



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 2016 BULLETIN

October 25, 2016

To the Faithful of the Diocese of Gaylord:

Grace and peace be yours!

As we head into the home stretch of this current election season, there is no doubt in my mind that many of you join me in scratching our heads at the discouraging rhetoric and tactics used during this electoral cycle, particularly on the national level. Through conversations, letters and emails, some of you have shared with me your personal disappointments with the campaign itself. I sometimes wonder if I'm watching a roller derby rather than a campaign! I further wonder that, because of the intense personal scrutiny into the lives of each candidate, whether or not respected leaders and towering statesmen will ever surface in the future. In the midst of all this, I think of St Paul who reminds us in his letter to the Romans, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (cf. *Romans* 3:23). I know I have often fallen short of the glory of God. For that reason, I'm keenly aware that I am in constant need of the Lord's mercy. How I need a Redeemer to lift me up! I do, however, expect our leaders to strive toward an ethical decency in their lives and campaigns. Because of our fallen nature, I also believe that redemption is possible and that we should not always be judged by the worst aspects of our lives but the potential for greatness.

Nonetheless, as citizens, we not only have the right, but also the obligation to exercise our rights and responsibilities in each election cycle. Weighing the various candidates for office, we have serious decisions to make for the sake of the common good and the flourishing of our beloved American society. Our elections will comprise electing members to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of federal, and/or state, and/or local government. Our Catholic social teaching outlines some of the critical factors that need to be taken into consideration to form our conscience rightly and weigh our decisions.

For our review, allow me to summarize four key principles that are considered solid pillars of Catholic social teaching and some of their implications:

1) **The Dignity of the Human Person:** For us Christians, "[a]ll human life is sacred" (cf. *Faithful Citizenship*, n. 44). If we cannot protect human life, especially vulnerable life, against direct attacks against it, then the very fabric of our society will be severely weakened. Innocent human life must never be compromised by threats of violence or direct attacks. Abortion itself, since 1973, has taken the lives of almost 60 million children and deeply wounded mothers, fathers and families. Growing threats from euthanasia and assisted suicide, now legal in some states and under active consideration in others, will erode our respect for the dignity of life and move the measure of life's worth from being intrinsic to a person's dignity to some outside measure that can shift at whim according to the powers that be.

2) **Solidarity:** Solidarity recognizes the fact that in spite of our backgrounds, national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological, we are one human family – brothers and sisters who are responsible for each other. In this regard we are people who welcome the stranger in our midst, promote initiatives that seek peace, and foster the care of the most vulnerable in our society. The telling image of the Last Judgment as illustrated by Matthew

## Parish Directory

Holy Cross  
37860 Kings Highway  
Beaver Island, MI 49782  
231-448-2230  
Sacramental Ministers

Fr. Peter Wigton

Fr. John Paul Bashe

St. Mary's Parish

Charlevoix, MI

231-547-6652

Parish Administrator

Deacon Jim Siler

Pastoral/Finance Council

Bev Cantwell

Jacqueline LaFreniere

Tina Morgan

Jim Wojan

### Mass Requests

Nov. 6– Lawrence McDonough and Bud McDonough

Nov. 13-Bob Banville

Nov. 20-Bob Welke

Nov. 27-Lawrence McDonough

## Holy Cross Financial Report

The financial year for Holy Cross is July 1 to June 30 of the following year. If anyone wants to see a complete financial report please send an e-mail to [holycross@tds.net](mailto:holycross@tds.net).

For the month of September

Income: Offertory and Loose, Hall, Convent Rental and Cemetery Income, mass stipends..... \$8026

Expenses.....includes Hall, Convent, Church, Rectory and Cemetery...(includes capital Expenses)..\$20,919

Net Income- \$(-12,892)

Balance Sheet Assets: \$261,221

Liabilities....\$8719

Fund Balance....\$252,503

## Protecting Our Children

In accordance with the Diocese of Gaylord Policy for the Protection of Children, "any cleric, religious, employee or other person acting with authority of the Church of the Diocese of Gaylord who knows, or has reason to believe, that an incident of sexual abuse of a minor has occurred shall comply with state reporting requirements, specifically the Michigan Child Protection Law and to the Bishop's Review Board, except for those communications that are canonically privileged." In addition to the Michigan mandatory reporting requirements of clergy, teachers and other professionals, anyone who suspects a child is being abused in any way is encouraged to contact their local Department of Human Services (DHS) to file a report. If the allegation involves an employee or volunteer in the service of the Church in the Diocese of Gaylord, contact Rob Westerman at (989) 705-3525 following notification of the local DHS.

## NOTES

Are you aware that you can request copies of the Sunday Homily? If you would like a copy e-mail us at [HolyCross@tds.net](mailto:HolyCross@tds.net).

Also bricks for the Memorial Garden are available for sale, the forms are next to the entrance of the Church.

Anyone who wishes to receive this bulletin via email, please contact Jacque LaFreniere at [jacquel@tds.net](mailto:jacquel@tds.net)

Anyone wishing a complete financial report, contact Deacon Jim at [HolyCross@tds.net](mailto:HolyCross@tds.net)

## Prayer List

Chris Heikka	Steve Walgus
Mary Kenwabikise	Phyllis Moore
Kelton Hunter	Jamie Martin
Kathy Speck	Bernie Miller
Sr. Mathilda McDuffie	Tom Whitman
Avery Devereaux	Liz Lanier
Lynn McNamara Blue	Shirley Sowa
Dale Cull	Geraldine Myers
Ray Becker	Mary Alice Collins
Carley Cull	Marie LaFreniere



25:31-46 reminds us that our response must consider the “least among us.” This may include “love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind” (Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, n. 22). Not excluded are the marginalized and forgotten: “unborn children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and terminally ill, victims of injustice and oppression, and immigrants” (cf. *Faithful Citizenship*, n. 54).

3) **Common Good:** The common good reflects “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily” (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, n. 26). Included here are the fundamental rights, such as the right to life, a non-negotiable basis of all other rights that we enjoy to have a decent life: “food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life” (cf. *Faithful Citizenship*, n. 49). The common good also embraces the “dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers” (cf. *Faithful Citizenship*, n. 50). Our common home must also be protected as we are called to “care for God’s creation” as Pope Francis referenced in *Laudato Si’*.

4) **Subsidiarity:** This fourth pillar suggests we develop best when we are in relationships with others. The family, as our Lord established it, is the first and foundational unit of a sound society. The protection of parent’s rights and responsibilities includes the raising of offspring and the right to choose an appropriate educational experience. It must be remembered that each level of government and institution has its unique responsibilities. The larger should not overwhelm the smaller or local institutions even when the local institutions depend on the protections offered by the larger institutions to “protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good” (cf. *Centesimus Annus*, n. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nn. 4-6).

Resources are available that can assist us in formulating rationale in our own minds regarding the better candidates for office. Among these are:

1) *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship:* A statement on political responsibility from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, this small, easy-to-read document, provides a more in-depth look at the criteria I mentioned above.

2) *FOCUS: The Issues, the Candidates and your Vote:* A pamphlet summarizing many of the issues of importance as we prepare to exercise our rights and responsibilities in the public square. Put out by the Michigan Catholic Conference, this document is available online or through your local parish.

Furthermore, the websites of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)), the Michigan Catholic Conference ([www.micatholic.org](http://www.micatholic.org)), and the Diocese of Gaylord ([www.dioceseofgaylord.org](http://www.dioceseofgaylord.org)) provide additional helpful information and resources.

Exercising our citizenship by voting in elections is part of our political process. I consider it a great privilege and honor to cast my vote. Through my participation, I may make my own voice heard in the electoral process. In that way, I pray that we may have a more perfect union that will ensure peace and justice for all.

In the meantime, what can we do to prepare ourselves to vote intelligently? Here are some suggestions:

1) Pray for our nation and leaders through recitation of the Rosary, a Holy Hour, or participating in Mass during the week, invoking the Holy Spirit to guide our election process. I am also requesting all of our parishes to have churches open on Tuesday, November 8, to facilitate prayer on Election Day.

2) Study the platforms and the issues raised by the candidates over and against the four pillars in Catholic social teaching.

3) Perform some act of charity and mercy during this time to show solidarity with those in need.

4) Abstain from meat the next few Fridays or fast from some activity. Use the time for a walk or prayer to express our hunger and desire for a nation where true justice, peace and respect for all life – born, unborn, and vulnerable – will be championed.

Invoking the prayers of our Blessed Mother Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of our nation, and under the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the patroness of our diocese, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Steven J Raica Bishop of Gaylord

# November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 am Com- munion/ Adoration	2 9 a.m. Rosary	3 9 am , 6:30 pm. Communion/	4	5
6 9:30 am Mass	7	8 9am, 6:30pm. Communion/ Adoration	9 9 a.m. Rosary	10 9am, 6:30 pm. Communion/ Adoration	11	12
13 9:30 am Mass	14	15 9 am, 6:30pm. Communion/ Adoration	16 9 a.m. Rosary	17 9 am, 6:30pm. Communion/ Adoration	18	19
20 9:30 am Mass	21	22 9 am, 6:30pm. Communion/ Adoration	23 9 a.m. Rosary	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 9:30 am Mass	28	29 9 am, 6:30pm. Communion/ Adoration	30 9 a.m. Rosary			