

Look For Dare Dude

Hey, everyone, look for Dare Dude as he helps us prepare for our Lenten Lift Mission, **Dare To Be Holy**. He will be located in the bulletin in a different place each week. Look through the bulletin and see if you can find him!



DARE TO BE HOLY

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

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PARISH LENTEN BOOK

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LENTEN FRIDAYS

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**SINNERS ONLY TONIGHT:
REDEMPTION & FORGIVENESS**
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PARISH WIDE

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CPR/AED TRAINING

Certification class offered by Health Team Ministry. See page 5

FOOD DRIVE NEXT WEEKEND

Items needed for Agape Center. Page 5

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

See what's "New and Noteworthy", read past issues of our bulletin, find links to other sites. Go online and see for yourself—www.ssjohnandpaul.org. Please visit our website weekly to keep abreast of what's new and noteworthy.

Our special LENTEN **LIFT** experience is Here!
From today, Sunday, February 26 to Wednesday, February 29 we will focus on the challenge...."DARE TO BE HOLY"!
Our presenter for each session will be Bill Wegner from Good News International, which is a lay ministry organization that is known across the U.S. Bill promises a spirit-filled experience that will consist of presentation mixed with interactive dialogue of the group. Each gathering will include; prayer, discussion, song, and will end with parish hospitality!
Times and Topics are...

Sunday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.
"Our Call To Holiness"

Monday, February 27 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
"Our Call To Witness"

Tuesday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
"Our Call To Reconcile"

Wednesday, February 29 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
"Questions Of Jesus"

Each day the theme will be the same in the morning and in the evening but the presentations will be different. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Here's what's happening this week!

Monday, February 27:

- *9:00 a.m. Mass
- *9:30 a.m. GRACE Mission
- *7:00 p.m. GRACE Mission
- *(NO 7:00 p.m. Mass)

Tuesday, February 28:

- *9:00 a.m. Mass
- *9:30 a.m. GRACE Mission
- *7:00 p.m. GRACE Mission
- *7:00 p.m. NMV Mtg (Away)

Wednesday, February 29:

- *9:30 a.m. GRACE Mission
- *7:00 p.m. GRACE Mission

Thursday, March 1:

- *9:30 a.m. Women's Reflection

Friday, March 2:

- *7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 3:

- *12:30 p.m. English as a Second Language
- *1:00 p.m. Special Needs
- *3:00 p.m. Confession
- *5:00 p.m. Mass

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Regular Parish Office Hours:

- Mon. - Wed.— 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Thursday — 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday — 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday — 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Welcome New Families

Welcome to the following families who joined SS. John and Paul in January and February 2012:

- Mary Myler
- Eric Hirzel
- Dan and Diane Masko
- Harry and Sharon Joseph
- Patrick and Michelle Eyeson
- Donald and Renee Susko
- Brian and Marla Debaut



Sinners Only Tonight: Redemption & Forgiveness

Presented by Fr. Mark Miller, Moral Theologian

Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Kieran (Mound Rd. North of 24 Mile Rd.)

SS. John and Paul is Co-Hosting this event

Here is a great opportunity to deepen our Lenten journey. Join Fr. Mark Miller for an evening of reflecting on God's wonderful gift of grace and compassion. Learn what we can do to strengthen our relationship with God.

Born in Edmonton, Canada, Fr. Miller completed his doctorate in moral theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Fr. Mark has experience as a clinical bioethicist, teacher, presenter, and author of books and numerous articles on Bioethics. Currently, he is the Provincial of the English-speaking Redemptorists of Canada, while continuing his clinical ethics work part-time at the Centre for Clinical Ethics at St. Joseph's and St. Michael's Hospitals in Toronto.

Parish Lenten Book

We have a few copies of our parish book left for you to read during the Lenten Season.:

*"What do you think of Jesus?
"Who is He and why was He here?"*



JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

by George Martin

Martin explores Scripture to reveal how Jesus demonstrates his mercy, comfort, strength, and forgiveness, and how, time and again, he leads us out of our anxieties into his steadfast presence,

The books are available in the office and are free, but if you choose to help defray the cost of the book, just drop the enclosed envelope at the office.

We are offering several opportunities to choose from if you would like to gather with others to discuss the book. They begin the first weekend in March and will be offered on....

- Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. mass
- Monday after the 7:00 p.m. mass
- Tuesday after the 9:30 a.m. mass
- Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Fridays at SS. John and Paul

Friday, March 2:

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross here at SSJP



Friday, March 9:

6:00 p.m. soup dinner followed by guided prayerful reflection on the "Last Words of Jesus"

Friday, March 16:

6:00 p.m. soup dinner followed by discussion on Lenten Lift book: "Meeting Jesus In The Gospels"

Friday, March 23:

6:00-8:30 p.m., G.R.A.C.E. monthly session on the Old Testament

Friday, March 30:

7:00 p.m. Outdoor Stations of the Cross at Capuchin Retreat Center



Collection for Care Packages for our College Students

The Hospitality and Evangelization Committee will be taking donations after all masses during the weekend of March 3-4. Our parish college students who live at school will receive care packages in time for final exams. If you have a son or daughter away at school who would like to receive a care package, please call Bridget at the church office with their name and address.

Echoes of Faith Catechist Formation

Wednesday, March 14

6:00 –8:00 p.m.
Liturgy and Sacraments

Wednesday, April 18

6:00—8:00 p.m.
Prayer and Spirituality

Please R.S.V.P. to Karen or Kathryn-
kpeters@ssjohnandpaul.org or
klocke@ssjohnandpaul.org

586-781-9488

First Eucharist Preparation



Parent/Child Session #3

March 7 or **March 8 at 7:00 p.m.**
(Please note Date Change)

Family Interviews for the
Reception of First Eucharist will be:
Wednesday, April 11,
Wednesday, April 18 and
Wednesday, May 2.

Please call the Faith Formation
Office at 586-781-9488 to schedule your
interview.

VBS Planning Meeting For All Interested

Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Parish Hall



SKY: Vacation Bible School
Everything is
Possible With God

July 16-20, 2012



Age-Specific Sessions March 5-6 and March 12-13

Required prayers/material for
each grade level:

- Grade 1: The Our Father,
Sign of the Cross
- Grade 2: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be,
Sign of the Cross
- Grade 3: Apostles' Creed
- Grade 4: Act of Contrition
- Grade 5: Ten Commandments
- Grade 6: Apostles' Creed, Act of
Contrition, Ten Commandments

Please help your child memorize them.

G.R.A.C.E.

Growing Responding As Catholics Everyday

For: Adults, Senior Citizens,
Married without children,
Single Adults,
Families

March 18, 20, 21, 23

Grades 1-6 Age-Specific Fall Sessions

Monday or Tuesday Afternoon:
4:45-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Evening: 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Next sessions: March 5-6 and
March 12-13

Early Childhood Sunday Program

Held during the 9:30 a.m. Mass
(for late 4 and 5 year olds)
No EC on GRACE weeks

Children's Liturgy Of The Word

During 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Masses
(for Grades 1 on up)

G.R.A.C.E— Open to all Parishioners— Walk-ins Welcome!

Our monthly G.R.A.C.E Pro-
gram is For All People. If you have
never attended please consider coming
to our next session. You can pick from
four nights to attend—just come and
sign in. Spend some time learning more
about your faith and getting the encour-
agement needed to live that faith on a
daily basis.

G.R.A.C.E

Growing Responding As Catholics Everyday

—Next Session—
March 18, 20, 21, 23
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Theme: Unpacking the old Testament
Catechetical Area: Scripture

This month's goal is:

- To understand the structure of the Old Testament
- To appreciate the richness of the Old Testament as stories of faith rather than history
- To be able to read and pray from the Old Testament

April Menu:
Chicken Strips and
Cheesy Potatoes



Visit our website at: www.ssjohnandpaul.org



Attention all 9-12 Graders:

- ◆ All teens are encouraged to attend Sunday Night February 26 here at SSJP for the beginning of the Mission. The speaker will be speaking more to the teens on Sunday Night so please join us for this fun night.
- ◆ Our next 9-12 grade teen meeting will be held on March 4 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Please bring a friend and join us.
- ◆ **Last Call for the March 16-18 overnight Subiaco Retreat.** Permission slips for the Subiaco Retreat are available in the literature racks in front of the office. Due date for the permission slip is **February 29**. If you have never attended one of these retreats you won't want to miss this one. **Please Note:** There are scholarships available if you need it, please see Mrs. Peters for details.

Attention All 7-12 Graders:

- ◆ If you will be here on Good Friday, **we really need you!** We are looking for teens that will help us with the Good Friday Stations of the Cross. We will have a practice on March 25 from 5:00 -6:30 p.m. . Youth group will begin right after the practice of the stations. Please check your calendars and let me know if you will be here and are willing to help.



Attention All 7-8 Graders

Austin Catholic Academy



**24125 26 Mile Road
Ray Township, Michigan 48096
(east of North Avenue)**

Austin Catholic Academy is writing an exciting new chapter in Catholic education in Macomb County. Austin is the only co-ed Catholic high school in northern Macomb County.

Opened in the fall of 2011 with a co-ed freshman class, the school will eventually serve some 500 students with the benefits of an Augustinian education that stresses development of the complete person through rigorous college preparatory academics, spiritual growth, service the community and extra curricular activities.

Now accepting Freshman and Sophomore applications. For information, or to schedule a private tour call 586-749-7900 or visit our website at www.austincatholicacademy.org. Share the passion and begin a Journey of a lifetime.

Attention All 8th Graders

A meeting will be held for the teens and their parents on March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in regards to the future preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. An invitation letter has been sent out to all teens that have completed the two year requirement of religious education. If you did not receive a letter or if you should have any questions please give Mrs. Peters a call at 586-781-9488.

Mandatory Age-Specific Session Saturday, March 10

Grade 7 will attend from 9:00 a.m.-12:00
Grade 8 will attend from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

All Teens will need to read Chapter 39: *"Working for Justice"* in their Catholic Connections Handbook for this session.

Any questions please call Mrs. Peters at 586-781-9488.

Lenten Fish Fry

St Augustine
68035 Main St. Richmond

March 9; March 23; and April 6
4:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$9:00
Kids \$5.00

Baked or fried fish with French fries or potato, cheese pizza, coleslaw, roll with butter, beverage. Desert extra.

Notre Dame School Day Open House

Middle Division (6-8)
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
Pontiac Campus

Lower Division (Jr.K-5)
Wednesday, March 7, 2012.
Waterford Campus

For more information:
go to www.ndpma.org or for grades
(9-12) Call 248-373-5300
(6-8) Call 248-373-5371
(Jr.K-5) Call 248-682-5580



The demands of caregiving need to be shared. A Friend's House Adult day care services provides a welcoming atmosphere that is ideal for adults who cannot or should not be left alone during the day, and who would benefit from a supportive and caring environment. A Friend's House is sponsored by Catholic Services of Macomb and offers the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your loved one is being cared for while you work, run errands, or simply take a break from the demands of care. We offer many resources for caregiving families, including counseling, information, and monthly support groups. For more information, please call us in Clinton Twp. at 586-412-8494 or in Warren at 586-759-8700.

Parish Wide Lenten Outreach

This Lenten season, SS. John and Paul will sponsor a collection of personal hygiene items for the **Agape Center and Samaritan House**. Food stamps and Bridge Cards do not cover non-food items, so those struggling to make ends meet often go without these things. Some suggestions for donations are:

- **Shampoo and Conditioner**
- **Feminine hygiene items**
- **Toothpaste/toothbrush**
- **Deodorant (men's and women's)**
- **Body lotion**
- **Razors and shaving cream**
- **Diapers (all sizes)**
- **Soap/body wash**



A second collection is for non-perishable food for **St. Christine's** food pantry in the Brightmoor neighborhood of Detroit. We have been to the soup kitchen there several times now and they have expressed a great need for the following items for their food pantry:

- **Canned fruit**
- **Canned spaghetti, Spaghetti's or Ravioli**
- **Canned meat (Spam, chicken & dumplings, etc.)**
- **Boxed Macaroni & Cheese**
- **Hamburger Helper**
- **Canisters of dry, non-dairy coffee creamer**



Two labeled bins for you to deposit your donations will be located in the hallway to the Activities Center for the entire Lenten season.

We will be in need of drivers to take donations to the St. Christine food pantry. It is located on Fenkell (Five Mile) between Lahser and Telegraph. Please call the office if you can help in this way.

Health Team Ministry presents: *Health Bytes*

March 12: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Topic: Alzheimer's Disease

"Where did I put my keys?" "I totally forgot about my appointment!"
Does this sound like a family member or friend? Or (gulp!!) you??

SS. John and Paul Health Team Ministry is pleased to offer a physician-led discussion of Alzheimer's Disease on the above date and time. Dr. W. Agnello, MD, a neurologist affiliated with Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, will offer information on the following as it relates to dementia and Alzheimer's:

- Age of onset
- Early symptoms
- Difference between Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia
- Statistical incidence of the disease
- Progression of symptoms over time
- Treatment options
- Options for caring with a family member with dementia/Alzheimer's
- Opportunity for questions and answers.

Please join us for this relevant topic!

Volunteers Needed for His Table

SS. John and Paul has offered to provide dinner to guests of His Table at United Methodist in Romeo on Tuesday, March 20. His Table Community Meal began November 2, 2010 to serve our local community and offer a free meal to those individuals and families facing economic struggles.

Volunteers are needed from 3:00—5:00 p.m. to help set up and prepare the meal. Volunteers are also needed from 5:00—7:30 p.m. to help serve and clean up. Please call the parish office if you are interested in helping to prepare and/or serve this meal.

We will also be needing donated desserts for the meal. If you can donate a cake or pie, please have it at SS. John and Paul by 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 20. Please consider helping us in this new endeavor as we strive to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Food Drive Next Weekend March 3 - 4



Please bring your non-perishable, unexpired food donations. Requested pantry items for Agape Center for the month of March are:

- ◆ Laundry detergent
- ◆ Dish soap
- ◆ Shampoo/Conditioner,
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Paper towels,
- ◆ Toilet paper
- ◆ Ravioli
- ◆ Spaghetti's
- ◆ Saltines,
- ◆ Jelly
- ◆ Diapers (size 5 and 6)
- ◆ Pull Ups

All other non-perishable food items, including low sodium and sugar-free food, toiletries, health & hygiene items are gladly accepted!

Thank you for your generosity!

CPR/AED Certification Class Offered

The Health Team Ministry of SS. John and Paul will host an American Heart Association Heart Saver/AED training class on Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m.—1 :00 p.m.. Upon successful completion of the skills practice session and skills test, attendees will receive an AHA Heart Saver AED Course Completion Card good for two years.



If you are interested in attending this class, please register by signing up on the poster in the hallway to the Parish Center, or by calling the parish office. A light breakfast and lunch will be served.

Pastor's Perspective

*Welcome Bill Wegner! What Does It Mean to "Dare to Be Holy"?

A Parish Lenten Mission is a tradition that goes back many generations. It acts as a spiritual "pick me up" for us all, challenging us to live out our Catholic faith life more completely. This year we have with us Bill Wegner from Good News International, who goes to parishes around the country, and even internationally, preaching a very practical message of faith in Christ and a life of discipleship. The theme "Dare to Be Holy" raises the challenge of believing and living as Christians. Bill will break it down into four segments, Sunday through Wednesday. Sunday: Our Call to Holiness—What Does That Mean? Monday: Our Call to Witness; Tuesday: Our Call to Reconciliation; Wednesday: Questions of Jesus. The main talk will be in the evenings, but on the mornings of Monday through Wednesday he will offer further insights into those topics for those who couldn't make the evening session or who want a bit more time exploring those topics. On the mornings we will begin with Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by Bill's talk and discussion. In the evenings we will begin at 7:00 p.m. with Bill's talk and discussion followed by hospitality. There will be no evening Mass this week.

Because we scheduled this Lenten Mission as one of our monthly G.R.A.C.E. sessions for families, we have designed a separate session for children grades 1-6 while older children and adults interact with Bill. I strongly encourage as many as possible to come on Sunday evening (tonight), even if it is not your regular G.R.A.C.E. night, so that you can be inspired by the first talk and perhaps be persuaded to come for some of the rest! We have been using the "Dare Dude" in the bulletin to try to encourage you to talk with your children about this event. Dare Dude dares you (really just kindly asks you) to come to the Parish Lenten Mission beginning tonight (Sunday).

*A Lenten Evening of Reflection on the "Seven Last Words" of Jesus, Friday March 9

JoAnne Owens, Bridget Theodoroff and myself have designed an evening of reflection around what are traditionally called the "Seven Last Words

of Jesus"—the words Jesus utters in any of the gospels as he is on the cross dying. They form a very powerful meditation for us and are another way to enter into the Lenten season. We will begin with a soup and bread dinner and then move into the reflection by 6:45 p.m. or so. We should be done around 8:15 p.m. Join us Friday March 9 in the Activities Center.

*Two Talks Co-Sponsored by Our Parish

We have two other excellent adult formation opportunities available in the next couple of weeks, held at St. Kieran but co-sponsored by us. On Wednesday March 7 Fr. Mark Miller, S.J. will be at St. Kieran from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to talk about sin and forgiveness. I truly like the title of his presentation: "*Sinners Only Tonight: Forgiveness and Redemption.*" Fr. Miller is a moral theologian from Canada, a well-known speaker and author. You don't want to miss a chance at such a quality formation event.

Then on Monday March 12 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., also at St. Kieran our vicariate is sponsoring an evening on what it means to be an "*Evangelizing Parish*". The ability of a parish to be enthusiastic about sharing faith is one of the criteria of a viable, vital parish. We will have a chance to hear about and talk about what that means in more detail. It is open to anyone in the vicariate. I would especially like to see a few parish council and other leadership people in the parish attend. I think it is one of the areas of parish life we can learn much from others. I will be there after the evening Mass.

*Some Comments on Archbishop Vigneron's "Together in Faith" Pastoral Letter and Decisions

Each Catholic household should have received Archbishop Vigneron's pastoral letter "Forward in Hope to Share Christ". If not, I have placed a link to it on the main page of our parish website. In it he gives the context for all the pastoral planning that has been and continues to be done: "*I want very much to express to all of you—the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit—my own clear sense that we must understand*

Together in Faith in the context of the sacred mission the Lord Jesus has entrusted to our local Church. We are called to share Christ in and through the Church. Only with a very keen sense of God's purpose in bringing us 'together in faith' can we understand the intensive pastoral planning in which we are engaged."

He goes on to make it clear that every parish's vitality and survivability depend on commitment to seven initiatives: evangelization and catechesis, vocations to the priesthood, Christian service outreach, youth and young adults, lay leadership, stewardship and administration, and Catholic school education. To that end parishes must show an ability to engage in support of those initiatives and to do so with no operating deficit. If a parish does not have the ability to do that on its own, then it is to accept a cluster arrangement with a nearby parish and share resources to the benefit of both and, in some cases, merge together completely. Every parish is to have in place some type of emergency arrangement in case a pastor is temporarily unavailable, even if it is clear that they will not be clustered in any permanent way.

It is that last item which was misunderstood by some of the media. In the press materials handed out at the news conference last Monday every parish was listed according to one of several categories. After going through those that would be closed or needed to merge, all the rest (214) were lumped together in a catch-all category with the following note attached: "*The following 214 parishes will submit a plan to cluster, merge or more closely collaborate with another parish. Please note: this does not indicate that the parish will cluster or merge in the near-term or by any date certain; rather, these parishes should have a plan in the event that a pastor is not available or a parish encounters financial deficits.*" The list of parishes followed, including all the parishes in our area, indeed all the parishes that were not specifically mandated for closing or merger.

In the case of our parish what does all this really mean? There are no guarantees, of course, but realistically it means that we will continue to be a parish as we are, unclustered, for the foreseeable future, as long as we continue to show our ability to be a fully alive, viable parish by the criteria mentioned. We, as well as all other parishes, will need to give the

diocese a more specific “emergency plan” on how the parish would handle the temporary loss of a pastor, and so that will need to be worked on with our neighboring parishes (St. Kieran, St. Clement, St. John Vianney). Once we raise sufficient funds and put up the first phase of our permanent parish center, we will have the challenge of paying off the \$1 million debt we owe the diocese for the 2001 purchase of land (the 10 acres on the north side of the property) to show that we are financially sound. But I am confident that we will be able to do so when the time comes. In the meantime, we need to continue to be an active, welcoming, lively faith community. We need to continue to commit to generous financial support on a regular Sunday, yearly CSA, and the special Changing Lives Together basis. We need to celebrate Sunday liturgy well and enthusiastically. We need to expand our outreach and care for those in need. We need to encourage young men and women in their faith journeys and not be afraid to invite some of them to a vocation of ministry within the Church. With God’s help we are doing and we will continue to do all the above.

***Reporting Sexual Abuse / Suspected Abuse**

A couple of weeks ago there was once again a fair amount of media attention given to a situation of abuse of a minor (statutory rape) at a local Catholic Church. Even though the person accused was a young man who was an usher and volunteer at that parish, most of the media attention was directed toward the pastor, who was suspended, pending an Archdiocesan investigation into whether he reported that incident in a timely enough manner. In light of that incident, I think it is a good time for us to review the reporting policies for this parish.

Last month we handed out or sent out to all religious education families our yearly update on Protecting God’s Children and how we can all be intentional about helping to create safe environments for minors in our parish. This year we focused on Internet safety; last year on recognizing signs of abuse and what abuse is. Each year we will add more information. In addition, we gave families the numbers to contact if they have a situation they need to report. **If it is potentially of a criminal nature, then**

it should be reported immediately to the Macomb Sheriff’s Office or State Police. If it involves a priest, deacon, or staff member, it needs to be reported to the Archdiocese of Detroit as well as to the police. And if it involves a volunteer in the context of a parish activity, it should be reported as above but also to our parish contact person—Paula Klozik—and to me as the pastor.

To help the entire parish become more aware of how to create safe environments we require all volunteers who might end up alone with a minor to take the “Protecting God’s Children” training. All such volunteers also are required to give us their driver’s license number so we can run a criminal background check. NB: in the course of that background check (re-done every seven years) at times other issues surface (other incidents with the law). I want to assure you that such incidents, while I am sure embarrassing, are kept confidential and do not exclude you from volunteering, unless it has to do with something that could be harmful to a minor. Only Paula Klozik, our Protecting God’s Children contact person on staff, and myself (if she needs to run something by another person) would be privy to that information and we keep it absolutely confidential.

We all are part of making this parish a safe environment for our children and teens. For example, I have no issue and in fact welcome it, if a parent pops their head into the sacristy when one of their children is getting ready for serving Mass. I think it is wise for parents to not send their children to the restrooms by themselves but accompany them and wait for them. Our ideal goal is to always have at least two adults in a room when minors are present. That is not always possible, but no one should hesitate to stop in, or ask questions, in any gathering of the parish, if you wish to. Safe environments are created when we all take that responsibility seriously. Just because we are a church setting does not mean that we should be less attentive or react any differently than we would elsewhere.

I do want to point out, however, despite the amount of attention given to incidents of abuse in church-related settings, the overwhelming majority of abuse takes place in other settings, especially homes. It is important to educate our children that they can talk to

a trusted adult, if they need to. It is important to be conscientious in creating safe environments not just in churches but schools, extracurricular events, and our homes.

***Today’s Gospel**

The gospel for the first Sunday of Lent is always an account of Jesus’ trials and temptations in the desert. We are most familiar with Matthew’s and Luke’s version, where the dialogue with Satan takes place about specific temptations, which Jesus resists. This year we have Mark’s very sparing account. No dialogue but just the bare facts: forty days in the desert, tempted by Satan, ministered to by angels, at the end of which he enters into his public ministry of proclaiming and making known the reign or kingdom of God.

But Mark’s account does have one distinct difference worth noting. Mark says that “*The Spirit drove*” Jesus out into the desert. Matthew and Luke, both of whom know Mark’s gospel and make many adaptations to it when writing their own accounts, say “*The Spirit led*” Jesus into the desert. A small difference but worth pondering. Mark’s wording captures better the idea that Jesus is not in the desert trying to prove his ability to fast or prove his ability to resist temptation. He feels compelled by God to take that time. God needs him to experience that full dependence on God in the midst of trials so that Jesus will know that the Father will not abandon him. How often Jesus must have relied on that experience to handle the challenges he faced in his public ministry, especially his suffering and death!

The Spirit leads us or maybe drives us out into situations we are reluctant to face. But that is so we know that reliance only on God and not our own wits and resources is what will see us through. In Lent we remind ourselves in little ways—through fasting and penances—to so rely on God. But life will hit us with much greater challenges. Let us practice that daily turning to God and dependency on God so that we will be better able to handle those unexpected, life-altering challenges in the future.

Fr. Buersmeyer

**Gratefully Received On
February 17-18, 2012**

Weekly budget..... \$11,100.00
 Offertory..... \$9,171.16
 No. Sunday envelopes used 192
Total Offertory \$9,171.16

Other Monies / (# Envelopes)

Capital Imprv / (1)..... \$1.00
 Children / (2) \$3.25
 Church in Europe(28)..... \$581.00
 Black Books..... \$98.71

Stewardship

...a way of life

Share time and talent

Sacrificial Giving

Joyfully accept His gifts

Pray and give thanks

*"After John had been arrested,
 Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the
 gospel of God..."*

..... -Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

A Reminder

Please mark your envelope before dropping it in the collection basket. It simplifies the work of the counters who volunteer their time each Sunday. Unmarked envelopes must be marked by the counters as they open them, and occasionally they forget to do so. Therefore, in order for the parishioner to receive credit for his contribution, our parish secretary must call the donor and ask what they gave. This can be easily remedied if parishioners remember to mark their envelopes. Thank you.

**Eucharistic Prayer
Requests**

Saturday, February 25, 2012

5:00 p.m.—
 Morris Duhaime by Duhaime Family
 Mona Vitale by Newberry Family

Sunday, February 26, 2012

8:00 a.m. —
 Irene Ellman by Greenway Family

9:30 a.m. —
 Michael Bem by Hammer Family
 Robert Jenkins by Greenway Family

11:30 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

Monday, February 27, 2012

7:00 p.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

9:00 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

9:00 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

Saturday, March 3, 2012

5:00 p.m.—
 Vera Pugno by Pat Gresko
 Catherine Puzzuoli by Joanne Verana Family

Sunday, March 4, 2012

8:00 a.m. —
 Dorothy Dawood by C. and D. Fields

9:30 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

11:30 a.m. —
 Lorraine Darga by Joseph and Susan Martino

Scholarships Available

The Knights of Columbus are accepting applications for College and Catholic Education Scholarships until March 31. Information and applications can be obtained at the Parish Office.

**Pray for our
military**



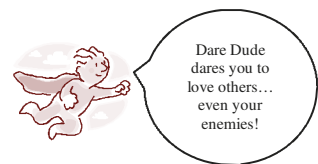
Donald Fannon	Matthew McLocklin
Roland Gendich	Daniel Palmer
Michael Kaminski	Martin Palmer
David Krzycki	John Palmer
Paul McGowan	Jesse Wright

**Liturgical Minister
Schedules**

The Liturgical Minister schedules for March– May 2012 have been send via email to those who have given us email addresses. Hard copies are in the back of church for those who have requested hard copies. If you did not receive one, please call the office or email Debbie at dkennard@ssjohnandpaul.org

Tax Help

From the IRS government website. If you have an AGI less than \$57K, there are numerous companies where you can free file your Federal taxes. For information and help, Go to: <http://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/jsp/index.jsp?ck>



Sponsor of the Week

This week's sponsor is **Allemon Septic Service**. Please see their full ad on the back of the bulletin. And remember to patronize all of our sponsors because they make this bulletin possible!



**Readings for the Week of
February 25, 2012**

Sunday, February 26
Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday, February 27
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 28:
Is 55:10-11; Ps 34; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 29:
Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, March 1:
Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138; Mt 7:7-12

Friday, March 2:
Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, March 3:
Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday, March 4:
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116;
Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Liturgical appointments for March 3-4, 2012				
Mass	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Celebrant/ Homilist	Fr. Sayes	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Sayes
Sacristan	Open	S. Krajewski	J. Sabina	S. Avolio
Lectors	E. Noyes C. Theodoroff	P. Grover D. Graham	K. Ozella P. Raleigh	P. Anders M. Greenway
Communion Ministers *Captain	B. Conlon* F. Diebboll L. Foltran L. Horn D. Pando	B. Huellmantel* G. Bawol C. Capp J. Fannon K. Fannon	R. Ozella* F. Perna B. Quayhackx P. Quayhackx J. Sabina J. Sabina J. Witek	Deacon John M. Bonaudo* F. Avolio S. Avolio B. Hellebuyck
Altar Servers	M. Bouthillet S. Gaglio	T. Sova	J. Anderson J. St. John A. Sebastian	A. Reyes S. Dickens
Greeters	L. Horn D. Pando	J. Fannon K. Fannon	H. Witek Y. Wojdacki	Avolio Family
Ushers *Captain	Jim Wright* Ron Pewinski Donald Smith Jim Maisel	Brian Dale* Richard Chapman Steve Krajewski Al Sova	Ken Partyka* Mike Bayer Bob Janowiak Lon Keast Steve Martinelli Len Monfils	Mike Bytner* John Gehrholz Bob Jiannuzzi Ron Kopera
Collection Counters	Team # 4: Tom Klakulak, Ron DiDomenico, Debbie DiDomenico, Mary Ann Klakulak, Joe Martino, Sue Martino, Larry Weathers, Marilyn Weathers			

SS. John and Paul Parish Directory
7777 W. 28 Mile Road • Washington, MI 48094

Parish Office 586.781.9010
Christian Formation Office 586.781.9488
Fax..... 586.781.7061
Parish Website www.ssjohnandpaul.org

Weekend Masses **Weekday Masses**
 Saturday at 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Monday
 Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. Tuesday
 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday

Parish Registration
 New parishioners may register after each weekend Mass or Monday through Friday at the parish office

Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Saturday from 3:00-3:30 p.m. or after 5:00 p.m. Mass

Baptisms
 Call the parish office for arrangements and preparation dates. Contact office at least 3 months prior to Baptism

Weddings
 Notify office at least six months (one year if not registered) prior to wedding date to arrange for marriage preparation

Catholic Services of Macomb
 Contact at 586-416-2300 or www.csmacomb.org

Parish Staff
Pastor Fr. David A. Buersmeyer
 pastor@ssjohnandpaul.org
Weekend Assoc. & Founding Pastor Fr. Ron Sayes
Deacon John Wright
 jwright@ssjohnandpaul.org
Parish Secretary Debbie Kennard
 dkennard@ssjohnandpaul.org
Business Manager Paula Klozik
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Pastoral Associate Bridget Theodoroff
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Pastoral Associate JoAnne Owens
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Coordinator of Faith Formation Kathryn Locke
 klocke@ssjohnandpaul.org
**Assoc. Coordinator of Faith Formation
 and Youth Minister** Karen Peters
 kpeters@ssjohnandpaul.org
Director of Liturgical Music Alfred John Eppens
 ajepens@netscape.net
Christian Service Coordinator Kathy Mollon
 kmollon@ssjohnandpaul.org

	CHAIRPERSON	VICE-CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY
PASTORAL COUNCIL OFFICERS	Deane Maue 586.992.9884	Martha Catalano 586.453.5759	Jeff Pyke 586.242.4114
FINANCE COUNCIL OFFICERS	John Krieg 586.786.9770	Chris McNeely 586.992.0378	Dan Zabkowski 586.786.6499