

PASTOR'S COLUMN

My dear people of God,

As we bid farewell to 2011 and welcome to 2012 in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is with a grateful heart that I thank God and you, my brethren, for your care and support. I am appreciative of your many Christmas/New year wishes and gifts to me. May God bless each one of you.

This past year, we started the implementation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. My experience and the comments of a few parishioners affirm that we are growing closer to God in the midst of all the changes in our liturgy. Our responses are livelier, which is a sign of active participation in our liturgy. I am hoping that even as we get more familiar with the new translation, we will not return to the old ways of auto drive, but would remain totally involved.

This time of the year, people make resolutions. I have made a few unfulfilled ones in my life time, but these are not going to stop me from taking stock of the areas that need improvement in my life and setting up reachable goals. I recommend that we each do the same. It is easy to give up these efforts, on the account that one has failed several times to living up to the self-set goals. I believe that self-examination is a value in itself.

To all who experienced some loss this past year, may the Lord grant you consolation in this New Year. May you experience peace and joy beyond what the world can offer and may your hope and faith never waver.

Happy hope-filled New Year to everyone.

Fr. Godfrey

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of *Christine DeRidder* who passed away this past week. And to *Tom (Barb) Nawrocki* on the death of his brother, *Robert Nawrocki*. May they rest in the peace and love of God.

Readings for the week of January 2 through January 7, 2012:

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98: 1-3,6 Jn 1:29-34
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1,7-9 Jn 1:35-42
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1-5 Jn 1:43-51
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Mk 1:7-11
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a,9b Jn 2:1-11

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 31, 2011

5:00 p.m. †Jennie Russo by Frank & Shelly Russo

Sunday, January 1, 2012 ~ Feast of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 a.m. Intentions of this Parish community

11:00 a.m. Intentions of this Parish community

5:00 p.m. **No Mass**

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

No Mass

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

8:00 a.m. Mother of Perpetual Help in thanksgiving for favors by Bonita Black

Thursday, January 5, 2012

8:00 a.m. †Gioan Kim Nguyen Van Doi by Hue Thi Vu

Friday, January 6, 2012

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

Saturday, January 7, 2012

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

Sunday, January 8, 2012 ~ Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 a.m. †Viola Citrowske by her daughters

11:00 a.m. †Anthony "Butch" Steffes by SMM Choir

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

Scripture Readings for:

Sunday, January 8, 2012 ~ Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:2,7-8,10-13 Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12

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

Neighborhood 0

Bob & Donna Huebner
 Robert Shaver

Neighborhood 1

Tom Bahns
 Norman Czerniak

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

Neighborhood 16

Helen Ranta

Neighborhood 17

Sandy VanderVoord

Neighborhood 20

Ann Syrba

Neighborhood 22

Sherry Gaines

Neighborhood 23

Kevin & Kyle Friar

Neighborhood 24

Ed Stein

Neighborhood 25

Lisa Kane

Neighborhood 26

Don Rexford

Neighborhood 27

Michelle Groh

Neighborhood 28

Jim Babcock

Neighborhood 29

Esther Brown

Neighborhood 30

Tom Fitzgerald

Neighborhood 31

Joseph Najar

Neighborhood 32

Gary Maher

Neighborhood 33

Ronald Parini

Neighborhood 34

Andrew Polaschik

Neighborhood 33

Albert Kolski
 Carolyn Sheeran

Neighborhood 35

Sophie Anderson

Neighborhood 36

Benny Herman

Neighborhood 37

Michael Chatterton

Neighborhood 38

Darren White

Others to remember:

Angie Wilson

Sandy Potter

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

Virtus Training (Protecting God's Children):

For anyone who needs to be compliant with the Virtus training in order to help in a classroom or be a PHAT House for the retreat there is a class being offered at St. Francis de Sales, 195 W 13th St, Holland, MI from 9 to Noon on Saturday, January 14, 2012. We hope to host another one here in early February. Call the office for information on registering.

YOUTH MINISTRY

This week we celebrate the feast of Mary the Mother of God. What an awesome responsibility... Mary's ability to accept this role so graciously never ceases to amaze me. When I listen to the Gospel of Luke *"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."* I think of my own motherly pondering and wonder at what her thoughts and worries must have been. Surely she was called to trust God without realization, at times, of what events lay ahead, what their meanings and implications were. Isn't this where we all find ourselves. Called by God to live out our lives as God's holy creation? As we begin a new year perhaps it is a good time to take inventory, to look at our own path in life and assess in what ways we are following God's call to be the person, the creation that God meant us to be. We ask ourselves in what ways have we done this and in what ways have we ignored this call, allowing ourselves to be less. Below is part of a prayer which I think narrates our desire to find our way to God by living out who we are created to be. I wish you prayerful ponderings as you ring in the new year.

—Mary Evett

"God of my past, present, and future, sometimes I wish I were an arrow shot from your bow straight into my destiny, so that I get things just right. —So that I do what you want me to do, and become what you want me to be. I want my destiny to be perfectly fulfilled. But I know that it doesn't work that way. Our life path doesn't go in a straight line. It is crooked—full of twists and turns, ups and downs, clarity and confusion. My destiny is slowly unfolding daily, and I need to be patient even though patience is a real struggle.

I also believe that you have not just one plan, but many plans for my life. Each day brings teachable moments.

And creative challenges—moments and challenges that can draw me closer to you; and that is what it is all about anyway...isn't it? With you, may I become all I am meant to be; and in the becoming, may I know your peace and joy.

*With your help, I truly believe the best is yet to come. With your help, I will continue this lifelong adventure, walking with you my God; and so I enter into this new year full of hope for the promise of who I am yet to be." **

*Bedard and Rabior, Prayers for Catholics, Ligori 2004

FAITH FORMATION

Happy New Year!

Heading into the New Year, we had lots of questions about what our plans were and to be honest we really didn't make any right away. It is funny how things have changed; I remember when my New Year's Eve plans were set into motion by Thanksgiving. I knew where I would be, who I would be with and even what I was going to wear. Then, life changed and the plans began to revolve around what we could do that was family friendly. I have such great memories of both of those times in my life. Now we are at the stage in our lives where the kids have plans of their own and I am looking for ways to stay awake until midnight just in case one of them needs a ride home.

This trip down memory lane reminded me of all of the hopes and dreams that each New Year has brought with it. I have prayed for the wellbeing of not only those I love, but for all of God's children. I have prayed for peace, enlightenment, joy. I have prayed that burdens would be eased and that generosity would prevail. And I will admit, I have prayed for myself and the things that I thought I wanted and needed at the time. As I head into 2012, the prayer of St. Francis is repeating in my head. So my prayer for myself and for all of you is;

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.*

God's blessings as we welcome in 2012!

Molly Wisdom

Thank You!

I want to thank all of the children who helped bring the Nativity Story to life on Christmas Eve. They put on a beautiful pageant and we are proud of them all!

**Faith Formation Classes Resume on
Wednesday, January 4th. See you there!**

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Join us Saturday, January, 7 at 10 am down at **God's Kitchen**. You can park in the back, go up the stairs and ring the bell and someone will let you in. We finish around 2:00. Come see the face of God in those less fortunate and let them bless you.

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The **Health Ministry** will be in Room 3 after Mass next Saturday and in between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses on Sunday, January 8, offering their monthly blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Stop by and become one of their monthly 'regulars'.

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Have you been perfecting your chili recipe? Our annual chili cook-off is Saturday, January 21 after the 5pm Mass. Everyone is invited to the Family Center to taste all the different chilies and to help determine the winner. If you are proud of your chili and want to share it, please let me know in January so we will have enough spots. Everyone who comes has a great time, so start perfecting that recipe now.

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The **Men's Group** will be organizing a Euchre tournament early in 2012. If interested in either attending or helping you can contact the Men's Group at Mensgroup@strmmagdalen.org, or you can call Ruth Bush in the office at 455-9310.

Attention Men of the Parish: It is time to make your reservation for the Men's Retreat to be held at St. Lazare Retreat House in Spring Lake the weekend of February 10th. There is a \$20 non-refundable deposit to reserve your room which will be applied to the Retreat fee. More information in upcoming bulletins.

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Catholic Charities West Michigan's 14th annual Soup's On for All!, a fundraiser for God's Kitchen food and pantry programs, will be celebrated at the B.O.B. in downtown Grand Rapids from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm Monday, January 23, 2012. For information about tickets and event details please call Mary Ruth Scholz at (616) 551-5659 or visit the Soup's On web site at www.soupsonforall.org.

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WINE AND CHEESE: Thinking about how to beat the winter blues? Mark your calendar for February 18th for our Wine and Cheese Party when you will be able to taste some exciting wines and nibble on tasty morsels.

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God's Children, Baby and Toddler Pantry, a program of CCWM, is currently in need of donations of gently used clothing size 0-5T and gently used baby equipment (toddler beds, porta-cris, swings, high chairs, strollers, etc.) If you are able to donate, contact Vickie Delands-Kochans at vdelands@ccwestmi.org or 616-551-5666.

DONATION: A donation was made to our Christmas Flowers in Memory of the Westbrook & Steiner Families by Wayne and Linda Westbrook.

FINANCIAL NEWS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over (Under)</u>
Dec 25, 2011	\$ 29,233	\$ 14,120	\$ 15,133
Year to Date	\$ 352,111	\$ 367,120	(\$ 15,009)

New for you in 2012! Diocese of Grand Rapids launches Online Community

On Jan. 6, the diocesan financial services office will launch a secure Online Community through which parishioners can easily maintain their personal data on file with the diocese, make CSA payments and pledges, view diocesan giving history and register for diocesan events.

Access the Online Community through several locations on the diocesan website, www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org, most easily by clicking on the "Donate" quick link at the top of the website home page. Visit the Online Community after Jan. 6 to create your secure account and get started! Please email any questions to support@dioceseofgrandrapids.org, or contact the diocese, 616-243-0491.

2011 CSA UPDATE

Assessment	\$ 83,725		
Pledged to date	\$ 85,632	OVER GOAL!	\$ 1,907
No. of Responses	455	(587 NON-responders!)	

We continue to receive pledges to our CSA assessment. Many thanks to everyone who have made and paid off a pledge. For those who need to, please continue to pay on your pledge. We will receive back all monies paid over our assessment.

PARISH STAFF

Pastoral Staff:

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

Administrative Staff:

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

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

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



On **January 6, 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.

BAPTISM PREP will take place on Saturday, Jan. 7th from 8:45 a.m. to Noon in Room 3 of the Family Center. Call Molly Wisdom if you are not registered.

MARRIAGE PREP REMINDER: Prep will take place on Friday, Jan. 13 & Saturday, Jan. 14th for couples preparing for their wedding. Friday class begins at 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8:50 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. Registration required.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday, January 2, 2012

Parish Office closed.

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

5:00 p.m. Reconnect Gathering for Singles

7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting in Family Center

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

4 p.m. Children's Choir practice

5:15 p.m. FF Supper

6:15 p.m. Faith Formation Classes resume

Thursday, January 5, 2012

3 p.m. Middle School Retreat Meeting

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir practice

6:30 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Friday, January 6, 2012

8:45am to 8:45 pm Eucharistic Adoration in Church

Saturday, January 7, 2012

Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar check after 5 pm Mass

8:45 am Baptism Prep Class in Room 3

10 to 2pm God's Kitchen

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar checks between 9 & 11 Masses

Parish Breakfast served after the 9 & 11 am. Masses in FC