

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

**GOD IS SWEET ABOVE ALL THINGS AND IN ALL THINGS TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM**

THE DISCIPLE: BEHOLD, my God and my all! What more do I wish for; what greater happiness can I desire? O sweet and delicious word! But sweet only to him who loves it, and not to the world or the things that are in the world.

My God and my all! These words are enough for him who understands, and for him who loves it is a joy to repeat them often. For when You are present, all things are delightful; when You are absent, all things become loathsome. It is You Who give a heart tranquility, great peace and festive joy. It is You Who make us think well of all things, and praise You in all things. Without You nothing can give pleasure for very long, for if it is to be pleasing and tasteful, Your grace and the seasoning of Your wisdom must be in it. What is there that can displease him whose happiness is in You? And, on the contrary, what can satisfy him whose delight is not in You?

The wise men of the world, the men who lust for the flesh, are wanting in Your wisdom, because in the world is found the utmost vanity, and in the flesh is death. But they who follow You by disdainful worldly things and mortifying the flesh are known to be truly wise, for they are transported from vanity to truth, from flesh to spirit. By such as these God is relished, and whatever good is found in creatures they turn to praise of the Creator. But great -- yes, very great, indeed -- is the difference between delight in the Creator and in the creature, in eternity and in time, in Light uncreated and in the light that is reflected.

O Light eternal, surpassing all created brightness, flash forth the lightning from above and enlighten the inmost recesses of my heart. Cleanse, cheer, enlighten, and vivify my spirit with all its powers, that it may cleave to You in ecstasies of joy. Oh, when will that happy and wished-for hour come, that You may fill me with Your presence and become all in all to me? So long as this is not given me, my joy will not be complete.

The old man, alas, yet lives within me. He has not yet been entirely crucified; he is not yet entirely dead. He still lusts strongly against the spirit, and he will not leave the kingdom of my soul in peace. But You, Who can command the power of the sea and calm the tumult of its waves, arise and help me. Scatter the nations that delight in war; crush them in Your sight. Show forth I beg, Your wonderful works and let Your right hand be glorified, because for me there is no other hope or refuge except in You, O Lord, my God.

## THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

Thomas à Kempis

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, August 9, 2008 ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:00 p.m. +Joe Lewandowski by the Levan Family

**Sunday, August 10, 2008 ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 a.m. +Sadie Galdys by Grandson Mike and Family

11:00 a.m. +Joseph Bui Thu by Hoa &amp; Muoi Nguyen

5:00 p.m. +Sheri Everson by Winnie &amp; Dick Moored

**Tuesday, August 12, 2008**

9:00 a.m. +Ralph Campione by Dolores Campione

**Wednesday, August 13, 2008**

9:00 a.m. +Maria Thuy Tran by Hoa &amp; Muoi Nguyen

**Thursday, August 14, 2008 ~ Vigil Mass for Holy Day**

7:00 p.m. +Donald Ketelaar by the Family

**Friday, August 15, 2008 ~ Feast of the Assumption**

Holy Day of Obligation

9:00 a.m. +Carol Raley by Bill Raley

**Saturday, August 16, 2008 ~ 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:00 p.m. +Ida Blackert by the Levan Family

**Sunday, August 17, 2008 ~ 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 a.m. +Anna Lien Le by Hoa &amp; Muoi Nguyen

11:00 a.m. +Karen Sluja by Randy &amp; Natalie Sluja

5:00 p.m. +Sheri Everson by cousins: Ronnie &amp; Sian, James, Sherry, Michael &amp; Sue, Mark, Josh &amp; Jennifer

*Scripture Readings for:***Sunday, August 17, 2008 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Is 56:1,6-7 Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8 Rom 11:13-15,29-32 Mt 15:21-28

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

Patricia Mills

**NIC 1**

Donna Huebner

**NIC 9**

David Johnson

Walter Lutkenhoff

Mary McLellen

**NIC 13**

Conrad Balazs

**NIC 14**

James Ferguson

Miriam Wiscovitch

**NIC 16**

Christine Deridder

Jo Paasch

Ann Syrba

**NIC 20**

Darlene Arsenault

Kevin &amp; Kyle Friar

Suzanne Sanchez

Joan Stein

**NIC 26**

Joanie Start

Deanna Stipe

**NIC 30**

Rita Vangorder

**NIC 31**

Joseph Rau

**NIC 35**

Sophie Anderson

**Others to remember:**

Beth Hoekstra

Tia Lancaster

Richard Closterhouse

Bob &amp; Dolores Klocke

Krista Knapp

Bill DeWeerd

Michael Priest

Holly Sheeran

Salena Slanka

Jim Szyperski

Denise VanDyke

Adrean Watkins

Alex Wilson

Military on active duty

**Readings for the week of August 11 - August 16:**

Monday: Ez 1:2-5,24-28c Ps 148:1-2,11-14 Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: Ez 2:8-3:4 Ps 119:14,24,72,103,111,131 Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14

Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7;10:18-22 Ps 113:1-6 Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Ez 12:1-12 Ps 78:56-59,61-62 Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday: 1 Chr 15:3-4,15-16;16:1-2 Ps 132:6-7,9-10,13-14 1 Cor 15:54b

-57 Lk 11:27-28

Saturday: Ez 18:1-10,13b,30-32 Ps 51:12-15,18-19 Mt 19:13-15

**A DEATH IN THE FAMILY**

We offer our prayers and support to *Susan Ptak* on the death of her mother, *Mabel Henrickson*. May she rest in the peace and love of God.

## WORSHIP

It is our nature to seek security. We want our homes to be our haven against the elements; our bank accounts to be the promise of plenty; our health, assurance that we will remain independent and our family and friends, a guarantee that we will never be lonely. It is natural to seek security. With this in mind, I am contemplating today's Gospel (Mt 14:22-33), especially the role of Peter. I am wondering what it must have been like for him to be in the boat when the storm came up, to be tossed about by the waves. Surely he, along with the other disciples, was fearful. And yet upon seeing Jesus, he desired to leave even the relative safety of the boat and go to him. He must have been terrified to step out of the boat onto the rolling, angry sea...yet, he did. I wonder how it felt? I am sure Peter found himself with nothing to cling to in the midst of the terrible waters, wind, rain, perhaps, lightening above and the rolling crashing waves below... his eyes focused on Jesus, his only hope for survival. How did he feel? There was no other security, there was nothing else to rely upon. Haven't we in times of crisis, felt much the same way, as if there were nothing among all of the things that we thought would be our security that we could truly rely upon? Haven't we at sometime in our lives had the occasion, the opportunity, to step out of the boat, leaving "good sense behind" and trusting in God alone?

I wonder at Peter's love and trust in Jesus, his courage to step out of the boat... would I do the same, have I done the same? Or have I stayed paralyzed in my illusion of security painstakingly created of home, family, bank account and routine... I wonder too at the goodness of God in giving us this image of Peter faltering. I thank God for showing me that even should I falter, lose focus and become afraid Jesus will still reach in and fish me out...! In this, I take heart. In this, I find courage— to trust, to step out of my boat even into a storm, to find my way to wherever Jesus bids me come.

—Mary Evett

## A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The **Sacrament of Marriage** will be celebrated between:  
LILLYANNE LOAN NGUYEN & VINH THANH TRAN  
On Saturday, August 16, 2008

We pray for this couple. May they grow in love and holiness.

**Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Friday, August 15, 2008**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

There will be a Vigil Mass on Thursday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m. and Mass on Friday, August 15 at 9:00 a.m.

**Bishop Walter Hurley** will be here to install Father Godfrey Onyekwere as our pastor at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, August 17th. Cookies will be served after mass as we welcome Bishop Hurley.

## WITNESS

**In Need Of Help With A Small Household Repair?**

If you, or a parishioner you know, is living on a fixed income and in need of a small "fix-it" job around the house, this ministry may be able to help! They'll survey the job and let you know if it's do-able. *Their expertise includes small plumbing and electrical repairs, replacing wood trim and railings and installing curtains or blinds.* Call the Parish Office at 455-9310.

**Attention Parish Ministry Leaders!**

The "Know Your Parish" ministry fair is a month away. On Saturday, Sept. 20, and Sunday, Sept. 21, our parishioners will be invited to learn more about the ministries available to them either as a volunteer opportunity or services provided that they may wish to use. The fair will be hosted after each weekend's Masses. *It's your opportunity to educate about your unique ministry offering.*

If you were not able to attend the organizational meeting last month you should have received a letter detailing the plan. Please contact Vince Desmond in the Parish Office (455-9310) if you need information or Mike Bush at mikebush@iserv.net or 538-4342.

Note: The Stewardship Council has saved your ministry's poster from the prior fair. If you would like a new or updated version, please contact Vince at the Parish Office for poster board.

**Festival Silent Auction Update.**

The Silent Auction at this year's Festival to benefit our twinning parish in Haiti and global missions was a great success again. All those who came to dinner were treated to a delicious meal of home-cooked vittles created with love in our parish kitchen. Nearly \$3000 was raised through the Silent Auction. I am indebted to Missy Guajardo, Brian & Beth Moore, and Dolly & Bob Konwinski family for all their hard work in keeping the auction running smoothly and successfully. *To all who donated time, talent and treasure to make this a wonderful St. Mary Magdalen parish event ...hugs!* God bless all of you! *Vince Desmond*

**Summer prayer.**

What a great time of year! Everyone's gardens are bursting with beautiful and delicious vegetables and orchards are bringing forth fruit that delights the taste buds. I was looking for a thanksgiving prayer for this summer's gifts and came across this beautiful prayer from the 1700's. Just a reminder for all of us that the human garden has seasons and bounty for us as well. Don't forget to water!

**THE HARVEST PRAYER**

Please be gentle with yourself and others.

We are all children of chance,

And none can say why some fields blossom  
While others lay brown beneath the harvest sun.

Take hope that your season will come.

Share the joy of those whose season is at hand.

Care for those around you.

Look past your differences.

Their dreams are no less than yours,

Their choices in life no more easily made.

And give.

Give in any way you can. Give in every way you can.

Give whatever you possess. Give from your heart.

To give is to love. To withhold is to wither.

Care less for the size of your harvest than for how it is shared,

And your life will have meaning

And your heart will have peace.

*Adapted from Oomas-aarden, Dutch for "Grandmother's earth"*

## EVANGELIZATION

*“After doing so [dismissing the crowds], Jesus went up the mountain to pray. When it was evening he was there alone.” (Mt 14:23)*

This is one of several times we read of Jesus going off by himself to pray. Prayer was an essential part of Jesus' life. These were little “retreats”. A retreat is a time of reflection on what has been going on in our lives and a renewal and refocus to clear away distractions as one looks forward on one's spiritual journey. I will be taking some time this week to retreat.

My wife, Nyann, has just started a new job with Blue Cod Technologies. We are going to Marlborough, MA for a week of training for Nyann. This will give me an opportunity to meet the people of her new employment. For the most part, I will have my days open to spend time on retreat, in reflection and prayer. I have contacted a fellow deacon at a local parish in Marlborough and hope to have some extra guidance.

### **Multicultural Language School Beginning Soon!**

**August 23** is the starting date of the new classes. Teachers and volunteers are asked to gather at 9:00 AM for coffee/tea donuts, and information meeting on this first class day. All classes will begin at 10:00 AM and run until 11:30. The class schedule is as follows:

August 23, 30

September 6, 13, 20, 27

October 4, 11

We are in need of volunteers who can help in general or in teaching English, Vietnamese, or Tagalog.

Please keep me in prayer during my retreat – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday\* (\*Remember that Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a holy day of obligation. *Also – Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> is Fr. Godfrey's Birthday, but don't let him know that I told you.*) I will keep you all in my prayers as well.

Serving with joy,  
Dcn. Mike Jordan

### **College Students and Young Adults**

We will be having one last get together before we head off back to college. We will have a bonfire at church on **August 21st at 7pm**. It will be held in the parking lot around the back of church. There will be food and fun! See you there!

### **Attention Lectors and Altar Servers:**

It is time again to make up a new schedule for the months of September, October and November. Please email [schedule@stmagdalen.org](mailto:schedule@stmagdalen.org) or call the parish office at 455-9310 to let me know when you are NOT available to serve. We are also looking for altar servers available to serve at weddings, please let us know. *Nancy Baum*

## SPIRITUALITY

### **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

All the women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend this retreat held at St. Lazare Retreat House in Spring Lake. The date for this year's retreat (so mark your calendars) is October 3, 4, & 5. Here is an opportunity to experience a quiet, restful and holy weekend. During your time at St. Lazare's you will have the opportunity to attend conference sessions, celebrate the Sacraments and enjoy plenty of free time. Each person is assigned their own room and meals are provided. To reserve your room for the weekend, please call Mary Lou Watterson at 656-1520.

### **Parent Information Meeting for Sacramental Preparation for upcoming year.**

August 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> following all Masses in Room 3  
of the Family Center.

Parents of children in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to attend a meeting outlining the expectations and schedules of Sacramental Preparation.

### **“Gather Under God's Big Top”**

**2008 Elementary Retreat**

**August 18-22, 9-11:30 am**



Registration Forms Available for  
Children attending the Retreat in the Gathering  
Area and on the Web Site. These forms are due in  
the office by Tuesday, August 12th.

**Young at Heart** - will meet this Thursday, August 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Denny's on 44th St and Clyde Park. All parishioners 55 and over are welcome to join this group.

### **Office Volunteers Needed**

As we begin to prepare the Course Catalog for our Faith Formation year we will need volunteers to help us copy, collate and stuff envelopes to be mailed. We are also looking for individuals willing to answer the phones during office hours periodically through the year. If you are interested in helping us out on either occasion, please call the office at 455-9310 and let Nancy or Cathy know. Thank you so much.

**Anniversary Mass** - together with your families, the Church in the Diocese of Grand Rapids honors the faithful witness to your vocation of marriage and wishes to celebrate with you. Bishop Hurley is inviting **all couples celebrating anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 or 60 or more years** to join him on **Sunday, October 19 at 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew**. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by calling the parish office at 455-9310.

## HOSPITALITY AND VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people willing to share their gift of teaching with our children in either our W.O.W. or Faith Formation programs. Spend some time in prayer and let the Holy Spirit speak to you. Classes begin in September for both of these programs.

**W.O.W.** – It is hard for young children to sit during Mass and understand what is happening. Our program is designed for 3, 4, and 5 years olds. Their ‘church time’ is similar to ours where we have the introductory rite (greeting) they also are greeted as they come into their room. The young children are hearing the word of God just like we do during the Liturgy of the Word.

The children are grateful for what God has given them. We hear similar words during the Prayers of the Faithful. Even though the children are too young to take Eucharist they do share a meal with each other. They end their class time as we do with a dismissal or Concluding Rite.

We are looking for adults who love to work with young children to guide them during their ‘church’ time as well as middle/high school students to be assistants and help in the class room. Training is available, so if you would like to share your gifts with the young children, please let me know.

**FAITH FORMATION** - We are working on this year’s Faith Formation catalog and are planning to have it in the mail the next couple of weeks. Look it over carefully. If the Holy Spirit speaks to you and you would like to teach, please contact me. We have lesson plans and you will work with one of the Pastoral Staff members.

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### **Sunday, August 10, 2008**

*Blood Pressure / Sugar Check after 9 a.m. Mass*

12:00 noon Bowling League Meeting in Room 3

6:30 p.m. S.O.S. in Room 4 & 5

### **Wednesday, August 13, 2008**

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Co-Op in Nursery

6:30 p.m. Elementary Retreat Mtg

### **Saturday, August 16, 2008**

9am-7pm HS/MS Michigan Adventure Trip

### **Sunday, August 17, 2008**

12:00 noon Bowling League Meeting in Room 3

6:30 p.m. S.O.S. in Room 4 & 5

**Job Opening** - St. John Vianney Church is accepting resumes for a 15-20 hour per week Bookkeeper in the parish office. Functions include computer input/output services and payroll. Computer experience, organizational & communication skills are required. For information, call Frank Siegel, Business Manager, at 534-5449

### **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday Morning nursery and Sunday mornings during the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. Please contact Anne Beauchamp at 460-1824.