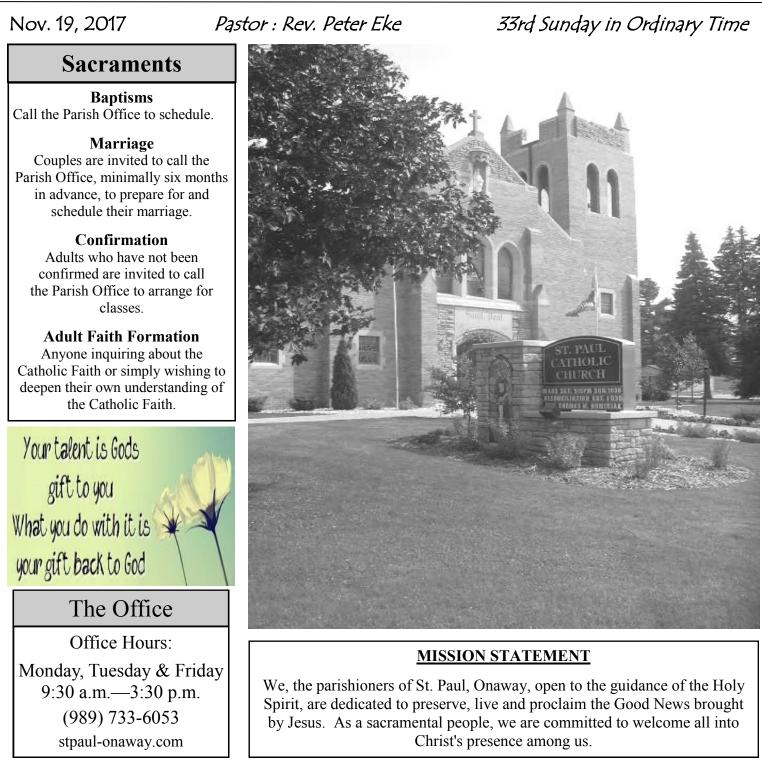


# **ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH** ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH—AFTON



# 20811 Washington Avenue, Onaway, MI Ph. 989-733-6053 / Fax. 989-733-2848 / parishoffice@stpaul-onaway.com Website: stpaul-onaway.com / facebook.com/stpaulonaway

# From the Pastor's Desk

In the first reading (Proverb 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31) this weekend we find the word "fear" mentioned ".....the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised". The responsorial psalm (ps 128) says "Blessed are those who fear the Lord." In the gospel reading (25:14-30), the word "fear" is also mentioned by the third servant who was given one talent "Master, I know that you are a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter, so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground."

What is the difference between the "fear of the Lord" and the "fear" mentioned by the third servant? The "fear of the Lord" is sometimes misunderstood because of the word "fear." "Fear of the Lord" is not a servile fear whereby a person serves God simply because he fears punishment, whether some sort of temporal punishment in this life or the eternal punishment of hell. A genuine relationship with God is based on love, not fear. Therefore, this "fear of the Lord" is a filial or reverential fear that moves a person to do God's will and avoid sin because of love for God, who is all good and deserving of all of our love. In a similar way, a child should not be motivated to obey a parent simply because of fear of punishment, but because of love and respect; a person who loves someone does not want to disappoint or to break the other person's heart. One should fear hurting a loved one and violating that person's trust more than one should fear punishment. Nevertheless, one should have a healthy sense of fear for the punishment due to sin, including the fires of hell, even though this should not be the motivating factor for loving God.

The fear of God is guite different from being afraid as alluded by the third servant. The fear of God must be learned: "Come, my children, listen to me," the Psalmist says, "I will teach you the fear of the Lord" (33:12); being afraid, on the other hand, does not need to be learned at school; it overtakes us suddenly in the face of danger; the things themselves bring about our being afraid. But the meaning itself of fearing God is different from being afraid. It is a component of faith: It is born from knowledge of who God is. This fear is often called "the beginning of wisdom" because it leads to making the right choices in life. Indeed it is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit! (cf. Isaiah 11:2).

As always, the Gospel does not only illumine our faith but it also helps us to understand the reality of everyday life. Our time has been called "the age of anxiety" (W.H. Auden). Anxiety, which is closely related to being afraid, has become the sickness of the century. The cause of this anxiety is the diminishing — if not the complete disappearance —in our society of the holy fear of God. "No one fears God anymore!" We say this sometimes jokingly but it contains a tragic truth. The more that the fear of God diminishes, the more we become afraid of our fellow men! Forgetting God, we place all our confidence in the things of this world, that is, in the things that Christ says "thieves can steal and moths consume" — uncertain things that can disappear from one moment to the next.

The decline in fear of God, rather than liberating us from worry, gets us more entangled in worry. Look at what happens in the relationship between children and parents in our society. Fathers no longer fear God and children no longer fear fathers! The fear of God is reflected in and analogous to the reverential fear of children for parents. The Bible continually associates the two things. But does the lack of this reverential fear for their parents make the children and young people of today more free and self-confident? We know well that the exact opposite is true. The way out of the crisis is to rediscover the necessity and the beauty of the holy fear of God. God does not want us to be afraid of him but to have confidence in him. It is in this way that respect is nourished: admiration, confidence, everything that falls under the name of "holy fear." A person respects God as God, trusts in His will, and anchors his life in Him. He approaches the Lord with humility, docility and obedience. He believes in His promises of forgiveness of sin and eternal life in heaven. Also, this gift is the launch pad for the other gifts. As sacred Scripture attests, "Happy the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commands" (Ps 112:1).

Know you are Loved, Father Peter

# **Mass Intentions**

## Tuesday, Nov. 21st @ 9am

+Theresa Parenteau req. Corriveau / Cryderman Families

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd @ 6pm + Mike Vickory req. Father Peter

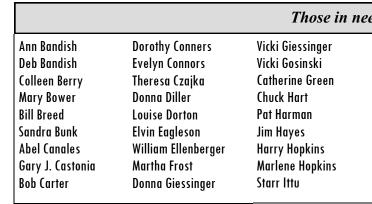
Thursday, Nov. 23rd @ 9am + Parish Volunteers req. The Parish

Friday, Nov. 24th @ 9am + Jim Kloosterman reg. Pat Kloosterman

Saturday, Nov. 25th @ 5pm +Lawerence Veihl req. Lois Veihl

Sunday, Nov. 26th @ 10am Parishioners of St. Monica / St. Paul

**Readings for Week of Nov. 19th** Mon: 1Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 / Lk 18:35-43 Tues: 2Mc 6:18-31 / Lk 19:1-10 Wed: 2Mc 7:1, 20-31 / Lk 19:11-28 Thurs: Sir 50:22-24 / Ps 145 / 1Cor 1:3-9 / Lk 17-11-19 Fri: 1Mc 4:36-37, 52-59 / Lk 19:45-48 Sat: 1Mc 6:1-13 / Lk 20:27-40 Sun: Ez 34:11-12. 15-17 / Ps 23 / 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 / Mt 25:31-46



Karate 6pm



If you know of someone whom we can put on the us a call at 733-6053

praver list or someone who can be taken off, please let us know at the office. We want to make sure everyone's needs are being meet. Thank you. Just give

## Week at a Glance

Tuesday, November 21st AA 8 pm, Hall (Rm. 1 & 2)

Wednesday, November 22nd Soup Kitchen 2:30– 5:30pm

Men's Study Group 7pm

Friday, November 24th Office Closed

AA 8 pm, Hall (Rm. 1 & 2)

Saturday, November 25th Adoration 4pm

Sunday, November 26th Adoration 9am K-12 Faith Formation 11am Raffle Drawing



K—12 Faith Formation Nov. 19th, 26th, Dec. 3rd –Parish Christmas Party

> Parish Christmas party is December 3rd following mass. Bring your favorite dish, a sign up sheet can be found in the vestibule.

Faith Formation is looking for any white fabric or sheets that can be used for angel costumes. If you have either and would like to donate the fabric. Please just drop if off at the office. Thank you.

### Those in need of our prayers...

- Nancy Madison Mike Marx Brittany Maynard **Dennis McGuire** Sid Merchant **Bob Merrick** Kathy Merrick Carolyn Mousseau Patrick Mousseau
- Ann Osantowski Anva Pecova David Riley **Roaer Rivard** Diana Rogers Norma Schoolcraft Carol Skagas Frank Sobieralski Karen Sobieralski

# Bless you for your Stewardship

St. Paul: 11/12/17

Reg. \$1,505.00 + Loose \$337.00 + Fuel \$32.00 = \$1.87400

2nd Collection \$170.00

St. Monica: 11/12/17

Reg. \$50.00 Fuel \$.00 = \$50.00

### Financial Position as of 10/31/17

St. Paul

Income Expense Net Income \$61.390.73 \$48,802.71 \$1.588.02

St. Monica

Income Expense Net Loss

\$4,182,45 \$5,400.97 (\$1,218.52)

May they rest in Peace.

Please pray for the following who has entered eternal life. Carol Skaggs

### Mark your Calendars

Fri. Dec. 1st-Adoration Sat. Dec. 2nd.—Food Bank Collection Sun. Dec. 3rd.—Food Bank Collection - Parish Christmas Party



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved once and help adorn the altar for Christmas, envelopes can be found in the vestibule or you can contact the parish office. They can be purchased for \$10.00.

> Rav Stiles Walter Szymoniak Dave Tesmer Sue Tesmer Shirley Traflet **Bob Turney** Lois Veihl Randy Veihl **Randy Weber**