

LA BUONA NOTIZIA DELLA NOSTRA SIGNORA DELLE GRAZIE

THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR LADY OF GRACE

OLG WELCOMES REV. FERRIS

This weekend Our Lady of Grace welcomes our new assistant pastor – Father Aaron Ferris.

The 27-year-old Fr. Aaron, the youngest child of Brian and Pauline Ferris, was ordained just last month. He sees this first assignment as “a new adventure with a lot of unknowns.” Raised in Newaygo, Fr. Aaron often traveled to Grand Rapids with his family, but seldom visited Muskegon. For him, OLG and Muskegon represent a whole new world.

Fr. Aaron says his entry into the priesthood is a true call from God.

“First and foremost it was grace that brought me to this point. But, I was influenced by a number of good priests in my life – men who are holy, who love the priesthood and who love working with people. Their witness inspired me to pursue the priesthood.”

Since OLG is his first assignment, Fr. Aaron admits he has not yet developed his own style of delivery for sermons. However, he is a self-admitted pulpit man.

“Right now I need something to hold on to,” he said. “I know my preaching will change over time as I grow and get feedback from people.”

The most energizing part of the Catholic Church and its teachings is the truth, said Fr. Aaron.

“It’s just the realization of how much wisdom and truth the Church has to offer, and the beauty of that, and how relative it is in making decisions and guiding life. I want to share that with others.”

According to father, the jury is out as to whether he is an extravert or introvert. He has a lot of interests, including reading, hiking and just being with people.

Introduce yourself to Father Aaron Ferris and welcome him into the parish family of Our Lady of Grace. His positive attitude and youthful exuberance will add a whole new dynamic to the parish.





Sincere birthday wishes to all of these parish members who are celebrating a birthday in July.

July 1
Steven Benkert
Kathleen Jarvis
Alice Miller
Jean Theisen

July 2
John Flora

July 3
Artell Mathews
Michael Miskel
Jason Sundell

July 4
Ruth Archer
Charlene Belmonte

July 5
Kimberly Bolles
Margaret Farrell
Kaleigh Peden

July 6
Randy Creed

Joan Majeski
Jeffrey Peden
Jean Sander

July 7
Nancy Panozzo

July 8
Skip Reed

July 9
Dennis Smith

July 10
Ian Armstrong
Julie Hower

July 11
Andrea Kommer
Patricia Langlois
Kalie Pereda

July 12
Gerald Bocian
Valarie Harris
Judy Rugar
Landon Stapleton
Timothy Tindall

July 13
Michael Hyatt
Devin Kolenic
Barbara McFadden
Greg Patricio

July 14
Julia Gonzales
Anna Mullen

July 15
Robert Miller
Irene Portenga

Donna Walters
Eugene White
Daniel Wright

July 16
Roberto Esteban
Jerome Gajeski
Marie Hadiaris
Michael Haggerty
Gabriel Lee
Madalynn Mathews
Gregory Rice
Mark Vanderwest

July 18
Leroy Carlston
John McCann III
Casey Merritt
Samuel Meyers
Sidney Miller

July 19
Daniel Shunta

July 20
Jean Dietrich
Diane Gajeski
James Line
Walter O'Neal
Gerald Schaub

July 21
James Peterson

July 22
Carrie Arcioni
Elizabeth Duram
Brandon Houseman

July 23
Edward Chvala
Elizabeth Doriot

Ruth Smith

July 24
Kelly Ann Flahive
Laura Helsen
Eddie Jenkins
James Merrick
Louis Philip
Jamie Seifert

July 25
Karen Armstrong
Sue Dekett
David Johnson

July 26
Lisa Creed
Aaron Doriot
Candy Kotecki

July 27
Jaime Ayala
Michael Ladd
Rachel Panches
Barbara Schulist

July 28
Lauren Vanderwest

July 29
Angela Vanderwest
Kevin Vanderwest

July 30
Audrey DeVries
Lawrence Garzelloni
Joan Jagnecki
Christopher Johnson
Julie Miller
Carmen Tetzlaff



The prayers and sympathy of the Our Lady of Grace parish family are extended to the families of Leo Marinelli and Virginia Bugai.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them.

FOR DEACON DAVE - THE EYES HAVE IT

By Deacon Dave

Over the years, each of us grows a number of pairs of eyes through which we look at the world and at those who live here with us. We usually call these various views our perspective, but what's that? Mostly, it's just our opinion governed by all the experiences that we have had over the years. And each new experience is seen through those different eyes.

In my own case, there are at least five pairs of eyes that I use rather regularly. It is not uncommon that I view experiences through several sets, which is a good thing, or otherwise my view would certainly be too narrow.

1) I grew up on a "truck farm," and I even went back to the farm for a few years after nearly 10 years of teaching. Our primary crop was potatoes and my father was known as Potato Joe. When I was young, we also raised beans and wheat. Some say you can take the farmer off the farm, but you can never take the farm out of the farmer. So, indeed, I have farmer eyes.

2) I spent more than 38 years teaching professionally in public school, catholic school, or junior college or as a director of religious education. Quite honestly, once a teacher, always a teacher. You need to know that I was certified in Language Arts (my Masters) but also taught Spanish and Latin. I spend half the news hour correcting the English of reporters and anchors who can't hear me. So, I have teacher eyes.

3) As you also know, I am also a parent and a grandparent. As many of you know who share that roll and responsibility, we have those parent/grandparent eyes, and most of our kids think that we have multiple pairs of those - front, back and side too, perhaps.

4) With six years of seminary education, diaconal training and study, and having been ordained now nearly 28 years, I have a set of church eyes.

5) And finally, there are those American eyes, or citizen eyes, or patriotic eyes, or taxpayer eyes that so many of us also share. But we can't discount them. We see things through them and they color how we think about the various freedoms that we so strongly hold firm.

I am also a traveler, a camper, a builder, a carpenter (having built three houses) and a husband for over 40 years. All of those eyes play a role as well.

So that's a little more about me. But I am curious. What pairs of eyes do you use most? Reflect on it.

God bless everyone.



Please pray for God's healing for those among us who are sick:

Mike Ladd
Eva Houseman
Marlene Gilbert
Tillie Standage

STEWARDSHIP AND CHILDREN

Why is it a good idea to share stewardship with your children? Here are just a few good reasons:

1. Children are bombarded with materialistic messages that only lead to frustration and dissatisfaction with life. Stewardship teaches the differences between wants and needs. Stewardship leads to peace and joy in a crazy world.
2. Experts tell us that children usually form their attitudes about sharing sometime between the ages of 6 and 10. They will either develop an entitlement attitude of "The world owes me" or "I don't have enough," or a stewardship attitude of "I have been blessed. I am happy to share."
3. An excellent way to teach stewardship as a way of life to all people, especially children, is through integrating the stewardship message into elementary school programs and service projects. If you were educated in the Catholic school system you probably participated in all the Lenten fundraisers held to adopt a baby in one of the 'pagan' countries.
4. Our children need to learn that stewardship is not a service project that we must do before we can be confirmed or graduate. Stewardship is a way of life; the service is an opportunity to develop the way a good Christian lives every day of the year.
5. Children can afford to be good stewards of treasure. The average child today under the age of 13 has \$230 of disposable income. This is more than over 500 million heads of households throughout the world have to spend on food, clothing and shelter for their families.

An excerpt from *Stewardship Seeds* newsletter

ALL THE BEST TO FR. MIKE C.



As we welcome Father Aaron Ferris to the parish family of Our Lady of Grace, we must bid a sad farewell to Fr. Mike Cilibraise.

After only one short year with our parish, he is moving on in his ministry, becoming the pastor of two parishes — St. Mary's in Custer and St. Jerome in Scottville.

Fr. Mike's bright, broad smile and his sincere commitment to his calling from God made his brief stay at OLG and St. Thomas the Apostle a truly inspirational and memorable one.

Remember, Fr. Mike may have left the OLG parish grounds, but his new parishes are just a short drive away. If you get the chance, drop him a line or pay him a visit at:

St. Mary's
85 S Madison
Custer, MI 49405

St. Jerome
203 W. State Street
Scottville, MI 49454

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **2009 Spaghetti Dinner & Music Festival** is scheduled for September 27, 2009
Stay tuned

For more exciting information on this year's festival. We have some very exciting changes as well as our traditional favorites!