

THE DRIFT



A "NICK"el's Worth of Thoughts from Your Vicar:

Fr. Nick Zukowski

"TEMPUS FUGIT, MEMENTO MORIS"... "Time flies, remember death." Such is the ancient Latin proverb which reminds us that all of us must one day return to God as our bodies rest in peace while we await the glorious day of the Resurrection. The month of November is a time to remember those who have died before us, "marked with the sign of faith" -- our deceased relatives, friends and parishioners who made Christ real and present for us while they walked this earth. It is also a time to recall our own mortality. Our bodies will not live forever while on this earth.

This may be a good time to review what the Church teaches about funeral services, the disposal of a body and the disposal of the cremated remains of a body, also called "cremains." Our sources are the Order of Christian Funerals and Cardinal Adam Maida's Pastoral Letter, *Blessed Are They Who Mourn*, which was issued on October 4, 2001. These are concise excerpts taken from the parish bulletins of St. Edwards on the Lake Parish and St. Mary, Parish in Port Huron. My thanks to you and to your pastors.

There are three principal moments of the funeral liturgy: the Vigil Wake Service in the funeral home, the Funeral Liturgy itself, and the Rite of Committal. If the Rosary is comforting, it may be lead by any family member or the funeral director at a time other than the Vigil Wake Service. The Vigil Wake Service is the proper setting for any eulogies and remembrances. It should not take place in church during the Funeral Liturgy. The Vigil Wake Service is conducted by lay people.

For practicing Catholics, a Funeral Mass should take place in church. Non-practicing Catholics may want to select a Funeral Liturgy (rather than a Mass) in the funeral home, if very few or none of the participants go to Holy Communion regularly. Unless extraordinary permission has been given by the Chancery or one of the bishops, there is never a time when it would be necessary to celebrate a Funeral Mass in a funeral home.

Since 1963, as long as there is no intentional denial of the Resurrection, the Catholic Church has allowed cremation, but it is not the Church's preference. The Funeral Liturgy should be celebrated PRIOR to the cremation. Cremated remains are

never to be scattered, divided among survivors or kept in a family member's home. They are to be interred in a proper cemetery or columbarium, a shelter or crypt for cremated remains. If possible, the body/cremains should be present for the Funeral Liturgy.

Symbols are essential to the funeral ritual. These include the paschal candle, holy water, the pall which goes over the casket. Other symbols or signs should not be introduced in the Funeral Liturgy. In the case of a departed veteran, the flag should be removed from the casket at the door of the church and then replaced with the pall.

Appropriate music is also a symbol; therefore only liturgically appropriate music should be used during the Funeral Liturgy. Non-liturgical, sentimental musical favorites of the deceased may be played BEFORE the Vigil Wake Service or at the funeral luncheon, but they should not be used during the Liturgy itself.

Your vicariate clergy will be meeting to discuss these and other issues, including the pastoral care of the sick. You are reminded to contact your parish priest as soon as possible following a diagnosis or before an important surgery. Please do not wait until the very last moment, when death is imminent and no priest can be found. The sick and the dying have a right to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Communion, Last Rites and Viaticum ("on the road with you"). But the shortage of priests and the lack of education is preventing this awesome event from happening.

WHILE WE, THE LIVING, ARE STILL ALIVE... There is a wonderful season coming up and several opportunities to become spiritually renewed. The season of Advent is a four-week period of preparation for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, at our Eucharistic Table and at the end of time. What better way to prepare than by sharing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Your vicariate clergy have come up with these many chances to be reconciled with God, the Church, one another and yourself. See the schedule and join us for a Communal Penance Service with individual Confession and Absolution, the First Reconciliation of our young people, and Individual Confessions. The cost of being in a state of grace for Christmas is... priceless!

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE HIM THANKS AND PRAISE... As we thank God for the gift of life and the gift of eternal life, let us remember this Thanksgiving that ALL that we have and possess is "on loan" from God. We are charged to be responsible Christian stewards and to take care of everything from our planet to our very bodies. The best way to give Thanksgiving is to be "Thanks-living!" A blessed holiday season to you all!

Advent Season

Communal Penance Services • First Reconciliation • Religious Education and School Reconciliation Services

(Subject to change. Phone the parish or school to confirm dates and times.)

Monday, December 1st

12 Noon	Cardinal Mooney at Holy Cross Site, Marine City
1:00 PM	Immaculate Conception (Rel. Ed.), Ira Township
5:30 PM	Immaculate Conception (Rel. Ed.), Ira Township
7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception (Rel. Ed.), Ira Township

Wednesday, December 3

6:15 PM	Holy Trinity, St. Stephen Site (First Rec.), Port Huron
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Thursday, December 4

1:00 PM	Immaculate Conception (Gr. 3-5), Ira Township
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Wednesday, December 10

6:15 PM	Holy Trinity, St. Joseph Site (Communal), Port Huron
6:30 PM	Immaculate Conception (Communal), Ira Township
7:00 PM	Holy Family, Columbus Site (Communal)

Thursday, December 11

6:30 PM	Immaculate Conception (Gr. 6-8), Ira Township
6:30 PM	St. Augustine (First Rec.), Richmond

Friday, December 12

1:00 PM	St. Mary School (Communal), Port Huron
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Saturday, December 13

11:00 AM	St. Mary (Communal), St. Clair
1:00 PM	O. L./River, St. Catherine Site (Communal), Algonac

Monday, December 15

10:00 AM	St. Mary School (Communal), St. Clair
12 Noon	St. Mary School (Communal), St. Clair
7:00 PM	St. Edward on the Lake (Communal), Lakeport

Tuesday, December 16

11:00 AM	Holy Cross, Lower Grades (Communal.)
12:25 PM	Holy Cross, Jr. High (Communal), Marine City

Wednesday, December 17

7:00 PM	Holy Family, Memphis Site (Communal)
7:00 PM	St. Mary Queen of Creation (Communal), New Baltimore

Thursday, December 18

7:00 PM	St. Christopher (Communal), Marysville
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Saturday, December 20

3:00 PM	O. L./River, Holy Cross Site (Communal), Marine City
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You are so blessed

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.

Blessings to you!

Fifth Sunday at Five

Fifth Sunday at Five: 5:00 PM - Holy Cross Church, Marine City, MI - Fifth Sunday at Five Vespers and Concert. Daniel John Susan, Director of Music Ministries at Holy Cross, presents a recital entitled, "Pulling Out Few Stops," featuring gentle music on the renowned 1861 tracker-action pipe organ built by E. & G. G. Hook, of Boston. The recital follows Vespers, a short service of Psalms and prayers. Free. Contact 810-765-3568.

Nativity Exhibit

St. Mary Queen of Creation Parish Center

50931 Maria at Main St.,
New Baltimore

December 27th, 28th, & 29th, 2008

Noon to 7:00 PM

Free will offering to benefit St. Mary's Food Pantry and St. Vincent de Paul

(Over 300 nativity sets from 60 different countries)



Advent Tea

Holy Family will be having an Advent Tea on December 6th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. There will be dinner. Guest Speaker is Margi Bernia and music by Joe Augusta. Reservations deadline is November 24th. Please call (810) 392-2056 for more info and to make a reservation.



Blue Water Vicariate Directory

Including Weekend Mass Times - (Please Call For Daily Mass Schedule)

Holy Family Parish Memphis Site Phone: 810-392-2056 Masses: Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10 am & 5:30 pm Columbus Site Phone: 586-727-7263 Masses: Sun. 8:00 am	Immaculate Conception Parish (Ira Twp.) Phone: 586-725-3051 Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm, Sun. 8 am, 10 am & 12 pm St. Augustine Parish (Richmond) Phone: 586-727-5215 Masses: Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30
Our Lady on the River Parish Holy Cross Church (Marine City) Phone: 810-765-3568 Masses: Sat. 5:30pm, Sun. 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am St. Catherine of Alexandria Church (Algonac) Phone: 810-794-3301 Masses: Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 8am, 10am & 7pm St. Mark Chapel (Harsens Island) Phone: 810-748-3828 Masses: Sat. (Summer) 4:30 pm, Sun. 10:30 am	St. Christopher Parish (Marysville) Phone: 810-364-4100 Masses: Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 8 am, 9:30 & 11:30 am St. Edward on the Lake (Lakeport) Phone: 810-385-4340 Masses: Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 9:30 am & 11:30 am St. Mary Church (Port Huron) Phone: 810-982-7906 Masses: Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 8 am, 9:30 & 11:30 am
Holy Trinity Parish Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission (Port Huron) Phone: 810-985-5212 Masses: 1st & 2nd Sunday only: 11:00 am St. Joseph Church (Port Huron) Phone: 810-984-2689 Masses: Sun. 7:30 am & 11:00 am St. Stephen Church (Port Huron) Phone: 810-984-2689 Masses: Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 9 am	St. Mary Parish (St. Clair) Phone: 810-329-2255 Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm, Sun. 7:30 am, 9:30 & 11:30 am St. Mary Queen of Creation (New Balt.) Phone: 586-725-2441 Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm, Sun. 7:30 am, 9:30 & 11:30 am Visit our vicariate on the web at: www.bluewatervicariate.org

Upcoming Vicariate Events

◆ **NOVEMBER 29 - K of C Euchre Tournament:** Holy Family Parish Hall. 79780 Main St., Memphis, MI. Entry fee is \$15.00 and there are three chances to win the prize money. Euchres are \$0.25, and one lucky winner will take home all Euchre funds collected by drawing. Food and nonalcoholic beverages are available at freewill donation. Registration 6:30 pm play starts at 7:00 pm.

◆ **NOVEMBER 30 - Fifth Sunday at Five:** 5:00 pm - Holy Cross Church, 610 S. Water St., Marine City, MI - Fifth Sunday at Five Vespers and Concert. Daniel John Susan, Director of Music Ministries at Holy Cross, presents a recital entitled, "Pulling Out Few Stops," featuring gentle music on the renowned 1861 tracker-action pipe organ built by E. & G. G. Hook, of Boston. The concert follows Vespers, a short service of Psalms and prayers. Free and open to the public. 810-765-3568 - www.holycrossonline.net.

◆ **NOVEMBER 30 - Advent Tea:** St. Mary Queen of Creation, New Baltimore, MI. 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Call the parish for more information.

◆ **DECEMBER 4 - Catechist Certification Offering:** 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Immaculate Conception Parish, Ira Township, MI. Facilitating a Catechetical Session: Group Dynamics. Presenter Jane Petitpren.

◆ **DECEMBER 6 - Advent Tea:** Holy Family Parish, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. There will be dinner. Guest speaker is Margi Bernia and music by Joe Augusta. Reservation deadline is November 24th. Please call 810-392-2056 for more information and to make reservations.

◆ **DECEMBER 9 - Vicariate Clergy Meeting:** Holy Trinity, Port Huron. Full staff luncheon with clergy.

◆ **DECEMBER 27, 28, 29 - Nativity Exhibit:** St. Mary Queen of Creation Parish Center, New Baltimore, MI. 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

◆ **JANUARY 14 - Blue Water Vicariate Meeting:** Held at All Saints Church, Memphis, MI. 6:45 pm social time, 7:00 pm meeting.

◆ **JANUARY 31 - K of C Euchre Tournament:** Holy Family Parish Hall. 79780 Main St., Memphis, MI. Entry fee is \$15.00 and there are three chances to win the prize money. Euchres are \$0.25, and one lucky winner will take home all Euchre funds collected by drawing. Food and nonalcoholic beverages are available at freewill donation. Registration 6:30 pm play starts at 7:00 pm.



The Drift
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Blue Water Vicariate

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Web: www.bluewatervicariate.org

Divine Mercy

Holy Family Divine Mercy group will be meeting on Tuesday evenings starting with a Rosary at 6:30 PM, the Holy Mass at 7:00 PM, followed by The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, prayer and fellowship.

Euchre Tournament

The K of C is hosting a Euchre Tournament on Saturday, November 29, 2008 and January 31, 2009 at Holy Family in the Parish Hall.

Holy Family is located at 79780 Main Street, in Memphis. The entry fee is \$15.00 and there are three chances at prize money. Euchres are \$0.25, and one lucky winner will take home all Euchre funds collected by drawing.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages are available at freewill donation.

We Need Your Input

To submit information to be included in the Blue Water Vicariate calendar of events please E-mail your information to **info@bluewatervicariate.org**. Please be sure to include all relevant information: event name, date, time, cost, location, etc.

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