



Parish Priest:

Fr. Douglas Braun

Newsletter Editor:

Liz Barnes, Parish Secretary

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October 2020

News from The Heart



Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most holy Heart of Jesus,
fountain of every blessing,
I adore You, I love You,
and with a lively sorrow
for my sins, I offer You
this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient,
pure and wholly obedient
to Your will.

Grant, good Jesus, that
I may live in You and for You.
Protect me in the midst of
danger; comfort me in my
afflictions; give me health of
body, assistance in my
temporal needs.

Your blessing on all that I do
and the grace of a holy death.
Amen.

Happenings in our Parish

Religious Ed classes began on Wednesday, October 7. Classes are held from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thank you to the parents and their children that are participating in the program, and thank you to Sacred Heart's Catechists:

Judy Bosma—1st grade

Julie Cierlak—2nd grade

Gabrielle Powell—3rd grade

Tracy Powell—4th/5th grades

Ken Ford—6th/7th grades

Karen Edens—Director of Religious Education

NOVEMBER 2020 MASS/CALENDAR INFORMATION:

NO MASS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

NO MASS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS

AT ST. THOMAS AT 6:00 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

AT SACRED HEART AT 9:00 A.M.

NO MASS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 26 & NOVEMBER 27



Born into Eternal Life:

Thomas Cloud, 82 years, on August 31, 2020

Kay Wingett, 85 years, on September 14, 2020

June Backer, 96 years, on October 3, 2020

James Robinson, 85 years, on October 10, 2020

Eternal rest grant unto them oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls rest in heavenly peace.



- 2nd Nives Poldrugo-
Robotham
Joanne Stoneburner
- 3rd Tom Sanocki
- 4th Marilyn Boles
Susie Ketchum
Gavin LaGuire
- 5th Marlene Miller
- 6th Martha Sklenar
Linda Warner
Judy Yagerlener
- 7th Gayle Mikos
- 8th Steve Gabris
- 9th Gloria Harja
Jean Markham
Rodney Paulin
- 10th Karen Durgan
- 11th John Mastee
Shawn Stefanich
- 13th Ross Sanford
- 14th Joe Biksacky
Kendall Stoneburner

October Birthday Blessings

- 16th Ann Vukits
- 17th J.J. Bays
- 19th Kathy Bertoia
Courtney Langlois
- 21st Bernie Brown
Velma Williams-Shea
- 23rd Edric DuBois-Quail
Mark Edens
- 25th William Stratton
- 26th Amy Barnes
Donna Esch
- 27th Janet Dreger
Mary Tomaras
- 28th Tim Gradisher
Joan Sparrow
- 29th Missy Crossno
- 30th Jared Bays
Amanda Langlois
Pam Sowa
Brenda Stratton
- 31st Larry Bozik

If your birthday is incorrect, or was missed,
please call the office.



Happy Birthday





DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

October 5, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

God calls us to be in relationship with one another. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.” (Acts 2:42-44) These words remind us of the importance of the Christian community. It is the place where we are nourished by Word and Sacrament.

Therefore, I am happy to announce the ability to open our churches in the diocese more widely. I have provided guidance to our pastors allowing them to admit to Mass the number of people they are able to safely accommodate while maintaining proper social distancing.

We have been able to safely and effectively return to public Masses for the last four months. Within this timeframe and across our 80 parishes, we are aware of only five people who have tested positive for COVID-19 after attending Mass. We have no reason to believe that any of these cases were a result of transmission at a parish. To safely maintain public Masses with an increased seating capacity, parishioners need to continue to follow our guidelines including wearing a face covering, practicing social distancing, and frequently washing their hands. Parishes will continue to ensure that high-touch surfaces are disinfected after every liturgy.

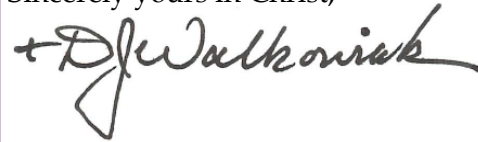
It is good that more of you will now be able to attend Mass. I also realize, however, that by maintaining proper social distancing, our churches still face some occupancy restrictions. I am extending the dispensation for all Catholics within the territory of the Diocese of Grand Rapids from their obligation of attending Sunday Mass through November 23 to address this concern.

I grant this dispensation to ensure that anyone who needs to stay home to protect the common good can do so in good conscience. If you are homebound, please contact your parish to inquire about the ability to have Communion brought to you. Mass will continue to be televised at 10 a.m. Sunday on FOX 17 and livestreamed on the diocesan website (grdiocese.org) and Facebook page ([Diocese of Grand Rapids](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofGrandRapids)).

Bishop's Letter continued:

Those who are able to attend Mass should return, remembering that our physical presence at the Eucharistic table is irreplaceable. While this dispensation is in effect, all baptized Catholics are reminded of their obligation to keep the Lord's Day holy. We entrust our prayers to the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of those who suffer illness. Please continue to check the diocesan website: <http://bit.ly/GRdioceseCOVID19Updates> and social media for the latest information on our COVID-19 response.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids



From the Desk of the Facility Maintenance Manager



Dear Parishioners,

Things are moving quickly. In my last article I mentioned a few projects that were about to be worked on. The first one is the hot water return line. This line has been giving us trouble for a while. It has had multiple repairs and pretty much runs through all the building. The worst sections have been in the tunnel system. I am glad to say that all the hot water return pipes in the tunnel have been replaced and we should have no more leaks.

Some of you may not have noticed but the weather is changing, and it is the in-between time for the heating and cooling season, so please dress appropriately. I want everyone comfortable and we all have a different thermostat internally. I have run the tests on the boiler in both the school and the church. There was only one minor issue with one of the pumps to one of the zones. I have replaced the motor mounts and the coupling, and all seems to be ok. We should be all set for the upcoming heating season.

The leaf season is about to begin, and I will be getting out the big box for the truck. I hope that they all fall in one week, but I know that is not going to be the case. Last year I was plowing snow with a truck full of leaves and I hope that will not happen again. They tend to have a funky smell after a while.

The sprinkler system seemed to have more troubles than any other year. I eventually figured out that the old timer had reached its life expectancy. The unit was causing back pressure in the pipes and causing some breaks. On a positive note, the basement floor is cleaner than it has ever been. This year was the first year we had to call an animal control specialist. After many years of battle with the moles it was decided that to win the war, we would need a little help. I am glad to say that as of today we have dispatched nine moles. It just goes to show how sweet our grass must be here at Sacred Heart. I would like to thank the grounds committee for another successful year. It is because of their hard work that the areas around the church and garden look so good.

This month I do not have any tales of excitement like last month. It has been a whirlwind trying to tie up all the loose ends and start getting all the equipment ready, so I will be brief this month. In closing I will end as always; I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful Parish. May God bless and keep all of you safe.

Your Brother in Christ,
Garret A. Kelenske



October 2020

Remember how at the beginning of this year, 2020, we were looking forward to seeing things with a 20/20 vision? Looks a little blurry now, doesn't it with the pandemic, with the renewal of the desire for a more just existence for those who have experienced racism even after the supposed gains of the 60's, with the economic upheaval of many lives where jobs have been lost, where businesses have closed and failed because of the shut down, with the catastrophic fires of California and Oregon, the hurricanes Laura and Sally, and weather events over the whole world that make us wonder what on earth is happening. With our less than 20/20 vision, we pray for God's saving and loving hand for us all.

Summer is officially over as you read this since the autumnal equinox was September 22. This past summer is probably not one that we will really want to remember, yet we always will since it carried us into a fall of a new normal, of mask wearing, of baseball, football, basketball and a whole bevy of sporting events without fans in the stands, of an election year in full swing and candidates swinging at each other right and left. Hardly a time of love and respect for those who are running for office. How have we allowed our election process to become so base and vile?

In the midst of it all, life goes on, and I hope that you and I are able to try to make the best of it rather than become deluged by the worst of it. There is some hope. This was one of the best summer seasons for our garden, and we were able to restock the canning shelves and the freezers with good things from the garden after that time of "stay at home" living when supplies were getting used right and left. That has been a blessing.

In the midst of it all, a grandson graduated from high school, joined the National Guard, and will begin college with a focus of music, on the tuba, and on brass in general. It is exciting to see him begin these new stages of life, to see his commencement in the adult world and take note that he accepts the responsibility that comes with that world. That, too, is a blessing.

In the midst of it all, the two grandsons have been available to work with grandma and grandpa getting some necessary projects done around their place: tearing out old steps and building a new front step to their home, learning to follow a plan of renovation and building, cutting up firewood and learning to operate the chain saws, and just being available to assist their grandparents. What a blessing that is.

In the midst of it all, we have learned that we all need each other, that we sometimes need to ask others for help, that receiving a little help is truly a blessing that we all need at some point in our lives. And we learn to be thankful for even the smallest gifts of help and assistance. This, too, is a blessing.

As we continue in this less than perfect 2020, we need to learn to count as many blessings as we can, and to be ever grateful for them all:

Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Thank you Lord, Amen.



October, being the Month of the Rosary, is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.