

— MOST HOLY TRINITY —

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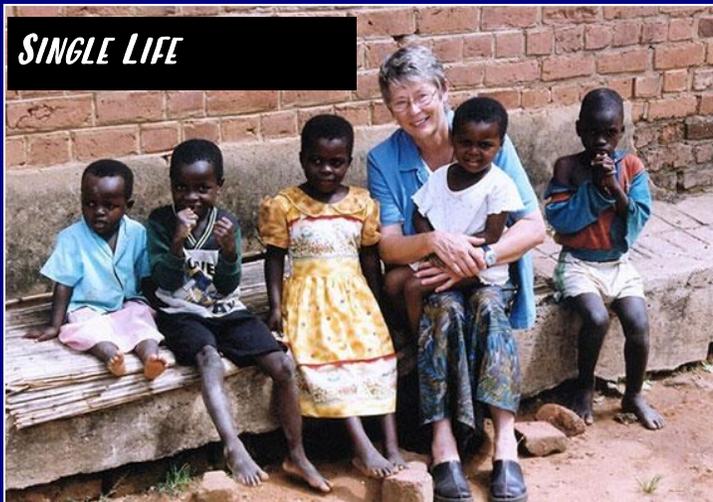


PRIESTHOOD

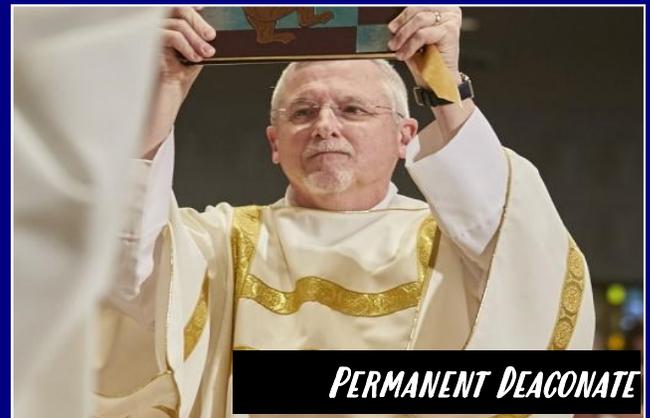
= WORLD DAY FOR VOCATIONS =

"ENTERING INTO GOD'S WILL DOES NOT CRUSH OR DESTROY A PERSON, BUT INSTEAD LEADS TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE DEEPEST TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES."

-POPE BENEDICT XI



SINGLE LIFE



PERMANENT DEACONATE



CONSECRATED LIFE



MARRIAGE



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear friends in Christ,

Last Sunday was Good Shepherd Sunday and it was also World Vocations Sunday. But we wanted to focus on our young people who made their First Holy Communion, so we dedicated the bulletin to them. So, even though we're a little late, I still wanted to reflect on the gift of vocations. So better late than never...

"God has a definite life-plan for every human person, girding him/her, visibly or invisibly, for some exact thing, which it will be the true significance and glory of his life to have accomplished."

The Catholic Church looks at vocation as something that affects all of us, and a specific one which we are also called to: marriage, consecrated life (religious brothers and sisters), single life and priesthood.

The first call – the call that affects us all

Before we speak about any specific calling, we have to recognize that the first call we all receive is through baptism, and that is the call to holiness. Our particular calling (priesthood, marriage, etc.) is the vehicle or mean through which we become holy, not vice versa. What this also means is that everyone, no matter which specific call they have received, is capable of becoming holy. People

used to think that only priests and religious could be holy. Not so!

"All vocations are intended by God to manifest His love in the world." Thomas Merton, *No Man Is an Island*

Our particular vocation is the expression, the fruit of our overall vocation to be holy. We can even say that there are unique "calls" or vocations within our particular vocation. For example, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was a consecrated sister before she founded the Missionaries of Charity. She said that she received "a call within a call," in that she knew she was called to consecrated life, but how that was lived out, she only discovered later as the Lord revealed it to her. We can see this in all vocations, married couples who feel the call to adopt or to become foster parents; single people who sense the call to be missionaries; those discerning priesthood sensing a call to a religious community or to the Diocesan priesthood.

Lastly, each vocation requires some sacrifice to die to self. We hear this in the marriage vows: "in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad..." Perhaps this is the true meaning of vocation. Through a sacrificial gift of ourselves, we imitate Christ, and learn the path to holiness.

I've asked Jason and Cari Smith to share with us this weekend about their vocation to marriage.

God bless, Fr. Dennis



Jason and I, now approaching our 23rd wedding anniversary, have had many opportunities to experience the "worse, poorer, and sickness" portion of our wedding vows. While no one can make me laugh harder than he can, turns out no one has been able to make me more angry, resulting in statements and actions of which I am ashamed. We've made

questionable financial decisions that took difficult conversations and some hard work to overcome. The entire family also had the stomach flu once, which now makes us laugh, but at the time made us question why we made so many people and amazed us at the sheer volume of bodily fluids we could collectively produce. Romance and intimacy are not the same thing.

As life has happened, I have been unable to stay on my best behavior in marriage. The on-and-on-ness of life together has given Jay and I the opportunity to know each other with a deep intimacy. I repeatedly need to face up to my selfishness, my control issues, and my tone of voice during arguments. It is through some counseling, Amazing Grace, and divine intervention we have learned to fight more fairly, accept the other as they are, and depend on God more than each other.

I have had the blessing of knowing many people who have been married for 30, 40 and 50 or more years. They told me it was possible, with some hard work, to know a love so deep and so good that it gave one a glimpse of the love of the Good Lord himself. They weren't kidding about the hard work part. But they also weren't kidding about the goodness and joy that comes from this Vocation. Jay loves all of me, even during the "worse, poorer, and sickness" portion of life, while always encouraging me to be the best version of myself. He pushes me to use the gifts I've been given, love the people around me, and encourage others to do the same. I try to do the same for him. To be truly known and to be truly loved is the promise of Heaven. Through the love Jay has for me, I'm getting a glimpse of just how much God loves me - and I want more of that deep and abiding love.

During our marriage preparation and throughout the early years of marriage there were people who must have told us that marriage was meant to help us both grow to be saints. Honestly, I'm not sure that was a goal for either of us early on, but we have grown to have a deeper understanding of that call as the years have gone on. Our love for each other is imperfect, and no one will accuse either of us of being saints yet, but the journey toward a more perfect love for each other and our family, I hope, will bring us to the perfect love of the Father.

Please pray for us and for all of those in our parish who have been called to the Vocation of Marriage.



THE CHRISTIAN MOTHERS ARE HOSTING A RECEPTION FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ON SUNDAY, MAY 22 AFTER 8:30AM MASS IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR. Mass in the Church at 8:15am Military Service at the Cemetery at 11:30am

PLEASE NOTE: Blessed candles have gone up to \$7/each due to a cost increase from the supplier. Also; please DO NOT move the candles from their places in the votive candle stands, as this is a fire hazard. Thank you!

ATTENTION: Please DO NOT water the Easter flowers or arrangements, as we already have someone designated to do this. Thank you!

"Preach the Truth as if you had a million voices. It is silence that kills the world." -St. Catherine of Siena

Weekday Rosary The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15am weekday Masses. This week, we pray Your divine protection over our Supreme Court Justices. Give them strength & courage to do what is right & overturn Roe vs. Wade.

SERVICE OPERTUNITY! Meals on Wheels Delivery is looking for a new leader for the Fowler area. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Helen Thelen at (989)593-2662. Thank you and God Bless! If you feel the Lord has been calling you to minister to the homebound/elderly, this is a wonderful organization!

Franciscan Life Process Center UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Introduction to NFP Franciscan Life Process Center - Grand Rapids Campus 654 Davis Avenue Northwest, 3rd Floor, Grand Rapids, MI. This one-time introductory session will cover the basics of how NFP works and will highlight the differences between methods to help you choose which method will work best for you. https://introtonfp.eventbrite.com

May 23 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Volunteer Day: Getting Ready to Grow Franciscan Life Process Center - Lowell Campus 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell, MI Love to garden? Like to get your hands in the soil?

June 13 @ 9:00 am - June 15 @ 12:00 pm Pioneer Days Franciscan Life Process Center 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI. What was life like for the early settlers? What skills did they possess to survive in their new homeland? Join Sister Mary Paul Moller, FSE as she leads children ages 8 - 12 in experiencing some of the activities of our early settlers. Learn how to pan for gold, make soap, go berry picking,

June 16 @ 9:00 am - June 17 @ 4:00 pm William Mancuso – Work Small & Often Workshop Franciscan Life Process Center 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI. Wouldn't you love to paint and draw more? But who's got time? This workshop will be about making time for sketching and drawing when it feels like there is no time by working smaller, and using a travel kit that can fit in a pocket, purse, shoulder bag, etc.. The cost of this workshop is \$209

June 21 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Volunteer Day: First Days of Summer Franciscan Life Process Center - Lowell Campus 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell, MI. The flowers are blooming, but so are the weeds! Can you help us?



- Sponsor of the Week - Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish. CLOVER CARPET CLEANING

MHT School - Connecting faith to Life Anne Hufnagel, Principal

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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Tues., May 17	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Mon., May 23	8 th Grade Trip
Tues., May 24	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Weds., May 25	8 th Grade Graduation @ 7:00pm
Fri., May 27	11:30 Dismissal
Mon., May 30	No School/Memorial Day
Tues., May 31	School Wide Field Trip – Lansing Lugnuts' Game
Thurs., June 2	MHT School End of Year Celebration/11:30 Dismissal
Fri., June 3	Last Day of School/ 11:30 Dismissal

School Registration: Information regarding tuition rates and registration for next school year has been sent out. If you haven't received an email with more information, please contact the school office (989-593-2616). You can also use this QR code to access the school registration link. Currently there are 58 students registered for the 2022/23 school year, including 10 incoming first graders. We are already at 68% of our projected enrollment.



MAPS testing: Students in grades 2 – 8 will be taking their final MAPS test for this school year through May 20.

School Field Trip: This year our end of year field trip will be a trip to Lansing's Jackson Field on Tuesday, May 31, for a Lugnuts' baseball game.

Farm Bureau Essay: MHT School is extremely excited to announce that Michaela Spitzley (pictured), daughter of Brian & Holly Spitzley has been awarded first place in the 2021-22 America & Me Essay Contest. Michaela's essay entitled "Footprints" was the top essay in the entire state of Michigan. She is the first of our students to ever receive such an honor. Her essay can be found on the Farm Bureau Insurance website (below). She will be recognized for her accomplishment during pre-game ceremonies at the Lansing Lugnuts' game on Tuesday, May 31.



Congratulations Michaela!!

Michaela's essay "Footprints":

<https://www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com/About Us/Community Engagement and Social Responsibility/America and Me/My Personal Michigan Hero/>

End of Year Celebration: This year's end of the year celebration will start during the school day with some fun activities for the students. Students will begin the lunch line at 11:00, followed by families coming in at 11:30. The finale

event will be a short color run/walk for students and any other family members who would like to participate. Special guests will include all incoming new students and their families. Note: this is taking place on Thursday not on the last day of school. Friday we will celebrate Mass together one last time for the school year. Students will wrap things up with their teachers and clean out their lockers, desks, etc.

God's Mercy: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." – Colossians 3:12



MHT SCRIP SUMMER ORDER SCHEDULE

Scrip will be ordered on the **First Monday** of each month this summer (unless Monday is a Holiday then it will be Tuesday).

The dates orders will be placed on are:

June 6th	July 5th	Aug. 1st	Sept 6th
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Please turn order form into the mailbox outside of Rectory or put it in the Weekend Collection basket before the due date. "Scrip on Hand" can be picked up at MHT School. Please call the school and arrange a pickup day and time.

- Thank You! -

On behalf of the Alphonse Thelen family, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who helped us during the time of Alphonse's passing into Heaven. A special thank you to Father Mark Thelen and Father Dennis for concelebrating the Mass, the musicians, the MHT staff, the funeral dinner crew, the many hospice workers and caregivers, and Smith Family Funeral Home. We couldn't have done it without you. We would also like to thank everyone that took time out of their day to stop by, provide food, offer words of comfort, prayers, and stories. We are incredibly grateful to each of you. In lieu of thank you notes, a mass will be celebrated for your intentions.

Forever in our hearts,
The Family of Alphonse Thelen

- Wedding Banns -



First Publication

Katherine Cole, daughter of Brian Cole & Kathryn Johnson

Tyler Klein, son of Dave & Amy Klein

Third Publication

Savannah Boak & Grant Hengesbach

- Baptisms -



Hazel Marie Simon, daughter of Michael & Brittany (Smith) Simon

We Welcome **Hazel** to our parish family!

- Our Parish Stewardship -

God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity

May 7 & 8 Collection	\$ 10,037.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 2,456.83
Special Collections	
ETF.....	\$ 95.00
Newspapers	\$ 90.00
Cemetery Care	\$ 102.00

DIOCESAN SERVICE APPEAL 2022

50% of contributions over our goal will be returned to the Parish.

We have currently raised **\$33,483.00**

(approx. 46% of our parish goal)

Our parish goal is **\$72,170**

Envelopes are available in the entrances of Church or the parish office.

Thank you for your generosity!



- MASSES THIS WEEK -

Monday - May 16

7:00pm Bob Bierstetel, Including Steve & Brian

Tuesday - May 17

8:15am Jerome & Genevieve Thelen & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Wednesday - May 18

5:45am **Eucharistic Adoration**
6:00pm **Eucharistic Adoration**
7:00pm Leon Simon & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Thursday - May 19

8:15am Reynold Goerge (5th Ann.) & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Friday - May 20

8:15am Helen & Paul Fox & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Saturday - May 21

1:00pm Wedding of Savannah Boak & Grant Hengesbach
3:30pm **Confession in Server Sacristy**
4:30pm Amy Bissell

Sunday - May 22

8:30am People of the Parish
10:30am Carly & Jacklynn Miller, Including Ken Thelen & Kerri Tipps

May 16 - 22

Servers this Week

Monday - 7:00pm	Leah & Jonah Thelen
Tuesday - 8:15am	MHT Students
Wednesday - 7:00pm	Keegan Klein, Volunteer Needed
Thursday - 8:15am	Sacristan
Friday - 8:15am	Sacristan
Saturday - 4:30pm	Logan & Andrew Platte
Sunday - 8:30am	Nate & Quinten Esch
Sunday - 10:30am	Tristan, Quentin & Kaedyn Smith

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion			
May 21 & 22	Reader		Ushers
Saturday - 4:30pm	Carol Piggott	3 Volunteers Needed	Gerry Arens, Chris Conner, Gary Weber, Craig Arens
Sunday - 8:30am	Lyle Simon	Susie Koenigsnecht, Ronn Thelen, Ralph Feldpausch, Anne Hufnagel	Janey Myers, Adam Platte, Dean Platte, Laurie Platte
Sunday - 10:30am	Jason Smith	Jason Smith, Tricia Goerge, Tonya McCarty	John Rademacher, Gene Messer, Hilary Stump, Dan Pung