

## First Sunday of Lent



*Have Mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned against You.*

### A Lenten Season that Heals

St. Teresa of Avila once said that our soul is like a beautiful crystal that shines when light hits it. But sin is like tar over the crystal, blocking out the light of Christ. It's in confession that the tar gets removed so that the light can shine again. What has happened in our day that so many have abandoned the practice of confession? Sociologists, bishops, psychologists have offered many reason for the decline: a loss of our sense of sin, a growing shortage of priests, and other blame the changes of Vatican II. I have heard many say, "Why do I need to talk to the priest? I just go directly to Jesus." Although it is true that we can and should have regular encounters with Jesus and ask for Him to forgive us – we conveniently ignore the fact that Jesus gave His church the power to forgive sins. She alone can absolve us from mortal sin. Not only that, AA, psychologists and countless groups point out the necessity to admit our wrong doing to another and the benefits of receiving counsel and direction. And most of all, and I think this is the real reason we have seen a decline in confession in the last several decades, is our rebellious hearts and the loss of the sense that our sinfulness is not simply a private affair, but affects the whole community. People have rejected community in this self-centered and independent-focused culture. We have forgotten that as Christians we are a community of the saved, not just individuals on our own journey. Make time this Lent for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Encounter the fullness of what Jesus meant each of us to experience.

**Fr. Dennis**

### The Holy Season of Lent 2017

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions every Saturday from 3:00 till 4:00 pm.

**Penance Service at St. Joseph's Parish in St. Johns**  
Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Regional Penance Service at St. Gerard's Parish**  
Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

**Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> confessions after 8:15 am. Mass**

**Holy Hours with confessions, adoration  
and healing teams**  
Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 till 8:00 pm.

### Special Liturgies/Devotions

Stations of the Cross every Wednesday at 6:20 pm.

#### **The Rite of Election**

For those entering the Church at Easter  
A special liturgy with our bishop at St. Mary's Cathedral  
on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.  
A great way to support all those entering  
the Church this Easter.  
All are welcome!

#### **Evening of Intercessory Prayer**

Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00 to 8:00 pm.  
For healing and breaking of spiritual strongholds  
in our parish, region and nation.

## The Holy Season of Lent 2017, con't

### Special Events during Lent 2017

#### **Question and Answer time with Fr. Dennis**

After 8:15 am. Mass every Tuesday of Lent

#### **Special Musical rendition of the Stations of the Cross**

On March 31, Kayla will play *Crux Fidelis*, a set of 12 songs written as meditations for the Way of the Cross. Reflections will also be read for each station, including reflections written by Saint John Paul II, Brant Pitre, Mother Angelica, and others. Join us for this unique opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross and to draw closer to our Lord during this Lenten season.

#### **Lenten Fish Dinners**

Fish Dinners – March 10th and March 24th. Activity Center. Cost for the dinner is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-10, and children 5 and under are free. Carry out meals are available for \$10.00 each

### MHT School Lenten Events

Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Stations of the Cross at 2:20 in the Church

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Adoration from 2:20 - 2:50 in the Church

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> Stations at 2:20 in the Church

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Stations of the Cross

in Spanish & English at 6:00 pm. In the Church

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> Seder Meal

Adults are welcome to all these events.

### FOCUS Mission Trips

Only 30 percent of Americans who were raised Catholic are still practicing. 80 percent of those who leave, do so by the age of 23. The fastest growing religious demographic are those who list their faith as "unaffiliated." FOCUS is an organization on college campuses which seeks to reach out to college students to help them develop a relationship with Christ. There are presently 550 FOCUS missionaries. FOCUS is presently on 125 campuses throughout the United States. FOCUS missionaries on university campuses have over 18,500 Bible studies participants. Over 20,000 young people, now young adults are alumni of the FOCUS ministry. The FOCUS ministry is doing a much needed and incredible work among our college youth.

Last weekend you heard Carissa and Gabby share about their mission work. I want to thank you for your generosity in supporting our young people with their mission trips. Carissa Campbell will be leaving this March break for Rome to join the FOCUS missionaries in evangelizing young people and international visitors in the Holy City. They will also be helping the Missionaries of Charity (St. Teresa of Calcutta's order) in Rome with the poor. Gabby Horak will be leaving this July for the Philippines on a medical mission with the Missionaries of Charity. Gabby is still looking for financial support. You can contact her at 2565 N. Wacousta Rd, St Johns, MI 48879, gvhorak@yahoo.com, 989-640-3191 or visit [www.focusonline.org/goto/gabriellehorak](http://www.focusonline.org/goto/gabriellehorak).



This week I have asked Hannah Vincent to share with us. God Bless, **Fr Dennis**

An invitation. That's what a retreat is to me and whenever I sign up for one, a main thought to cross my mind is I hope others will take advantage of this opportunity. Growing up a Catholic homeschooler my faith was always a part of my life, but I didn't attend a retreat until the middle of high school (the well-known summer retreats at Steubenville), and ever since then I jump at the chance to attend as many as possible. Although an initial response to a retreat is the fear of discomfort, I have never been on a retreat where I was forced to do something or be uncomfortable. God doesn't want you to be uncomfortable in your relationship with Him, but He wants to challenge you to become the person you were created to be. I'll admit it's not easy. At some retreats I can't seem to stop crying and pouring out my heart and at others I simply sense a calm and reassurance God does have His hand in my life and He will guide me. In my experience at the adult retreat with MHT, nothing but peace and a deeply rooted confirmation flooded my soul telling me I was living in God's love. At that particular point in my life I was having a rough time trusting in God's plan. I couldn't understand why I was stuck in a job I detested or why I couldn't find a way out. At one point though, it hit me: trusting God is the greatest adventure of all. He knows more about my life than I will ever know, and He gives us trials to make us stronger. There's a reason for everything, especially our trials. A retreat can be a fantastic step in your relationship with God and nothing bad will come out of it. Only good will happen and if you choose to open your heart and be vulnerable, your life will start to change for the better. I know that sometimes retreats can come at inopportune times, but trust that God will take care of your needs while on the retreat and afterwards. Matthew 6:26 says this plainly, "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" If you have fears about what you might discover about yourself while on a retreat or if you're worried about what you will come back to after the retreat, God will take care of you. He loves you and constantly pursues you, and all you have to do is say "yes".

God Bless, Hannah



#### **Prayer of St. Ephrem for Lent**

Lord and Master of my life,  
take from me the spirit of laziness, discouragement,  
lust for power and idle talk.

Instead grant to me, Your servant,  
the spirit of purity, humility, patience and love.

My Lord and King, grant me the grace  
to be aware of my own sins  
and refrain from judging others;  
for You are blessed forever. Amen.

God, be merciful to me a sinner!  
God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me!

**Principal of Most Holy Trinity School**  
**Anne Hufnagel—[AnneH@mhtparish.com](mailto:AnneH@mhtparish.com)**

### *MHT School – Connecting Faith to Life*

#### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

Tuesday, March 7      Mass @ 8:15 a.m.  
 Friday, March 10      Stations of the Cross @ 2:20 p.m.  
 Monday, March 13      Art club from 3:00 – 4:00  
 Tuesday, March 14      Mass @ 8:15 a.m.  
 Thursday, March 16      7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade @ Hazel Findlay

**Lent:** On Friday afternoons during Lent the students at MHT School will be having a time of Adoration or participating in the Stations of the Cross. These will take place in the Church and anyone is welcome to join us.

**America & Me Essay Winners:** Congratulations to three of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for finishing in the top three of the America & Me Essay contest sponsored by Farm Bureau. The first place winner was Kara Esch, daughter of Glenn & Mary Esch. Second place went to Braeden Andros, son of Tim & Therese Andros. And, third place was awarded to Dominic Horak, son of Paul & Vicki Horak. Congratulations on being recognized for your hard work!

**Poetry Winners:** Two of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were recently chosen to have poems published in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans. Congratulations to both Mary Spitzley, daughter of Dan and Melissa Spitzley and Zach Halfmann, son of Greg & Kate Halfmann on their creative writing accomplishments.

**Reflect on God's Mercy:** *If we don't take time to reflect on the ways we have been forgiven, it will be hard to be merciful to others. And yet we set this as our goal each time we pray the Our Father: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."* - from The Hope of Lent



#### **Fowler Fire & Rescue Breakfast**

Fowler Fire Department is hosting their annual all you can eat breakfast on March 19th from 8:00 a.m. until noon at the activity center. Whole hog sausage, hash browns, scrambled eggs, fruit, and coffee/juice.



#### **Knights of Columbus**

Knights of Columbus Major Degree (2nd and 3rd) is being hosted by St. Jude's, Dewitt on Thursday, March 30 at 6:00pm. For more information please contact Dean Schrauben 593-2545.

## **Lenten Q&A with Fr. Dennis**

March 7      March 21      April 4  
 March 14      March 28

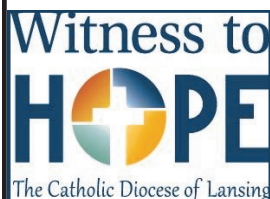
### **Bring your questions**

Every Tuesday during Lent after the 8:15am Mass

**Director of Youth Ministry**  
**Corey Luna - [mhtyouthcorey@gmail.com](mailto:mhtyouthcorey@gmail.com)**

**Steubenville 2017:** We will be attending a Steubenville Youth Conference June 23-25. The total cost of the weekend will be \$285. The online platform for registration is now available, so if you would like to begin registration, please go to the parish website and follow the link under Steubenville on the youth ministry page. Once you have registered online, please print out the registration information and turn it into the parish office with a deposit of \$100. Be sure to write down your t-shirt size on the printed-out form!

**8th Grade Retreat:** This spring we will be going to Camp Roger in Rockford, MI for our annual 8th grade retreat on March 17-19! It's an excellent chance for 8th graders to encounter the Lord and experience His love in a very powerful way! The permission slips were distributed already, but if anyone needs extra just click [here](#). The retreat is \$60 and can be turned in to the parish office.



### **Public Meetings**

**Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. in the Activity Center**

**Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> after the evening Mass**

**Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm. in the Activity Center**

*At each of these meetings, Frank and Ryan and parish staff will be present to explain the Campaign and to answer your questions*

The Catholic Diocese of Lansing is moving forward on a historic journey to raise \$65 million in its first-ever comprehensive diocesan-wide campaign titled Witness to Hope. Based on the vision of Bishop Boyea's pastoral letter Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord, this campaign will advance the ability of our parishes, as well as our diocese, to fulfill the shared mission given to us by Jesus for years to come. The money collected over the 5 years (your pledge can be given over a 5 year period) will go into an endowment – only the interest will be used – much like our Educational Trust Fund here at Most Holy Trinity. That way, this collection will provide our Diocese with resources for the future, not just for a one time use. Some of the ways that the Diocese will use the money are listed below.

Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit what you can give. Instead of being overwhelmed by amounts, look at it this way: A pledge of \$10.00 each month for the next 5 years would equal \$600.00. \$20.00 each month for 5 years would equal \$1,200.00. The amounts seem large at first, but when we break down the numbers, our parish goal of \$669,320.00 doesn't seem so daunting. If we all contribute, then our goal will be attainable.

Fr. Mason, who has recently retired to senior priest status, will have a sale of his personal goods on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 5:00pm and Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2:00pm. The sale will be held at St. Joseph Rectory, 106 East St. in Pewamo. Please come on either day and find something you might like to have as a personal keepsake or gift. We look forward to seeing you there on either of those two days. Thank you.

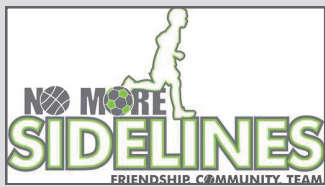


**Readings for the Week of March 5, 2017**

<b>Monday</b>	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31-46
<b>Tuesday</b>	Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalms 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Matthew 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jonah 3:1-10; Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Luke 11:29-32
<b>Thursday</b>	Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Psalms 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Matthew 7:7-12
<b>Friday</b>	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Matthew 5:20-26
<b>Saturday</b>	Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Matthew 5:43-48

**News & Events From Our Parish & Other Areas****Life in the Spirit Seminar**

A Life in the Spirit Seminar will be held on March 18, 2017, at St. Peter Catholic Church in Eaton Rapids. This day of spiritual growth in the Holy Spirit begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. The seminar begins at 9 a.m. The seminar includes speaker Fr. Mark Rutherford, praise and worship, lunch, prayer for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and 5 p.m. Mass. Please call Tori Davidson at (517) 663-4735 or email [SPCEatonRapidsFaithFormation@gmail.com](mailto:SPCEatonRapidsFaithFormation@gmail.com) to register.



We are humbled and grateful to receive a donation in the amount of \$864.87 from the FABULOUS students at Most Holy Trinity School in Fowler, who raised funds during "Catholic Schools Week!" We

have hired a great theatre company out of Detroit who will be helping us orchestrate a Talent Show for 24 persons with special needs next month. These monies raised will help sponsor 12 of these participants on stage! The support we continue to receive from our parish means a lot to our ministry & the families we serve. We perform on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at DeWitt Junior High Auditorium. Hope to see some of you in our audience!

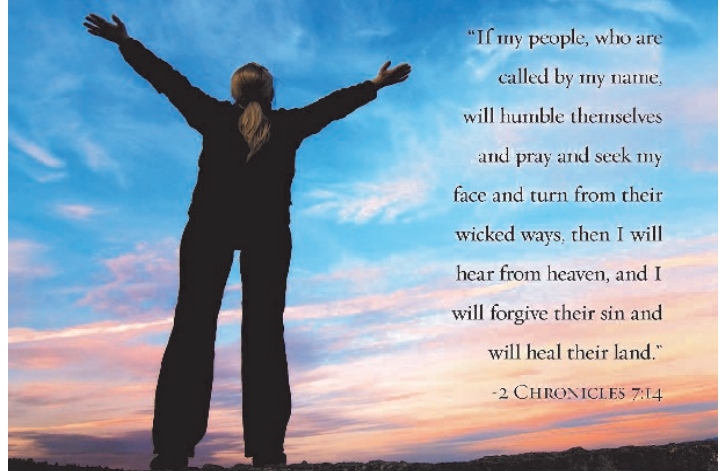
Scott & Jennifer Koenigsknecht  
& Board of Directors of No More Sidelines  
of Central Michigan  
[www.nmscentralmi.com](http://www.nmscentralmi.com)

**Lenten Retreat - Remain in Me**

Saturday, March 25 2017, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
St. Francis Retreat Center  
703 E. Main St., DeWitt, MI 48820

. Experience profound prayer, free from distraction, and leave refocused and more peaceful. Basic everyday movements will be taught which can be done by anyone, regardless of experience or physical limitation. Cost is \$45.00, which includes lunch. Register at [www.stfrancis.ws](http://www.stfrancis.ws) or 866-669-8321.

For more information contact Janene Ternes at 734-347-2422 or visit her web site at [www.prayer-in-motion.com](http://www.prayer-in-motion.com).

**PRAY TO END ABORTION**

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

-2 CHRONICLES 7:14

**Day 41 Activity: Prayer Vigil Every Wed**  
 From 9 AM until 6 PM across from Frandor PP

Many lives are saved when people are present in prayer, offering help outside an abortion clinic on days when abortions are performed. So for 2017, our local 40DFL activity will be to hold an ongoing prayer vigil every Wed from 9 AM - 6 PM across from the Frandor PP as chemical abortions are now performed each Wednesday. Use our online calendar to sign up for prayer time slots. Your prayer and presence may save a life.

search Facebook for @40DFLLDay41

or Email: [signup4prayer@gmail.com](mailto:signup4prayer@gmail.com)

**Half Day Women's Conference**

Be Strong, Fear Not! St. Mary's Parish in Westphalia is hosting their annual women's conference on Saturday March 11 from 8 am until 1:30 pm. Dr. Melissa Halverson Smith is the keynote speaker. The cost is \$15/person. To ensure we have enough food and seating, please register by emailing [stmarywomenevents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarywomenevents@gmail.com) or by calling the parish office (989 587-4201) by Tuesday March 7th. Payment will be accepted at the door the day of the event.

**Draw Near to God & He will Draw Near to You**

A one-day Lenten retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt on March 4th and repeated again on March 15h from 9:00am-3:30pm offered by Tony Sperendi. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch and Mass. Register: 517-669-8321 or [www.stfrancis.ws](http://www.stfrancis.ws).

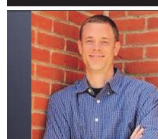
**John Wood is returning to MHT**

Monday, April 17- Divine Mercy  
Mass at 7:00pm, Talk & Adoration to follow  
Music by: Rachel Ann

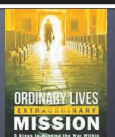


Tuesday, April 18- MHT School  
Grades K-4 : Dragon Slayers theme and  
Grades 5-8: The Light of Christ

Tuesday, April 18- Mission of Marriage  
7:00pm in the Activity Center



# John Wood



**Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering especially:** Frieda Gallagher, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Evan Pung, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Kenny Briganti, Sharon (Thelen) Droste, Theresa Fox, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Jean Schafer, Julie Wieber Schafer, Irene (Luttig) Weber, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Dick Rehmann, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt, Msgr. Sylvester Fedewa, Gregg Platte, Charles Douglass, Frank Hufnagel, Norman Goerge, Reynold Goerge, Lynda Esch, Jim O. Koenigsknecht, Agatha Feldpausch, Mindy Simon, Janet Armbrustmacher (Allan), Marie Weber, Ray & Janet Armbrustmacher, Liz Spitzley, Janine Kloeckner, Jennifer Ledger, Josiah Ledger and a special intention.

**Please contact the parish office to inform us when we can add or remove a person's name from the list. Thank you.**

*Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.*

**Our Parish Stewardship**  
**God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity**

**February 25 & 26 Collection..... \$ 9,495.75**

**Special Collections**

**Black & Indian..... 95.00**  
**Capital Improvements..... 5.00**  
**Newspapers & Periodicals..... 34.00**  
**MHT School..... 250.00**

I would like to thank the many parishioners for the abundance of calls, cards, messages, and well wishes in honor of my 90th birthday. The people of Fowler will always hold a special place in my heart.

**Therese Weber**

**The Rosary** is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is to pray that persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the church.

**MHT Adult Retreat**

April 7-9 Register now!

DO NOT BE SATISFIED WITH  
MEDIOCRITY. PUT OUT INTO THE  
DEEP AND LET DOWN YOUR NETS  
FOR A CATCH."  
SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Our next adult retreat is April 7-9th at the  
Bethany House in DeWitt. Cost is \$150 per person.  
Register by going to our website and clicking on the flyer.



**Masses For The Week**

**Monday - March 6**

7:00 p.m. + Marvin Simon, Including Don

**Tuesday - March 7**

8:15 a.m. + Edward Goerge (40th Anniversary)  
Including Rose & Living & Deceased  
Members of the Family

**Wednesday - March 8**

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations  
7:00 p.m. + Fran Ward

**Thursday - March 9**

8:15 a.m. + Martin and Laurine Edinger & Living &  
Deceased Members of the Family

**Friday - March 10**

8:15 a.m. + Carolyn Koenigsknecht, Including John &  
Living & Deceased Members of the Family

**Saturday - March 11**

8:15 a.m. **No Mass**  
4:30 p.m. + Edgar Thelen, Including Joan, Neil & Living  
& Deceased Members of the Family

**Sunday - March 12**

8:30 a.m. People of the Parish  
10:30 a.m. + Adam Schaefer & Living & Deceased  
Members of the Family

**Ushers for Saturday & Sunday, March 11 & 12**

4:30 p.m. - Gary Weber, Dale Feldpausch, Keith Weber,  
Jerome Klein

8:30 a.m. -- Alan Kramer, Gerry Schomisch, Philip Schmitt,  
Ralph Feldpausch

10:30 a.m. - Dan Pung, Duane Pung, Ken Halfman,  
Volunteer

**Mass Servers for Saturday & Sunday, March 11 & 12**

4:30 p.m. Trey and Taylor Bierstetel, Charlie Boak,  
Brandon Platte

8:30 a.m. - Kara & Olivia Esch, Owen Simon, Mason Pline

10:30 a.m. - Delanie, Preston, & Camden Braun, Jared  
Snyder

**Mass Servers During This Week**

Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Mary Beth Wohlfert, Evan Curtiss

Tues., 8:15 a.m. - School Mass

Wed., 7:00 p.m. - Gavin Klein, Keegan Klein

Thur., 8:15 a.m. - Volunteer

Fri., 8:15 a.m. - Volunteer

Sat., 8:15 a.m. - Alexander Warnke, Taylor Weber

***Sponsor of the Week***

*Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.*

**Rule Eye Care**