February 23, 2014

COUPLES CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Engaged couples to couples married close to 50 years were in attendance!
Attempting to love our enemies is challenging. Is it even possible? The Lord of the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.
Worship

In our first reading, God cautions us not to take revenge or harbor grudges. He sees danger beyond any injustice we’ve suffered: “Do not incur sin because of him.”

The Responsorial Psalm tells us of God’s response to our sinfulness. When we sincerely repent of sinful thoughts and actions, God is waiting and compassionate. The meaning of the word compassion in Hebrew relates to the bond between a mother and a child in her womb. God is waiting, and is “slow to anger, abounding in kindness.”

Every Greek and Roman city had numerous temples to many gods. In the second reading, Paul tells the Corinthians that God is now especially present in a new way, that each believer is a temple of God. So the believer does not have to scurry about from building to building looking for God. When you are seeking holiness, meditate on the presence of God in your heart, because you belong to Christ and Christ to God.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus quotes the law of the time: “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” Compared to the revenge entertainment we have now, this sounds moderate. In the Old Testament context, it was a law to moderate violence, to prevent excessive retaliation. Jesus, as we see, demands more. He tells us not to retaliate, but rather, to love our enemies. Note that this rule is intended for any community—even one surrounded by bitter enemies. In spite of all temptation to seek revenge, in the grace of the Holy Spirit, the early Church discovered the capacity to forgive. Our own capacity to likewise forgive is the measure of our willingness to accept Christ’s grace helping us to forgive all in his Father’s name. (Taken from At Home with the Word.)

Readings for March 2, 2014
Isaiah 49:14-15
Psalm 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD
Weekend of February 23rd
8:30 a.m.—Karyn Milligan
10:30 a.m.—Chris & Cindy Maldonado
Weekend of March 2nd
8:30—Denise VandenBossche
10:30—Lisa Funke

ALTAR LINEN SCHEDULE
02-23-14—Loretta Yelanich
03-02-14—Brigitte Todd

ADORATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Thursday
9 a.m.—7 p.m.

We have people committed to each hour but anyone is welcome to come during any hour. There must always be someone in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament while it is exposed.

BRING IN YOUR OLD PALMS

Please bring in to me your old palms so I can burn them to use as ashes for Ash Wednesday. You can leave them in the basket next to the table near the church doors. I ask that you bring them in before February 25th to give me enough time to burn all of them.

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS
These wonderful resources for Lent will again be available beginning next weekend. The 40 days of Lent are not literally forty, but the number evokes the use of all other uses of “40” in the Scriptures. For 40 days, Jesus fasted and prepared to proclaim the Good News. Long before Jesus, Moses and Elijah had their 40 day fasts. It rained on earth and on Noah’s Ark for 40 days, and the earth had a new beginning. For 40 years, the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness toward the Promised Land. In the Bible, the number 40 means that something significant is taking place. We enter Lent with ashes on our heads, and we fast. We give alms, finding ways to share what we have of our time and our goods. In these ways, we remember our Baptism and try to grow more deeply in the Christian life.

Let the sun shine!
Julie
Christian Service

“Do you not know, that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

What a beautiful thought as we begin to prepare ourselves for Lent. The readings from the last few weeks are all about who we are, how we are all members of the same community, and giving us the behavior in which to live by. Being a creation of God and made in his likeness gives us the hope of and insight into our life after death.

How does one begin to prepare for the coming of Lent? The readings from this weekend tell us to set our minds to make the changes we need to truly understand the meaning of sacrifice. We are encouraged to love and not hate, and to forgive and not seek vengeance or bear a grudge. Spend time in meditative prayer to address the matters at hand in your life that are keeping you from receiving the full graces of the Lord. After all, they are there for all of us to receive. Perhaps start with the simple point of asking God for his grace and help in the matters that are most important to you.

In the coming weeks there will be plenty of opportunity to get into the “spirit” of Lent. Our little black books will be out, the Rice Bowls will be on the table, changes in our liturgy will be happening, OCEF Food Distribution will be in the preparation stages, and the Lenten Soup dinner will take place. There are so many other opportunities coming to help us prepare the way of the Lord and ourselves. However you choose to observe Lent, make it a deeply personal decision and take the time to examine your heart and mind to make the most of this special season. It is a perfect time to reflect on how we live and how our actions impact more lives than just our own. The three traditional Lenten practices of fasting, praying, and almsgiving present to us an opportunity to ask ourselves how much we have and what we truly need to live. While we still have a few weeks before the start of Lent, now is the perfect time to get together with your loved ones, whether they are family or friends, and decide how we can best honor our Lord during the season of Lent.

“SAVE THE DATE”

MARCH DATES:

Quilt Group Meeting in Solanus Hall, Saturday, March 1st and 15th.

OCEF General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, March 5th – 6:30 P.M.

Christian Service Meeting: Wednesday, March 12th – 5:30 P.M.

Start saving your clothes:
St. Vincent DePaul’s truck will be here the weekend of March 14th.

Christian Service will be leading Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 28th at 7:00 P.M.

LENTEN SOUP DINNER DATE HAS BEEN SET:
Come join us on Sunday, March 23rd at 4:00 P.M. Our Speaker will be Elizabeth Kelly, Executive Director of Hope Warming Center.

Please come and join us for all the above. We welcome all and love seeing new faces!!

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY***

Not only will Annette Thompson, our wonderful DRE, be celebrating her birthday on March 19th, but she and Dean are in full preparation waiting for their first grandchild. I am sure there will be a big announcement from Annette and Dean soon. Congratulations all around!

Metro Jazz Voices at Manresa

Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills invites you to the last of its 2013-14 concerts on Sunday, March 2, starting at 3:00 p.m. Carl Cafagna’s Metro Jazz Voices will render jazz standards and popular favorites in sophisticated four-part harmony, both a cappella and backed by a superb rhythm trio. MJV features selections from all eras with a comfortable yet fascinating sound. Afterglow follows. For info and tickets, phone 248-644-4933 or visit www.manresa-sj.org

St. Mary’s Retreat House

March 7-9, 2014

Christopher Leadership Weekend Course

“Love of people for the love of God is an essential quality of a true leader.” – Father James Keller, M.M.

The Christopher Leadership Course for Adults encompasses the spirit and principles of The Christophers organization founded by Father Keller in 1945. The course was given its present form by Father Thomas J. Bresnahan of Detroit, Michigan over 60 years ago. Known also as the Gabriel Richard Leadership Course for many years, this program helps people improve speaking skills, foster positive attitudes and build self-confidence.

The mission of The Christophers is to encourage people of all ages, and from all walks of life, to use their God-given talents to make a positive difference in the world. The mission is best expressed in The Christophers’ motto: “It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.”

Registration Fee (includes course materials, meals & lodging): $195 dollars

Toll-free: 1-888-298-4050 or online at www.christophers.org

Local Coordinator: Gloria Henry, 248-425-2627

Scrub Cards Available

We still have some Scrub cards available. If you are able to purchase one or two of these cards, it would be very helpful in order for us to deplete our stock. Call the parish office 248-627-3965, ex. 100.

Ace Hardware
Aeropostale
AMC Single Ticket
DSW
Gymboree
Journey’s
Little Ceasars
Lord & Taylor
Office Max
Restaurant.com
Book Club News

Our book club meets monthly and we invite anyone interested to join us. Our next meeting will be on February 24, when we discuss the book, The Lost Wife by Allison Richman.

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are either in Solanus Hall or in the Classroom next to Solanus Hall.

**Courage / EnCourage Ministry**

**Information Sessions**

Are you or a loved one experiencing homosexual attractions and looking for answers? Do you struggle with how to unconditionally love a family member or friend who is living a homosexual lifestyle while remaining true to the teachings of the Catholic Church?

All are invited to come and hear Fr. Paul Check, National Director for the Courage Apostolate, and his team present information about the Catholic Church’s understanding of homosexuality.

Courage / EnCourage is the only Roman Catholic sanctioned support group ministry for same sex attracted persons and their loved ones.

This free information session, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, will take place at Sacred Heart Major Seminary on Saturday March 8, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

You can RSVP today to attend by going to www.aod.org/courage where you will find a registration link. Come and have all your questions answered.

For information call 313-237-5894.

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**Eucharistic Celebrations**

- **Saturday, February 22, 2014**
  - 5:00 p.m. Lori Robb (23rd Anniv.) req. by her Family; Frederick & Mariah Andre req. by Family

- **Sunday, February 23, 2014**
  - 8:30 a.m. People of St. Anne
  - 10:30 a.m. Bernice Kowalski (Birthday Rembr.) req. by Daughter, Martha Phipps; Jocelyne Pare (5th Anniv.) req. by Diane Knowles

- **Monday, February 24, 2014**
  - 7:00 p.m. World Peace

- **Tuesday, February 25, 2014**
  - 9:00 a.m. Mel Wojtalewicz (Birthday Rembr.) req. by Wife, Kathy Wojtalewicz & Children

- **Wednesday, February 26, 2014**
  - 9:00 a.m. Gwen & Shirley Koss req. by Friends

- **Friday, February 28, 2014**
  - 9:00 a.m. Patricia Peiffer (In Honor of their Wedding Anniversary) req. by Husband, Lou Peiffer

- **Saturday, March 1, 2014**
  - 5:00 p.m. Carol Kasper req. by George & Ann Graunke

- **Sunday, March 2, 2014**
  - 8:30 a.m. People of St. Anne
  - 10:30 a.m. Phillip Hund req. by Niece, Kathy Wojtalewicz; Jerry Roughton req. by Friends

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**Please Pray for the Intentions of**


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**Votive Candle Intention**

For the week of February 21-27, 2014

**Bonnie Bone**

(Healing)

req. by Shirley Farner

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**Parish Directory**

**Pastor:** Rev. Gerry Frawley
**Parish Phone:** 248-627-3965
**Parish Fax:** 248-627-5153
**Website:** www.churchofstanne.org

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**Worship Schedule**

**Weekend Masses**

- **Saturday, February 22, 2014**
  - 9:00 AM, 7:00 PM

**Weekday Masses**

- **Monday, February 24, 2014**

**Holy Day Masses**

- **Saturday, February 22, 2014**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

- **Saturday 4:30 PM or by appointment**

**Sacrament of Matrimony**

- **Couples should contact the pastor at least six months before the marriage**

**Infant Baptisms**

- **Parents contact the parish office**

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**St. Anne Pastoral Council**

Beth Echermann 248-627-6706
Jaime Huerta 248-214-0424
Imelda Ingman 248-922-0820
Jim Kelty 734-585-6270
Bob Lee 248-627-2375
John Naren 248-693-3832
Bernie Potts 248-625-3832
Ann Schmid 248-627-6857
Mary Stirling 248-627-5488
Colleen Skornicka 248-627-6857
Robert Tscherniwe 248-814-6813

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**The Mission Statement of St. Anne Parish**

“We, the people of St. Anne, are a growing Catholic Community with various gifts and talents, and we are open to the Spirit among us. Rooting ourselves in The Word of God, we reach out to all in loving service, witnessing, and celebrating the life of Jesus Christ in our midst.”
Church of St. Anne, Ortonville

Stewardship Corner

**Parish Support**
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2013/June 30, 2014

**Weekly Budget**

- **Sunday contribution**: $8,967.00 (100%)
- **February**
  - 1st Sunday, Received: $7,896.00 (88%)
  - 2nd Sunday, Received: $7,760.31 (87%)
  - 3rd Sunday Received: $8,958.00 (100%)
  - 4th Sunday, Received: ...

- **Weekend of February 15/16, 2014**
  - Amount in Envelopes: $5,105.00
  - Electronic Offertory: $2,805.00
  - Loose Monies: $1,048.00

- **Weekly under Budget**: $9.00
- **Yearly under Budget**: $18,374.10

**Automated Electronic Offertory**
We currently have several families enrolled in Automated Electronic Offertory. If you have taken advantage of this type of payment system for your mortgage or utilities, you know the convenience and security an electronic payment can provide. Automated Electronic Offertory is an ideal way for parishioners to serve Christ through their treasures. To sign up, simply stop by the parish office for an enrollment form or contact our bookkeeper, Sheryl Van Fleteren at (248) 627-3965, ext. 106 to have a form mailed to your home.

**Theology of the Body for Teens Training**
Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit and presented at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.
- **April 10th 9-3**: for parents of High School teens, teachers, catechists & those working with the youth.
- **April 11th 9-3**: for parents of Middle School teens, teachers, catechists and those working with youth.

Flyers are on the bulletin board in Solanus Hall.

- Madonna University is hosting a “Respect for Life” event on Saturday April 12th 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Flyer on bulletin board also.

**Pope Francis speaks to our Youth:**
“...It is the Resurrection that gives us the greatest hope, because it opens our lives and the life of the world to the eternal future of God, to full happiness.” Let us focus on making decisions today in light of eternal life with Christ. Don’t let despair, anger or loneliness rule your decisions.

Blessings, Kim

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**Youth Ministry News:**

**Father/Son Ski/Snowboard Retreat**
When: Fri. Feb. 28th 6 p.m. - Sun. March 2nd
Lodging: Everest Academy, 5035 Clarkston Rd., Clarkson, MI 48348
Ski/Snowboard Where: Mt. Brighton
Cost per person: $89 includes meals, lift ticket, lodging, does not include rentals.

- **What to expect:** Skiing and Snowboarding, Father and Son time together, Swimming, Games and Competitions, Mass and Adoration.
- **What to bring:** Attitude of gratitude, Clothes for skiing, Toiletries, Clothes for Mass, Sleeping bag and pillow. Permission slips available in gathering area.
- Please register by Feb. 24th.

**Subiaco Retreat**
March 21-23, 2014 we will spend a wonderful weekend at Subiaco Retreat House in Oxford with fellow youth groups in our vicariate. We will have time for relaxation, reflection, meditation, fun games, small group discussions and the opportunity to grow closer in our relationship with Christ and bond with our friends. This is an awesome experience that you don’t want to miss. We are limited to 9 participants per church, so sign up a.s.a.p. The first 5 to sign up only pay $75, the next 4 pay $95.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION
Brenda Todd gave us a generous donation to help defray the costs for our Mission Trip Transportation. Mission trip costs $320 for the facility, programs, meals, etc. plus $113 for transportation and another $60 or so for our fun day and snacks/drinks, t-shirts. This is per person and adds up very quickly, especially for those families who are sending multiple teens. We are so grateful for our behind the scene supporters and the love and prayers we receive.

**CHANGE A LIFE TOUR!**
Promoted by DRAW (Disaster Relief at Work)
Thurs. March 13th 7 p.m. at Clarkston Community Church (doors open 6 p.m.). To purchase tickets for $20 now, go to itickets.com or $25 at the door. Featuring 4 Great Christian Bands-Kutless, Audio Adrenaline, Finding Favour & Shine Bright Baby.

DYMA (Detroit Youth Ministers Association)
Proudly presents Sr. Anne Bryan Smolin, Speaker, Author and Comedian. She has wonderful insights and an inspiring message to recharge your faith. She will be at Sacred Heart Thurs. April 3rd 9-3:30. Call Kim if you would like to go with us!