

**A Message From Fr. Denny**

This week is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. It is a time of the year when we reflect on how blessed we are to have our own Catholic School here in Petoskey. The opportunities to teach our children about the Catholic Faith are right here in our lap. Many of the parents in this parish who do not have children in our school are not living up to their responsibility to catechize their children. The number of children in our Faith Formation Program are very low compared to the number that could and should be participating in it. Their kids are getting little or no catechesis. This is a great tragedy. Our school offers significant help to parents as does our Faith Formation Program. Parents have an obligation to avail themselves of this service.

I'm sure you must be aware that a Catholic School is a major investment for the parish and for families. It involves sacrifice of both money and time. But we believe that it is worth every penny and every minute we have to spare. The children are the future of the church and of this country. Passing on to them our Catholic heritage is one of our greatest and most important gifts. I am calling upon our parish to rally around our school, especially our alumni. One significant way you can do this is to participate in our annual Dinner/Auction and raffle. Without sacrifice of money and time we will not be able to keep our school. Can you imagine St. Francis or Petoskey without our school? Neither can I. Don't take it for granted. Support it!

**Raffle Tickets**

Use the form from last week's bulletin to order a ticket. If you no longer have the form, call the school (347-3651) or parish (347-4133) office to order. The big drawing with the grand prize of \$25,000 is on February 23!!

**Prayers for Clergy & Religious for February**

- 1-Pope Benedict XVI
- 2-Fr. Norbert Landreville
- 3-Fr. Albert Langheim, ofm
- 4-Fr. Donald Libby
- 5-Religious Brothers & Sisters
- 6-Fr. William Lipscomb
- 7-Fr. Dan Madigan
- 8-Fr. Dale Magoon
- 9-Fr. Patrick Maher
- 10-Bishop Patrick Cooney
- 11-Fr. Walter Marek
- 12-Fr. James Mausolf
- 13-Fr. Gregory McCallum
- 14-Fr. John McCracken
- 15-All Deacons
- 16-Fr. Paul Megge
- 17-Fr. Eyob Merin
- 18-Fr. Gerald Micketti
- 19-Deceased Priests
- 20-Fr. Isadore Mikulski
- 21-Fr. Arthur Mulka
- 22-Fr. Raymond Mulka
- 23-Fr. Rubén Muñoz
- 24-All Seminarians
- 25-Fr. Francis Murphy
- 26-Fr. Joseph Muszkiewicz
- 27-Fr. Robert Nalley
- 28-Fr. Paul Paré, ofm
- 29-Fr. Francis Partridge

**STEWARDSHIP**

*is what I do after I say "I Believe"....*

<b>Kids Coins For Kids</b>	<b>\$ 90.54</b>
<b>Cemetery Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 12.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 720.00</b>
<b>Tuition Angel Fund</b>	<b>\$ 6.00</b>
<b>Endowment</b>	<b>\$ --</b>
<b>Envelopes (270)</b>	<b>\$10,481.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$ 1,690.89</b>
<b>Total Collection Last Week</b>	<b>\$13,000.43</b>

**"What return shall I make to the Lord for all he has done for me?"**

The watchword today is "immediately." Peter and Andrew, James and John all respond immediately to the call of Christ. May I be as open as God's call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!

**A Letter from Fr. Eyob**

I was asked to tell you about myself. I am Fr. Eyob J. Merin. I was born in Debriezeit, Ethiopia on May 12th, 1974 and am the second child of three. I was ordained to the priesthood in April 22, 2001. I served as pastor and a chaplain for the youth who were in Addis Abeba. I also served as a general secretary for Our Lady of Priests' Association in Ethiopia. After four years of services my bishop, Archbishop Berhaneyesus, sent me to the Netherlands in 2005 to get a Master of Arts in Intercultural Theology. I defended my thesis on "Christian-Muslim Relations in Ethiopia: A Historical Analysis and Theological Reflection upon the Mutual Co-Existence of Christians and Muslims" and graduated in June 2007.

After I finished my studies, my bishop has sent me to the United States to master the English language because in Ethiopia education is given in English.

Bishop Patrick Cooney was/is so kind to welcome me to this diocese. I really thank him so much and pray for his quick recovery. Then, Bishop contacted Rev. Denny and Fr. Denny's willingness has allowed me to stay in this blessed parish. Thank a lot, Father!!

Here, the parishioners of St. Francis Xavier are very warm and welcoming. In the parish, there are many activities. Each day has its own activity. I really appreciate your dedication to your faith.

I also would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for all of you especially those who send me postcards, different kinds of presents and invite me to your homes. I am also grateful for all members of the Teams of Our Lady. Your kindness has tempted me not to go home. Thank you so much and God bless you all!!!

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 27, 2008

+++++

### High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group meets this Sunday, January 27 at the John Paul II Youth Center. We begin with our JOHN PAUL II FESTIVAL THEATER TRY-OUTS at 5:00pm, followed by a pizza and salad dinner at 6:00pm and our scheduled meeting until 8:00pm. We invite all teens to come and try out for a part for our spring festival on Saturday, April 26, 2008! It will be a fun and worthwhile experience for all! Our topic for this Sunday is "Prayer: Quenching the Thirst of God". Teens - bring your friends!

Pizza and Apologetics meets this Tuesday, January 29 after the 5:30pm in the John Paul II Youth Center. Our topic for this Tuesday is "Pornography: Who does it hurt?" Empower your teens with practical tips to help avoid this dangerous habit. Jason and Crystalina Evert, through EWTN's "The Pure Life" Series give straightforward and solid Catholic teaching on how to truly embrace a life driven by the Gospel. Don't miss it!

To register your teen for the Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference for June 20-22, 2008 a \$30 deposit is required to hold their spot! Don't wait to register your teen and watch the mail for more information!

Special thanks to the teens and parishioners who braved the elements last weekend - our snowiest this winter - to attend a Holy Hour for Life. It was a beautiful hour with teens assisting in the leading of the Rosary. Thanks to Fr. Eyob and Deacon Paul Fifer for leading the Holy Hour.

Christ's Blessings to you and your family,  
Liz Gengle

+++++

Sr. Kathy is looking for a person to develop "ice breakers" according to the theme of the meetings for our middle school youth ministry on Wednesday evenings for ten minutes. Energy and enthusiasm are requirements. There are plenty of resources. Please call Sr. Kathy at 347-2681 for further details or to volunteer.

### GREETINGS Parish Community,

We could use a few more greeters at the 5:00 & 10:00 o'clock masses. All that is needed is a willing heart to be available once a month 20 minutes before Mass begins. If you would like to be a part of creating an attitude of warmth and friendliness among ourselves and our visitors, consider this ministry.

A reminder to all greeters that a new four month schedule is being prepared so if changes are needed please call and leave a message on the machine.

"and he ran out to meet them and bowed low" Genesis 18:2  
Bonnie Farrugia 347-9632

### CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The parish is invited to join school families and staff in the parish hall after 10:00 a.m. Mass today as we kick off our celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Coffee, donuts and birthday cake will be served by our School Advisory Council and school staff. Visit the 125 year anniversary memorabilia display including items from the recently opened 25 year old time capsule. Learn about Scrips, a way to help support school families that costs nothing to participants. All are invited.

Watch for our students in the community this week as they provide service and thank local businesses for school support. Close to our heart are the many parents, grandparents, parishioners and community volunteers who help our school. All school volunteers are invited to attend a special Volunteer Appreciation Mass at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 31.

We welcome Fr. Don Geyman, Diocese of Gaylord Vocations Director on Thursday also. Fr. Don will be visiting our classrooms to speak with our students about vocations.

On Friday, our students will begin a special day of celebration just for them. They'll begin with breakfast in the parish hall with their families. After lunch, students will continue our school family spirit by engaging in special activities with students from their neighboring classrooms.

Have you considered Catholic education at St. Francis Xavier School for your child? Call the school at 347-3651 Ext. 22 for questions or to arrange a school tour.



**Don't Forget!!  
Pantry Sunday  
February 2/3, 2008**

**Needed: Canned Soups and fruits**

### LIFE MATTERS

A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who takes a position in favor of an intrinsic evil, such as abortion or racism, if the voter's intent is to support that position. In such cases a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity. - "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," (no. 34), USCCB, Nov. 14, 2007

### FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

When Jesus called his disciples, they came immediately. Parents wish their children would respond as quickly, but they don't. Children slowly grow into responsibility. It is a process like walking, not done immediately, but in small steps. Parenting demands patient encouragement.

**St. Francis Solanus - Bay Shore**

Envelopes \$295.00  
 Loose \$210.50  
 \$505.50

**Liturgical Ministers - February 3, 2008**

Minister of the Word: Dave Meyer  
 Eucharistic Minister: Sandi Meyer  
 Server: Joey Sypniewski  
 Usher: John Wiklanski  
 Offering: Joan & Gus Sonnenberg

Prayer Chain: Sandi Meyer 347-6190

**"O, Come Let Us Adore Him"**


**St. Francis Xavier Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

Adoration on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
 7:00 am to 10:00 pm

Entrance on South side of church (ramp side) off State St.

**VOCATION VIEW**

Jesus said: "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men."  
 Today he could say: "I will make you mechanics of souls; doctors of wounded hearts; counselors of broken families; clowns in a joyless society." But regardless, come.

 PRAYER REQUESTS	Carol Reed, Samuel Theodore Kolinski, Kerri Malloy, Carolyn Rostar, Larry Shear, Pvt. Ryan Craig, Mike Dainoviec, Jessica Kohlligian, Karen Golovich, Martha Fate, Peggy Beyers, Therese Skoczylas, Ed Kelbel, Sr., Helen Dyksterhouse, Frank & Gertrude Kline, Lois Brinkel, Mary Ketchman, Ralph Kilpatrick, Betty Riley, Casie Parker, Rose Case, Ryan McCarthy, Sarah Miller, Floyd Francis, Brian Kuebler, Jerry Brown, Laura Ilenich, Gregg Hosler, Mike Conflitti, Pat Powers, Molly Walenta, Paul Lacusta, Tom Steffel, Andrew Francis, Martin & Carol Beer, Jean Haase, Jeremy Yell, Carol Lamberti, Andy Mayer, Sally Doody, Lisa Lightfoot, Mrs. Marche Ann B. Lightfoot
	All shut-ins and those in care facilities

**Persons of Ministry**

Cemetery	Don Paulus	347-2976
Prayer Chain	Margaret Pennell	347-4753
	Bea Wolf	347-2711
RespectLife Committee	Mike LaVictoire	526-1302
Greeters	Bonnie Farrugia	347-9632
Hospitality	Sally Parish	590-0949
Coffee Hours	Carol Gietzen	347-6935
	Mary Ellen Pulaski	347-4648
Newcomer's	Jim & Linda Beno	347-7926
Health Ministry	Suzanne Holguin	347-4133
Peace & Justice	Fred Liederbach	347-8646
Br. Dan's Food Pantry	Mary Moellering	347-7423

**SCRIPTURES FOR WEEK OF January 28-Feb. 3**

**8 am Mon:** 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Gospel Mk 3:22-30  
*Intention: D. Catherine M. Hurley*  
**5:30pm Tues:** 2 Sm 6:12-15, 17-19; Gospel Mk 3:31-35  
*Intention: D. Ben Richardson*  
**8am Wed:** 2 Sm 7:4-17; Gospel Mk 4:1-20  
*Intention: Marie Sheets*  
**8:30am Thurs:** 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Gospel Mk 4:21-25  
*Intention: D. Lei Ann Hunter*  
**8am Fri:** 2 Sm 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17; Gospel Mk 4:26-34  
*Intention: D. Grace Fettig*  
**5 pm Sat:** Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Gospel Lk 2:22-40  
*Intention: D. Jack Birchfield*  
**Sun:** Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Gospel Mt 5:1-12a  
*8am Intention: D. Leo Liss*  
*10am Intention: D. Lei Ann Hunter*  
*12noon Bay Shore: D. Daniel Sysko*

**LECTORS**

**Saturday & Sunday, February 2/3, 2008**

**5:00 pm** Tom Nagurka  
**8:00 am** Kim Philliben & Norm Bennett  
**10:00 am** Jody VanSlembrouck & Brian Brachel

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**Saturday & Sunday, February 2/3, 2008**

**5:00 pm** Rob & Kim Kronberg, Stan & Margaret Borowski, Audrey Mania, Michelle Moose  
**8:00 am** Carla Kanine, Alvaro Artaza, Frank & Julie Holzschu, Mary Lee & Bill Huber, Gietzen  
**10:00 am** Marsey Shuman, Jim & Linda Beno, Emily Daniel, Lee Phillips, Lisa Scholl

**GREETERS**

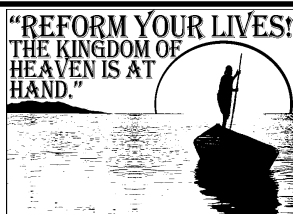
**Saturday & Sunday, February 2/3, 2008**

**5:00 pm** Doug & Mary Ann Caldwell & Colin, Frank & Carol Ronan, Nancy Jakab, Ellen Byerlein, Mary Jane Phelan  
**8:00 am** Roger & Joyce Clark, Lyle & Nancy Eaton, Chuck & Bonnie Farrugia, Pete & Linda Kelbel, Catherine DeVet  
**10:00 am** Ann Burek, Lisa Rust & Drew, Aleece Balchik, VandenBrink family

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Saturday & Sunday, February 2/3, 2008**

**5:00 pm** Alex & Chris Pionk, Lily Sloan  
**8:00 am** Freddie Liederbach, Connor Reed, Rochelle Seeley  
**10:00 am** Drew Rust, Shea Whitmore, Isabel Ceniza



*Sponsor of the Week*  
**Alfie's Attic**