

upcoming events

# the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 35, number 1

February 2017

**February 5, 2017**

St. Ambrose  
Family Day Discipleship  
10 am Mass

**February 6, 2017**

St. Ambrose  
Healing Mass in honor of  
St. Agatha, 5:30 pm  
Liturgy Meeting, 7:00 pm

**February 10, 2017**

St. Ambrose  
St. Vincent DePaul  
Officers' Mtg. 8:30 am  
Membership Mtg. 9:00

**February 11, 2017**

Irish Sweepstakes  
Shamrock Drawing!

**February 8, 2017**

St. Agatha  
Holy Name - 7:00 pm

**February 13, 2017**

Disciples in Training Gr.  
1-5 & Adults, 6:15 p.m.

**February 14, 2017**

Holy Family  
Parish Council, 7:pm  
Holy Name Society, 7 pm  
Maguire Hall

**February 17, 2017**

OLCP Seniors, 1:00 p.m.  
Maguire Hall

**February 19, 2017**

Holy Family  
Spaghetti Dinner, 12:30

**February 20, 2017**

Presidents Day – Parish  
office closed

**February 22, 2017**

Holy Family  
Evergreens, 2:00 pm

**February 22, 2017**

Ash Wednesday

## The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko

*I do not believe that just because you're opposed to abortion, that that makes you pro-life. In fact, I think in many cases, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not a child fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. And why would I think that you don't? Because you don't want any tax money to go there. That's not pro-life. That's pro-birth. We need a much broader conversation on what the morality of pro-life is.*

- Sister Joan Chittister

I've always been a big fan of Sister Joan's writing. But the quotation I pulled above is particularly meaningful to me in the wake of the March for Life that occurred in Washington DC recently. Sister Joan loves to challenge us to color outside the lines, if you will, with our thinking. She wants us to explore ideas in their fullness, to contemplate whole truths, to think beyond the confines of preconceptions and traditions. The quote above is one of those challenges as it asks us to consider life in its fullest meaning not just in the context of birth. She insists, as should we, that our devotion to being pro-life be expanded beyond the birth of a child and that our devotion ought to include the rearing and nurturing of the child after birth.

As a Catholic, I recognize and appreciate the Church's teaching on abortion. As a man, however, I also recognize that I will never have to make the terrible decisions that women face in coping with an unplanned pregnancy. I haven't and wouldn't counsel a woman to choose abortion as an option in such instances. But in the same context, as a Catholic, the life of a child is equally important to me after the child is born. What do we accomplish if we see birth as the ultimate triumph? What have we done as Catholics when we see children neglected and abused? Where does our pro-life belief lead us when we ignore the very real challenges that families, and women in particular, face in providing love and stability and caring for their children?

Many years ago, in another parish, I heard a priest lecture from the pulpit that one of the reasons families were in crisis was due to too many women seeking "fancy careers." I was appalled at that comment but I can only wonder what the women in the congregation thought. That priest was sadly out of touch with the reality of the necessity for two income families to meet the demands of child rearing. Shirley, according to that homily, was one of those women seeking a fancy career: trying to break through the terrible bonds of poverty and systemic neglect that so many of her students faced. Her fancy career not only helped us provide for our family but also provided a lot of city kids with the only caring, concern and commitment they had in their lives. She was, of course, not alone and a new generation of teachers

(continued on page 2)

carries on. Our daughter Colleen practices her fancy career in a suburban school where she teaches autistic children. I can only imagine the demands her calling places on her everyday.

I mention Shirley and Colleen not as stand-alone practitioners of the teaching profession, but rather as typical of women who must enter the work force to adequately provide for their children. So what does our “pro-life” stance do to assist women in that mission? Do we insist on paid leave for working women? Do we support health care for women and children? Do we support education, do we insist on nutrition programs to feed hungry children, do we recognize the special challenges women in the workplace encounter? Those are just as much pro-life issues as an anti-abortion stance, wouldn’t you say?

**St. Valentine**

*by Ann DiFlavio*

St. Valentine was a bishop who believed in love. He was put in prison during the Roman persecution of Christians. From prison he sent notes of encouragement to his people. He told them to be loyal to Jesus and to love one another. These were the first Valentines.

The practice of sending Valentines continues today. We find students in elementary school exchanging cards and candied hearts. Lovers give hearts and flowers. This expression of love is heartwarming and hopefully will continue for many more years.

This might be a good time to mend family feuds, renew old friendships, and to send a card to a shut-in. Happy Valentines Day!

**Student Honors - First Quarter**

Mount St. Mary Academy

Honor Roll

**Kathryn Coughlin**  
**Stephanie Petricca**

Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School

First Honors with Distinction

<b>Trevor Brill</b>	<b>Kiernan Higgins</b>
<b>Tyler Brill</b>	<b>Brian Hilmey</b>
<b>Jackson Dunn</b>	<b>Michael Klodzinski</b>
<b>John Hannon</b>	<b>Brandon Zakowski</b>

First Honors

<b>Justin Bott</b>	<b>Conor Kennedy</b>
<b>John Donohue</b>	<b>John Kline</b>
<b>August Fallon</b>	<b>Patrick Kline</b>
<b>John Haettich</b>	<b>Roger Marchione</b>
<b>Justin Higgins</b>	<b>Dillon Nelson</b>
<b>Matthew Horrigan</b>	<b>Thomas Sands</b>
<b>Sean Jordan</b>	<b>Owen Smardz</b>

Merit Roll

<b>William Daley</b>	<b>Michael Neenan</b>
<b>Joshua Derwin</b>	<b>Michael Sands</b>
<b>William Eberhardt</b>	<b>Kevin Sheehan</b>
<b>Benjamin Juliano</b>	<b>Matthew Tytko</b>

St. Francis High School

Second Honors

**Tyler J. Kalinowski Senior**



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## Parish Council Perspective

Our Lady of Charity parish council, under the direction of Fr. Bryan is a faith filled advisory board for the parish. Currently we are in the process of developing our parish vision statement which turns our focus to the future of our parish. Next we will be working on a strategic plan for the next 1-3; 3-5 and 5-10 years. We have so much history and tradition in our former parishes that we often find ourselves “living in the past”. It is going to be 7 years that we are Our Lady of Charity parish and it’s time we “move on” and embrace the gifts that we all bring to this parish.

Our council meetings begin with a reading and reflection on the Sunday gospel. This time nourishes us with the Spirit and enables us to prayerfully and respectfully address the issues and concerns that have been brought to our attention. Each issue is discussed and referred to the appropriate committee for resolution. We are a group of people who truly have the interest in the future of this parish at heart. Each person is committed and willing to step up where needed. Sometimes it is out of our comfort zone but this helps us to grow in our faith. We ask for prayers for the council as we meet each month.

Our hope is that if you see something that you feel should be looked into, please bring it to the attention of one of the council members and/or put

it in writing and drop it at the rectory. It takes all of us being vigilant to keep this a vibrant, viable parish that people want to be a part of.

This month’s Parish Council Perspective submitted by: Maryanne King

Parish Council Members:

Jerry Inglut, Matthew Faltisco, Molly Sheehan, Elisa Church -Goupil, Sr. Mary Gormley, Mary Blake, Frank Kalenda, Maureen Haynes, Bridget Hudson, Kevin Kelley, Sue Gullo, Ann Flaherty

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## St Blaise

*submitted by Ann DiFlavio*

Every February the church celebrates the feast day of St. Blaise. According to tradition, Blaise had been a doctor before he was ordained a priest and then consecrated a bishop.

During a period of persecution, he fled to hide in a cave, where he lived until he was discovered and sentenced to death.

A legend says that while he was in prison, a mother brought him a small boy who was choking from a fish bone stuck in his throat. After Blaise had prayed over the child, the boy was healed.

St. Blaise has become the patron saint of throat diseases. Every year on the feast of St. Blaise people come to church to have their throats blessed in church. Special candles are used to ask for St. Blaise's protection from diseases of the throat and other illnesses.



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## Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of  
Lauber Financial Planning

“Do not beggar yourself by feasting on borrowed money, when there is nothing in your purse.”

~Ecclesiasticus 18:33

The problem of debt has plagued humankind for millennia. There are many scriptures that advise against debt, but the fact of the matter is, no one really shows us how to go about doing that when there are so many demands on our money.

I suggest a two-step approach:

1. Identify your biggest priorities along with your values, goals, and needs. Devise a spending program around only those items and create blinders for yourself to guard you against temptation.

2. Include in your spending plan a portion of your income dedicated to paying off the debt so you can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

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## We welcome into our parish family:

### *Newly Baptized*

Lola Kristine Scarsella

Alissa Kay Hari

Lachlan Michael Przybylski

Emilia Jane Russell

Warren Patrick McDonald

Shae Elizabeth Sterlace

### *New Parishioners*

Jack Browne

Jeanne Garvin and Colleen Garvin

Emily Pricola and Kevin Rautenstrauch

Jessica Hari and her children Kayla & Joseph

Robert Grande

## Thank You Notes

Our parishioners' generosity has been recognized this month by Sister Patricia Vertrano on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy working in Peru.

Sister Marian Baumer of the Sisters of St. Mary Namur was grateful for our donation that supports their nutritional centers in the Congo.

Linda Sroka was thankful for the donations to help the work of the Mercy Missions in the Philippines. "Your generosity spreads love around the world."

The Holy Cross Mission Center is grateful for our donation that feeds the poor in Peru and brings moments of peace to the poorest in the world.

"On behalf of the Midwest Jesuits and ministries, thank you for your recent gift to help us continue our apostolic works in Nicaragua."

"Thank you for remembering our sisters in Kenya. We appreciate your incredible kindness and generosity." Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

Baker Victory Services sent a note to thank us for our generous donation of Christmas gifts for the children and families they serve. It is with the help of people like us that they can continue the work that Father Baker started so many years ago.

Via International was grateful for our donation that helps provide nutrition and environmental education to children and their families.

Brother Timothy of St. Patrick's Friary sends his thanks for our many gifts and kindness from the Giving Tree Project.

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## the bridge

Published by

Our Lady of Charity Parish Council

<http://ourladyofcharityparish.com>

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