ 465,960	(\$ 28,740)

289 envelopes used 14 electronic contributions

If you continually give, you will continually have. – Anonymous

2011 CSA ~ FINAL UPDATE



Assessment	\$ 83,725	
Pledged to date	\$ 86,490	OVER GOAL! \$ 2,765
No. of Responses	456	(586 NON-responders!)

As we finish this CSA pledge year and begin to look ahead at the new 2012 campaign, please remember to pay off any balance on your pledge as you are able. We thank you for your generous support and dedication to furthering the work of the Church. Many blessings.

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</i> , x14
Nancy Baum	Parish Secretary, <i>nbaum@stmmagdalen.org</i> , x10
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

Widow/Widowers Group will meet for dinner at Applebee's in the Marketplace Center off Kalamazoo Ave. at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 27th. All who have lost a spouse are most welcome to attend.

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

On **March 2, 2012** we will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning after the 8am daily Mass and concluding with Benediction beginning at 8:30pm. We would like those who can sign up to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament for **one hour** to please do so. It is imperative that we have 2 people for every hour that Our Lord is present on the altar. If you can offer one hour, please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Walk-ins are always welcome. Come sit with Our Lord in quiet and peace.



Many thanks to those who were able to help the young family in need of furniture and baby items. The family is very appreciative.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, February 19, 2012

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

Monday, February 20, 2012

6:00 p.m. SSA Practice in Church

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting in the Rectory

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 ~Ash Wednesday

No Faith Formation this evening. Mass and distribution of ashes at both 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 23, 2012

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir practice

6:30 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Friday, Feb. 24th 8 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 26 Noon Middle School Retreat

Saturday, February 25, 2012

9:00 a.m. Mobile Food Truck at the BAC