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a light unto my path.*
-Psalm 119:105

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309 S. LANE ST., BLISSFIELD, MI 49228

PH: 517-447-3500
PH: 517-486-2156

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

St. Alphonsus

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

St. Peter

Monday: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

St. Alphonsus

Saturday: 5:30 PM - Sunday: 8:00 AM

St. Peter

Saturday: 4:00 PM - Sunday: 11:00 AM

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

St. Peter: 9:00 AM - **St. Alphonsus:** 7:00 PM
(this schedule rotates)

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Alphonsus

Wednesday and Friday: 9:00 AM

St. Peter

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 AM

BAPTISM - Contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Peter: 2:30-3:30 PM 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

St. Alphonsus: 10:00-11:00 AM 2nd & 4th Saturdays

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please call the office if someone is in the hospital, sick or homebound and would like to be visited and receive the Eucharist or the Sacrament of the Sick.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact the pastor 9-12 months before preferred date.

PRAYER CHAIN

Contact Person - Millie Larson: 517-447-3636

Rose Forgiel: 517-447-3868

FOOD PANTRY

Open the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1-3 PM at the Parish Center in Deerfield. (excluding November and December)

WINTER SNOW POLICY

Whenever the local schools are canceled or delayed because of snow or ice, 9:00 AM daily mass will be canceled as well. The mass intention for that day will be rescheduled.

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Jeff Poll

jeffreypoll44@gmail.com

517-447-3766

Deacon Jim Hashman

Email: penjimh@aol.com

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Deanna Burke: deannabdr@gmail.com

LITURGIST

Margaret O'Malley: margareto.lp@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Karen Nevins: karen@karennevins.com

734-730-0007

SECRETARIAL STAFF

**Bookkeeper, Parish Data and
Sacramental Records**

Nancie Van Black: lightofchristparish@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor and Scheduling

Leanne Goodin: lgoodin@cass.net

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday at noon. Please email material to: lgoodin@cass.net

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Kim Diver - Director

Ben Burke

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Please call the parish office for contact info.

PARISH COMMISSIONS

Finance Commission

Worship Commission

Education Commission

Social Ministry Commission

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Men's Club

Altar Rosary Society

Knights of Columbus

Heritage Garden Club

December 25, 2016

The Nativity of the Lord

CHRISTMAS.....ALWAYS!

"This will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

Sometimes people sympathize with the Grinch. They look for ways to stop Christmas from coming. The closer it gets, the more trouble they have finding signs of anything except materialism, nihilism, and human loss. They desire to flee.



Fortunately, God doesn't think like they do! God doesn't run away from us; God comes to find us. God doesn't condemn us, but looks for the good and the true in us. God finds it too. Truth is, love and kindness are everywhere, if we are small and still enough to recognize them.

The sign God gives is so simple and quiet, it could easily be lost in the busyness of commerce-----except it's not. Over the centuries, this sign has spoken to human hearts continually. Here's the answer to human longing, given without conditions or condemnations. As often as we overlook that answer, God offers it again. Christmas doesn't happen once a year; it's with us always, as God is with us, forever, unconditionally.

LET'S TALK LITURGY by Margaret O'Malley

Wow – by the time you are reading this Christmas Eve and Day will be upon us! But the Christmas season is just warming up!

The twelve days of Christmas are the days **after** Christmas – not the twelve days before. The official church season of Christmas goes through January 9th which is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. What can you do to help keep the season alive?

Of course you can keep using your 'Little Blue Book' for reflection. Can you leave the tree up? How about leaving your nativity scene up even if the tree and everything else must go? Can you create some family tradition for the celebration of the Feast of Epiphany?

Remember that the Feast of the Epiphany – the visit of the three kings – is the feast day of our parish.

Over the next few days as you look at your Christmas tree – maybe you can talk to your family about the symbols of Christmas. The tree is more than just a place to put those family heirloom ornaments! It is a tree that is Ever Green, a symbol of eternal life. Originally on the top of the tree people placed a statue of the baby Jesus. Over time that was replaced by a star – because a star guided the wise men to find Jesus. The angel was placed on the tree because it was an angel that led the shepherds to Jesus. All of these Christmas traditions that are now used everywhere all have another meaning. Even the Christmas song the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' was reportedly used as a teaching tool when Christians weren't allowed to publicly teach/talk about their faith.

Enjoy the celebration of the Christmas Season! Don't short-change yourself and your family by ending it too soon! Merry Christmas!



SWEEPSTAKES NEWS

Sweepstakes tickets can still be returned. They can be placed in the collection or dropped off at the parish office. There is still time to be included in the January drawing!

~ CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE ~

Christmas Eve: 4:00pm, Blissfield
6:00pm, Deerfield
Midnight, Blissfield

Christmas Day: 8:00am, Deerfield
11:00am, Blissfield

Prelude music will begin 30 minutes prior to masses on Christmas Eve and 15 minutes prior on Christmas Day. Please come early and enjoy the magical sounds of Christmas!



MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS NEEDED

Light of Christ Parish is responsible for delivery of Meals on Wheels for **January 9-20**. Please use the sign up sheet in Blissfield or call Finola Campbell at 517-486-2838 to volunteer.

Three drivers are needed each day. Delivery begins at 11:00 am (arrive by 10:45am) and takes approximately 1 and 1/2 hours. Your help is greatly appreciated by these home-bound seniors! Sign up to make a difference in someone's day!!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

The ministry schedule for January, February and March is complete and can be found on our website www.lightofchristparish.com or by logging in to your online account. Printed schedules were also mailed to those requesting them. If you desire a paper copy and don't receive one, please call the office and let Leanne know.

Thank you for your time and talent!

MONEY COUNTERS NEEDED

We could use a few more money counters at our Deerfield site, particularly if you are available on Tuesday at 9:00am or noon. Please contact Nancie in the office if you are interested in this important ministry.

FOOD PANTRY HOURS CHANGE

Beginning in January, the Food Pantry will only be open once a month, the 2nd Wednesday from 1-3pm.

KNIGHTS NEWS

Merry Christmas! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:13



Congratulations and thank you Knights as well as your families for the hundreds of hours of charitable acts, prayers, and sacrifices you performed for the well being of others during 2016. Vivat Jesus!

Why not join the Knights? We stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. We are committed to living up to the challenge that our Holy Father has put before us, "defend the moral truths necessary for a free and humane society, including the fundamental right to life of every human being". Upcoming Pro-life events include March for Life, 5TH Sunday Rosaries, 40 Days for Life, and the Right to Life Dinner this Spring. Join now and join for free! For details contact any Knight or call Mark at 734 269-2279 or Mike at 517 486-5966.

Our next Council meeting is Thursday, January 5, at 7:30 PM so we can discuss January events including Euchre Night, the Swiss Steak Dinner, 5TH Sunday Rosaries, and the March for Life. On Monday, January 16, 7:00 PM, we have a very important Officers' meeting which includes writing our annual report of activities.

Keep Christ in Christmas. Please pray for all the refugee children including those from Iraq, Syria, and the Ukraine.

THANK YOU...

Marilyn and Jerry Iott would like to thank the Light of Christ community for their prayers of healing. Your support has lifted our spirits as we continue our recovery.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

Edward Cambal of Blissfield passed away on Friday, December 16 and his funeral was Tuesday, December 20. Please keep Edward and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Please note: The Parish Office will be closed from December 26-30. Please leave a message and someone will return your call.

SCHEDULED MASSES WITH INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, December 27 - 9:00 AM - St. Peter
In memory of Joseph LaPere
15 years

Wed., December 28 - 9:00 AM - St. Alphonsus
In memory of Junealee Duval
14 years

Thursday, December 29 - 9:00 AM - St. Peter
In memory of Frank Pavelka
24 years

Friday, December 30 - 9:00 AM - St. Alphonsus
For Peace & Justice

Saturday, December 31
Vigil

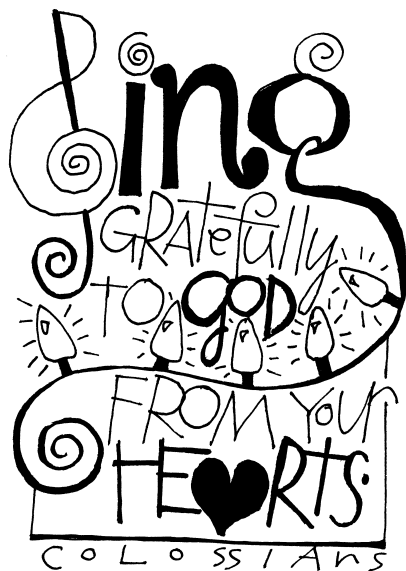
4:00 PM - St. Peter
In memory of Elizabeth Stock
by family

5:30 PM - St. Alphonsus
In memory of Alberta Payne
by family

Sunday, January 1

8:00 AM - St. Alphonsus
In memory of Donald Rowe
by Bob & Suzette Morley

11:00 AM - St. Peter
In memory of Gerry McGaffigan



~READINGS FOR THE WEEK~

The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2016
Isaiah 62:11-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:15-20

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
January 1, 2017
Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

CALLED & GIFTED WORKSHOP

God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. The **Called and Gifted Workshop** will teach participants about the charisms given to you by the Holy Spirit at Baptism and start you on a process of lifelong discernment.

The 10 hour workshop is offered on Friday evening (7:00 pm – 9:30 pm) and Saturday (8:00 am – 4:00 pm) at the following locations:

January 13-14 – Most Holy Trinity, Fowler

January 20-21 – St. John the Evangelist, Fenton

January 27-28 – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

February 3-4 – St. John the Evangelist, Jackson

February 10-11 – St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor

See <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/evangelization-lay-formation> for specific details and for more information.

SEEKING CAREGIVER FOR ELDERLY MOTHER

Seeking to hire an individual as part of an in-home caregiving team providing 24/7 care for our 90 year old mother living in Blissfield.

Key Information: • Seeking someone close by with a flexible schedule • Legally blind and unable to walk or stand by herself thus needing transfers from bed to chair, etc. • Primary Needs: Companionship, interaction & meals • You will be welcomed as part of a loving, caring team

Please contact: Cynthia at 517-486-3100/ 517-902-4296 or Mike at 989-725-2753/ 989-721-1087



Stewardship Report December 17/18, 2016

Total Sunday: \$3,997.00
Total Loose: \$254.00
Christmas: \$20.00
All Saints: \$5.00
Retired Religious: \$34.00

Total Envelopes: 140

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, December 25
✠Religious Education✠
Break

Tuesday, December 27
✠Cantor Rehearsal✠
Deerfield, 6:30-7:00 PM

✠Choir Rehearsal✠
Deerfield, 7:00-8:00 PM

Wednesday, December 28
✠Guitar Group Rehearsal✠
Blissfield, 7:00 PM

Sunday, January 1
✠Religious Education✠
Break

*Welcome to Our Visitors and
A Blessed Christmas to All from
Your Light of Christ Parish Staff.*

MARRIAGE RETREAT

You are invited to a new evening marriage retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center on January 20th from 5:15-9:15pm entitled: "**Learning to Love Each Other in the Little Things.**" Daily life can strengthen or weaken your marriage depending on your shared focus.

Learn ways to deepen your love and commitment you promised each other on your wedding day. Enjoy an evening together. \$60 per couple and includes dinner and handouts. Info and registration at <http://www.stfrancis.ws/> or 517-669-8321. Directed by Tony Sperendi.

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Becky Branscum	Ed Jacobson
Becky Brewer	Susan Johnson
Martha Brown	Norma Kelly
Finola Campbell	Marie Kieplinski
Isabelle DeLaCruz	Betty Knapp
Ann DeNudt	Shelly Molaro
Webb Drew	Carol Mueller
Carmen Garcia	Joseph Mueller
Mary Genchi	John Musielewicz
Katy Goodman	Bev Pifer
Makenzie Greer	Margaret Poluka
Barbara Hadden	Patty Rank
Joan Hamilton	Pat Riley
Carrie Hartley	Jim Sheldon
Jim Hashman	Lena Silva
Amy Henning	Vivian Tack
Kristie Horkey	Catherine Wielfaert
Jerry Iott	Mark Willaert
Marilyn Iott	

Please call the parish office if you would like to receive the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which can be done before/after mass, at your home or in the hospital. Also, if you or someone you know is on the above list and no longer needs to be, please contact the office.