

Most Holy Trinity

February 16, 2020

~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~



THE HOLY SPIRIT
Counselor Intercessor Comforter
Advocate Strengthener

Adam Armbrustmacher
Trey Bierstetel
Olivia Datema
Nicholas Epkey
Emily Epkey
Kyra Feldpausch
McKenna Fitzpatrick
Audrey George
Macy Gibbons
Zachary Goerge
Emma Halfmann
Wade Hufnagel
Caleb Kohagen
Reva Lance
Savanah Martin

Andrew Piggott
Chase Pung
Jacob Rademacher
Mia Riley
Calvin Schaefer
Ben Schafer
Gordon Schmitz
Mason Smith
Ryan Snyder
Richard Thelen
Phillip Tiedt
Ethan Weber
Madison Wirth
Mary-Elizabeth Wohlfert

Sacrament of Confirmation ~ Wednesday February 19th 2020

From The Pastor's Desk

This week **Paul Fahey** was asked to share with us. God Bless, Fr. Dennis



This Wednesday, February 19th, Bishop Boyea will give the Sacrament of Confirmation to thirty high school students here at Most Holy Trinity. This is an exciting day for our parish and the students being Confirmed! It is always great to have our bishop visit. Please come to the 7:00pm Mass that evening if you can!

Also, because Confirmation is this week, I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about a common misconception surrounding this sacrament and to clarify some of the changes we've made to Confirmation preparation in light of that.

Over the past couple of years I was on an advisory committee at the diocese that focused on making changes to how we prepare students for Confirmation in order to address the growing reality of more and more Catholics leaving the faith after they received Confirmation as teenagers. Being a part of that group encouraged me to focus on what the Church teaches about Confirmation and let that be my starting place for what preparation for this sacrament should look like. Ultimately, going back to the Catechism forced me to see that I had some false assumptions about Confirmation and that we needed a dramatic shift in how we prepare students for this sacrament.

The Catechism says that Confirmation is the "sacrament of Christian maturity." I was raised to believe that this meant Confirmation is a kind of "rite of passage," a sacred ritual where someone accepts the faith for themselves and commits to the responsibilities of being an adult Catholic. In this way the student is "confirming" their own faith. That understanding of Confirmation is, and has been, very widespread and has led to most preparation programs becoming sacrament conveyor belts. What that has looked like here at MHT is that when a student reached a particular grade they started Confirmation preparation and were, for the most part, expected to receive the sacrament along with everyone in that grade.

However, that is not at all what the Church believes about Confirmation. When the Catechism calls this the sacrament of Christian maturity it means that God is maturing the person receiving Confirmation by giving them more of what they already received at Baptism. An authentic understanding of Confirmation is that it's the completion of a person's baptism and a continuation of Pentecost.

The Catechism says "the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost." And then goes on to list the effects of this sacrament on the recipient:

- brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace
- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!"
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross

Notice the "more than" language here. The person being confirmed already has baptismal grace, is already a child of God, is already united to Christ, etc. All these things happened at their Baptism. However, what God planted at Baptism He brings to maturity in Confirmation. God is the one "confirming" the candidate in their identity as His beloved son or daughter.

It is from this perspective that we have made the recent changes to Confirmation preparation. This sacrament is something that is personally discerned depending on the desire and disposition of the individual wanting to receive it. It is not a rite of passage. Neither is it the decision of a candidate's parents or family. There are only two people that discern the readiness of a candidate to receive Confirmation: the person themselves and the Church.

What that looks like here then is that anytime after a student finishes 8th grade, if they desire to be Confirmed, they will meet with Corey or me for an initial interview. At that interview we will discern that student's desire and disposition for this sacrament based on the Church's guidelines that include a candidate's prayer life, sacramental life, parish life, moral life, and their ongoing catechesis. Based on that interview we will give each student a preparation program tailored to them that could include recommendations for daily prayer, retreats, catechesis, Mass, Confession, etc. These recommendations are their Confirmation requirements and each student's recommendations will look different. We will follow up with each student throughout the year and when they are ready for Confirmation they will attend a two-day Confirmation retreat and will be able to be Confirmed at the next Confirmation Mass with the bishop.

It has only been a few months since we have implemented this new process and we are already seeing the fruit. The personal interviews focused on helping students articulate their relationship with God now and where they want it to grow have been invaluable. These meetings have already caused Corey and I to adjust our other events in order to meet the needs that we hear being expressed in the interviews. This new program also empowers students to see their faith life as their own rather than just their family's, allowing them to invest personally in their relationship with the Lord. It puts the decision of whether or not to be confirmed and when to be confirmed more into their hands rather than the sacrament being an automatic thing because they reached a certain age.

Because we are in a transition year where the high school sophomores are going through the old preparation program while the freshman are going through the new process I want to address some potential confusion. This Wednesday it is only sophomores being Confirmed. In future years we will begin to see students across grades being Confirmed, and the only reason freshman are not being Confirmed this week is because we haven't been able to meet with them more than once for their interviews. If you have any questions at all about Confirmation preparation please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to pray for these Confirmation candidates in a way perhaps you haven't before. As I said above, the Church teaches that someone receiving Confirmation is receiving the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles did at Pentecost. With that in mind, please pray for these candidates specifically that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit as the Apostles were. Pray that the Spirit will reveal Himself personally to them. Pray that they will be empowered to perform signs and wonders. Pray that they will have a renewed relationship with the Holy Spirit and, like Mary, hear His voice and respond to His promptings throughout their entire life.

God Bless,
Paul



Novena Prayer for our Confirmation Candidates

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, You are the Spirit of truth, love and holiness. We adore You and worship You.

We pray for our Confirmation candidates. Place a thirst in their hearts for You, Lord. Teach them to seek Your will in all things, & give them the courage to do it.

Make them true disciples of Jesus Christ and His Church. Grant them, Giver of all good things, the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord, and most of all, the grace to love You and their neighbor.

Amen.

Assistance Needed

Our team is in need of volunteers to bring communion to the homebound on Sunday mornings. If this is something you are interested in and you'd like more information please call the parish office. Thank you!



Soup with the Sisters

The Soup Supper with the Sisters of Mercy is only a few weeks away. We are excited to be hosting this event along with St. Joseph parish in Pewamo. The event will go from **5-7 pm on Saturday, March 7th. We need volunteers to bring a crock pot of soup to this event.** If you are interested in bringing soup or helping in any other way please contact Jill Feldpausch at 989-388-2095. Please join in this opportunity for our parish be exposed to the Sisters in a relaxed, non-structured environment, share a meal and get to know them better.

A variety of soups will be offered, as well as macaroni and cheese for children. The suggested donation for this event is \$5/per person; kids 6 and under free All proceeds will be donated to the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

Westphalia Wildcats 4-H Club

Westphalia Wildcats, a Clinton County 4-H Club is a trapshooting club for residents of Clinton County and surrounding areas. This club specializes in trapshooting. The club activities take place at Oakhill Gun Club at 1900 Pline Road, Portland on Monday evenings at 6pm.

Students must be 12 years of age as of Jan 1, 2020. A fee of \$20 will be collected to complete the registration process. Members need to attend a minimum of 8 weeks of practice. Please contact Mike Schmitz (989-587-6682) or Terry Smith (517-242-3259) for more details.

Register online at <https://mi.4honline.com/>. Registration deadline is April 1.

Principal of Most Holy Trinity School
Anne Hufnagel—AnneH@mhtparish.com

By connecting our Catholic faith to life, we at Most Holy Trinity School seek to fulfill Christ's mandate to proclaim the Gospel, restore all things in Him, strive to lead our students to the Truth for the betterment of this world and prepare them for the age to come.

Upcoming Events:

Mon., Feb. 17	No School/Presidents' Day
Tues., Feb. 18	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Thurs, Feb. 20	Mass @ Hazel Findlay (3 rd /4 th Gr.)
Weds., Feb. 26	Mass @ 8:15 a.m./Ash Wednesday
Mon., Mar. 2	Prospective Parent Night @ 7 p.m.

New Parent Night: On Monday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. any parents interested in learning more about Most Holy Trinity School are welcome to attend an information night. This meeting is both an opportunity to learn more about us and to give you information needed if your child will be attending next year.

NWEA: Our 2nd and final NWEA MAP testing window will begin on Monday, February 24. The testing window will be open until March 20.

Closed Doors: *Sometimes God closes doors because it's time to MOVE forward. He knows you won't move unless your circumstances force you. Trust the transition. God's got you!!* - Unknown

Thank you

The family of **Richard Rodgers** would like to express our heartfelt thanks to each & everyone of you who truly loved us throughout Richard's illness & his untimely passing.

A special thank you to Fr Mathias Thelen, Fr Steve Mattson, the priests & seminarian Josh Luttig who assisted at mass & also those who had blessed him; Adam, Becky, Jill, Kayla, the choir, the volunteers & all of their holy helpers; the VFW & K of C; the prayers, donations, meals, gifts, visits, masses, encouraging words & cards; as well as the memorials offered on behalf of Richard to the K of C & MHT Education Trust Fund.

May God continue to bless you & your loved ones.



Fowler Varsity Baseball will host a euchre tournament on Sat., Feb. 29th at 1pm at the Fowler VFW Hall. Cost is \$40 per 2 person team. Cash prizes for top teams. Food/snacks included, drawings for additional prizes. To enter call/text Glenn Pung 989-292-0134. Thanks for supporting Fowler Baseball.

Fowler Fireman Breakfast



Fowler Fire Department is hosting their annual all-you-can-eat breakfast Sunday, March 1st at the Activity Center. Breakfast is served from 8 - noon. Cost is \$8.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for age 6-13, 5 & under are free.



Update on our seminarians in Rome

One of the great opportunities that the college seminarians have is to study in Rome and Vatican City for a semester. Josh and Randy arrived last week in Rome and have been busy already visiting some of the churches and taking classes. I hope to have them write something to share of their experiences. Please pray for their time there. Brian will be going for a semester to Rome in the Fall.

High School Pro-Life Speech Contest

Contest is open to high school students in grades 9 -12
WIN: 1st place - \$500; 2nd place - \$300; 3rd place - \$200
 Make a 5-7 minute presentation before a panel of Judges
 ~ Abortion ~ Black Genocide ~ U 486 Pill
 ~ Abortion & Sex Trafficking ~ Planned Parenthood

Contest Date: Saturday, March 21 at 10 AM

Grace Presbyterian Church 1084 N Irish Rd., Davison, MI

Contact us for an application or download at our website:

Flint Right to Life & Black Americans for Life

G-4482 N. Genesee Road, Unit C, Flint, Michigan 48506

Phone: (810) 250-0218; Email: FlintRTL@att.net

Entry Deadline: March 16, 2020



The rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday mass. The intention for this week is to pray for those who have continual difficulties in life. May the Lord find beautiful ways to offer them comfort and peace.



Lenten Fish Dinners Feb. 28th and March 13th

Most Holy Trinity will be serving fish dinners from 4-7pm at the Activity Center on February 28th and March 13th. 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 available for \$10 each. Dinner includes baked and deep fried fish, scalloped and baked potatoes, macaroni and cheese, salad bar, and dessert.

Volunteers are needed to work at the Lenten Fish Dinners on February 28th and March 13th. Please sign-up with Sign-up Genius at the MHT website or call Dave Vincent at 989-780-0541. Feel free to sign up for both dates. The success of the fish fries depends on the help and support of the community. Please support this fundraiser for the Christian Mothers and Knights of Columbus. Thank you.

**Director of Youth Ministry
Corey Luna - mhtyouthcorey@gmail.com.**

Mission Wixom: March 6-8, 2020

At the Mission this year, we have so much to look forward to experiencing! There will be amazing speakers, adoration, confession and so much more! This retreat is always really special and is very spirit lead, so please consider coming! We have 35 spots for this retreat so secure your spot now by sending the permission slip (available on the Mission page on our parish website) and \$85 in to the parish office!



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Mon., March 2, St. Mary Parish Hall

Please join us for the March blood drive Mon., March 2 from 1:00-6:45 pm, St. Mary Parish Hall, Westphalia. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Westphalia) or call 1-800-REDCROSS. Walk-in donors are always welcome.

~Christian Mothers/Women's Guild & Knights of Columbus



Christian Mothers and Women's Breakfast

Held on March 15th following 8:30 mass in the Activity Center. Come and enjoy breakfast, fellowship, learn and laugh with our featured speaker Katie Sciba. Katie is a Catholic wife, mother, speaker, writer, and blogger. Katie lives with her family in Omaha Nebraska and she is a six-time Catholic Press Award-winning columnist presently writing for The Catholic Telegraph in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. She has traveled across the map offering keynotes and retreats to bring the hope (and humor) of Christ to audiences. This event is open to ALL women and breakfast will be provided free of charge. Please contact Melissa Spitzley to RSVP at melissaspitzley@hotmail.com or (989) 593-2685.

Check out more about Katie at www.catholicwife.net

The next Christian Mother and Women's Organization meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8th between the 8:30 and 10:30 am mass. We will meet in the MHT School Conference Room and plan for the upcoming breakfast and fish fry.

Sponsor of the Week

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

Mathews Elevators Co.



Third Publication

Dane Schafer & Alissa Schafer

Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering, especially: Ardith Graham, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Julie Wieber Schafer, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Dick Rehmann, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt, Frank Hufnagel, Marie Weber, Jenine Kloeckner, Jennifer Ledger, Josiah Ledger, Jordy Wohlscheid, Jennifer Grace Schrauben, Janet Simon, Dale Young, Richard Bushamp, Therese Kramer, Christopher Martin, Theresa Heeg, Jeff Wadell, Charles Wadell, Chuck Welch, Jeanne Alaga, Milo Platte, Timothy D. Thelen, Marilyn Dixon, Carolee Smith, Charles Miller, Father Den Morrow, Gary Schueller, Ray Hamilton, Ralph Feldpausch, Dane VanElls, Arlene McCausey, Elaine Kramer, Brian Ritter, Marcy Haywood, Fred Wilson, and a private intention.

Please contact the office to add or remove a 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 8 & 9 Collection \$11,978.00

Special Collections

Capitol Improvements..... \$5.00
 Newspapers \$7.00
 Solemnity of Mary \$10.00
 ETF \$5.00
 Black & Indian Mission \$90.00

Monthly Finance Report For January

Sunday Collection-All Sources \$51,507.33
 Sunday Collections-Year to Date- \$406,149.22
 Sunday Collections- FY 19 Budget- \$675,000.00
 Percentage Collected Through January-..... 60.17%

Scripture Readings for the Week of February 16, 2020

Monday Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 8:27-33
Friday Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 8:34—9:1



MASSES FOR THIS WEEK



Monday - February 17

7:00 p.m. + Joe, Bill, & Herm Schafer & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Tuesday - February 18

8:15 a.m. + Tony Thelen (1st Anniversary)

Wednesday - February 19

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

7:00 p.m. + Jerome Weber & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Thursday - February 20

8:15 a.m. + Celeste Heckman

Friday - February 21

8:15 a.m. + John Duda & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Saturday - February 22

1:00 p.m. **Wedding of Dane Schafer & Alissa Schafer**

4:30p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday - February 23

8:30 a.m. + Ben Platte

10:30 a.m. + Roman Arens & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY 22 & 23

4:30 p.m. - Larry Jandernoa, Gerry Arens, Craig Arens, Luke Thelen

8:30 a.m. - Bill Armbrustmacher, Tom O'Rourke, Bruce Schafer, Dean Schrauben

10:30 a.m. - Joe Theis, Terry Theis, Tyler Theis, Jarud Koenigsknecht

SERVERS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Jonah Thelen, Gavin Klein, & Eli Thelen

Tues., 8:15 a.m. - MHT School Volunteers

Weds., 7:00 p.m. - Quinten, Nate & Kara Esch

Thurs., 8:15 a.m. - Adult Volunteer

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

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY 22 & 23

4:30 p.m. - Collin Feldpausch, Gavin Klein, Volunteers

8:30 a.m. - Caiden & Chase Pung, Jack Schafer, Drew Armbrustmacher

10:30 a.m. - Logan & Keegan Klein, Tony Piggott, Ben Schafer

Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard
fr.dennis@hotmail.com

Office Hours - 8am-noon, 1-3pm
 Parish Office - 593-2162

Email: office@mhtparish.com

MHT School - 593-2616

Email: school@mhtparish.com