



~ THE ZEBEDEE INFORMER ~

Sons of Zebedee: Ss. James and John Catholic Church

W5882 Church Road, Fond du Lac WI 54937-8602

Reverend Michael C. Petersen, Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
Michael C. Petersen, Pastor

April, 2012
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From the Pastor

Happy Easter! May the joy of the Easter season...the joy and hope of the Resurrection... surround you and fill you with light, happiness, and peace. (and a few jelly beans and a chocolate or two). We have passed from the season of Lent, (a season of dying to ourselves), and now rejoice in the newness of life in the Easter season (resurrection) we reflect on, and celebrate, the death and resurrection of the Lord it becomes clear to us that all of life is filled with death and resurrection experiences.

The parish continues to make efforts to be a vibrant, faith-filled community. There is much to celebrate and much we are called to grapple with as the mystery of faith continues to unfold (just as the joy of the celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord continues to unfold for us throughout our lives). Death and resurrection are two sides of the same coin and experienced in greater and lesser degree at different times.

Most recently the community gathered to welcome spring (the resurrection of the earth from the death of winter) and share in the delights of the annual Spaghetti Supper. For the past nine years Mr. Pete Haase has been the chef of this annual parish fund raising social event hosted by our parish. Last year Pete informed me that it was time for him to bestow his apron to another member of the community. The end (or death of) an era followed by a resurrection. A member of our community, Mrs. Deb Sabel, heard of Pete's desire to hand over his apron and offered to serve our community by taking on the role of head chef. Pete and Deb worked together this past week to begin the transition and we are most grateful to Pete for his years of service as well as Deb's courage in stepping forward to prepare the meal for our annual Spaghetti Supper. Well done good and faithful servants.

The weekend of May 19-20th our parish community will once again host the annual Spring Into Church event (**see the insert included in this edition of the Informer**). The event is the extension of an invitation to those of our community who don't attend Mass on a regular basis to consider the Spring Into Church event as a time to put down a stake and renew their commitment to regular Mass attendance. If not now...when? I hope that this will speak to those of you reading this who don't participate in the weekend celebrations to see this as an invitation to return to weekly sharing in the Eucharist. The community misses you and longs for your presence. What will you have to do in order to experience the joy of the resurrection each week? What will you have to die to in order to experience new life?

The building project at the St. John site is very near completion. The pouring of a sidewalk had to be postponed this past week due to bad weather and landscaping is underway. Fortunately the project was far enough along for the recent Spaghetti Supper to accommodate those who have need of handicap accessible facilities. Those in attendance who I had spoken to and have need of fully handicap accessible facilities were truly grateful, not only for the long overdue upgrade to our facility, but also for the opportunity to reconnect with the parish community they have been estranged from as a result of their infirmities. Again, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the anonymous donor who has given us such a tremendous gift. Preparations are now underway to begin the upgrading of the St. James site. Because of the generosity of our anonymous donor we are able to utilize the funds from the Faith In Our Future Campaign to install a lift on the southeast side of the

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SEE INSERTS FOR:

Bake-less Bake sale

Spring into Church,
 May 19 and 20, 2012

Please remember to support the advertisers listed on the reverse side of our newsletter insert.

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June 1, 2012

Next Issue: July 2012

Upcoming issues:

October 2012

January 2013

Pastor's Column Continued

St. James site and upgrade the restrooms to handicap accessible standards. In addition to the lift and upgraded restrooms the project will also entail the installation of electronic handicap accessible doors. Unfortunately, the remaining \$24,500 **FIOF** dollars for Buildings and Grounds will not be enough to cover the cost of the entire project. As a result the Parish Council is preparing a parish wide capital campaign to raise the monies needed to cover the costs of the project at the St. James site. It is hoped that the capital campaign called "**Let Us Pray**" will run for one year for the (very roughly) estimated \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 dollar project. (*These figures are not based on bids we are currently soliciting as we are still waiting to hear from contractors for final estimated construction costs.*) Please watch for further information and communication regarding the "**Let Us Pray**" capital campaign once the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Parish Council have had a chance to review and approve these bids.

As you may know from the advertisement that ran in our parish bulletin for several months, our parish bookkeeper, Maureen Betz, has left the bookkeeping position here at Sons of Zebedee. Again, a death and resurrection experience for our parish as it sought out a candidate to fill this important parish position. Through further advertising our parish community was able to procure the expertise of Ms. Patty Salter. Patty is a welcome addition to our parish office. For the past several weeks Patty has been familiarizing herself, (with the assistance of Maureen), with the financial records of our parish. I hope you will join me in offering prayers of thanks for Maureen's faithful service to our community for the past six years. Maureen's expertise has certainly been a blessing to our community. I want to personally, and publicly, thank Maureen for taking on the task she has faithfully executed for the past six years. On behalf of myself and the community we are deeply grateful, Maureen...Thank you! As for Patty...a very warm welcome. We hope that your time with us as parish bookkeeper will be a rewarding, life-giving, experience and a blessing.

I have been asked to remind you that the Oakfield Lions are actively seeking your help. The Lions ask that you continue to collect the tabs from aluminum beverage cans and bring them to church for deposit in the receptacles in entryway of church. The tabs are being collected to support the efforts of the Ronald McDonald House. As you know Ronald McDonald

Houses provide accommodations to loved ones of those hospitalized for extended periods of time, to those who might find themselves at a distance from home affording family members the opportunity to be in close proximity to the infirm. Certainly a worthwhile collaborative effort between McDonald's, hospitals, and the Oakfield Lions Club organization. Please be sure to keep collecting the tabs. Easter Peace and Joy

—Fr. Michael

Parish Stewardship - What is it?

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the ongoing stewardship educational efforts of the parish. The committee works closely with other standing committees of the parish to ensure stewardship efforts are consistent and fulfill the parish mission. Developing programs for welcoming new parishioners, designing creative tools which invite all parishioners, including children to share their time, talents, and treasure.

With Lent in full swing it is natural to be outgoing in our stewardship. Not only is it rewarding for those on the receiving end, but also equally satisfying for those giving of their talents and treasures.

Ideas for giving include:

- Visiting sick or confined friends and neighbors.
- Doing volunteer work in our church and schools.
- Giving generously to your favorite charities.
- Offering up prayers.
- Supporting youth programs and ministries.
- Helping with spaghetti supper, parish picnic, chili supper.

I'm sure there are many other ideas. Feel free to call the parish office (922-1167) or Tom Kelroy (921-4799). Please consider coming to our next meeting. Watch the bulletin for date and time.

Calendar of Celebrations

The Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm St. John

Good Friday - Good Friday Service 1:00 pm St. James site

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil 8:30 pm St. John site

Easter Sunday April 8, 2012 Masses at 9:00 am, St James site. 11:00 am St. John Site.

The Sacrament of Confirmation April 17, 2012 at Shepherd of the Hills, Eden, Archbishop Don Hying, Presider, 7:00 pm.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion May 6, 2012 11:00 am .

Spring into Church May 19 & 20, 2012

This year, at the onset of the Lenten season, the Catechists and I decided that a day of prayer was in order. Students, Kindergarten through eighth grade, along with some parents, met after 8am Mass at St. James Church for the praying of the Stations of the Cross. Many students stepped up and read part of the prayers for each station. There was wonderful participation by all. Afterwards, everyone was treated to snacks and beverages in the lower level while we viewed a DVD theatrical version "Living Way of the Cross" as dramatized by the students of Shepherd of the Hills school. Overall it was a good day for learning, reflection, and focusing ourselves on the Lenten journey ahead.

Members of the high school class were also treated to a movie night on March 25th. Throughout our Lenten Journey, we had been discussing Jesus' passion, his suffering, and his challenges as they relate to our lived experience. With parental permission we viewed the movie, "The Passion of the Christ." It is a very powerful depiction of what our Lord went through to take on and transform our sins. May we be forever mindful of our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

The seven Confirmation Candidates attended the Chrism Mass at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee on Tuesday, April 3rd. Charlene Pettit and I transported our young adults to this annual archdiocesan celebration. Archbishop ListECKI presided over the mass and blessed oils which are then distributed to the parishes of the Archdiocese. These oils are used in the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and the Anointing of the Sick. **Confirmation will be at Shepherd of the Hills Parish in Eden on April 17, 2012.**

Our Religious Education program will wrap up with final lessons on Sunday, April 29th. However, our First Communicants will have one more week of preparation time before joining us at the Table of the Lord! The community rejoices! **Mass for First Holy Communion will be Sunday, May 6th at the 11:00am at St. James Church in Oakfield. (8:00 am Mass will be offered at St. John's Byron because of this special occasion).**

Please remember all of our students in your prayers, and thank you for helping to make our program a success.

My love and prayers to all,
Loreen Kuslits

HUMAN CONCERNS NEWS

By Cheri Neitzel, Secretary, Human Concerns Committee

THANK YOU to all who contributed to OPERATION RICE BOWL during the Lenten season. This program raises money for Catholic Relief Services who work with local, national and international Catholic groups to help alleviate hunger. 25% of the SOZ rice bowl collections were donated to our local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

UPCOMING SPRING/SUMMER PROJECTS

- **MS WALK:** Sat, April 28 at Marion University. This event raises critical funds that support research, drive change, facilitate education and provide services to help people with MS. Collections will be held after masses leading up to the event. For more info visit: www.nationalmssociety.org.
- **Mother's Day ROSE SALE:** Roses will be available after masses on Mother's Day Weekend, May 12 & 13. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to Wisconsin Right to Life.
- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Collection houses to be placed in the back of each church from mid-May until mid-June to cover the cost of the lunches that we will serve to Habitat volunteers. Wondering how you can help in other ways? Call (920) 921-6623 to volunteer your time or shop at the **Re Store Thrift Shop** at 150 S. Brooke St in FDL. They have lots of household items, tools and more. Visit www.habitat.org for more information.
- **OPERATION BACK TO SCHOOL:** Collection buses to be placed in each church from mid-June to the end of July. We would like to sponsor 12 students as we did last year. This program is run through the Salvation Army.

NEXT MEETING: Wed., April 11, 2012, St. John's Hall - lower level, 7pm.

We value *your* input. Please consider attending. ALL ARE WELCOME!

NEXT MEETING: Wed., Feb. 8, 2012, St. John's Hall - lower level, 7 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Paul & Dawn Hesprich

Paul and Dawn Hesprich were married at St. John's in October, 2010. Paul is the sixth child in a family of eight siblings and grew up on a dairy farm in the Lomira area.

He graduated from CCLT, Lomira High School, and UW Madison with a degree in Agricultural Science. He has worked at Quad Graphics since 1991 and is the Freight operations Coordinator. Dawn is the oldest of three siblings and grew up in the city of Fond du Lac. She graduated from St. Louis/St. Patrick grade school, Goodrich High School, and MPTC with an accounting degree. She has worked at Ozburn Hessey Logistics since 1998.

They like to go camping, downhill skiing, biking, hiking and shoot darts. They built a cabin near Ogema with Paul's brother & his wife, and enjoy spending time there with their 2 black Labradors. They postponed their honeymoon until August 2011 and enjoyed twelve days in Alaska.

We are happy to have Paul & Dawn as members of Sons of Zebedee community.



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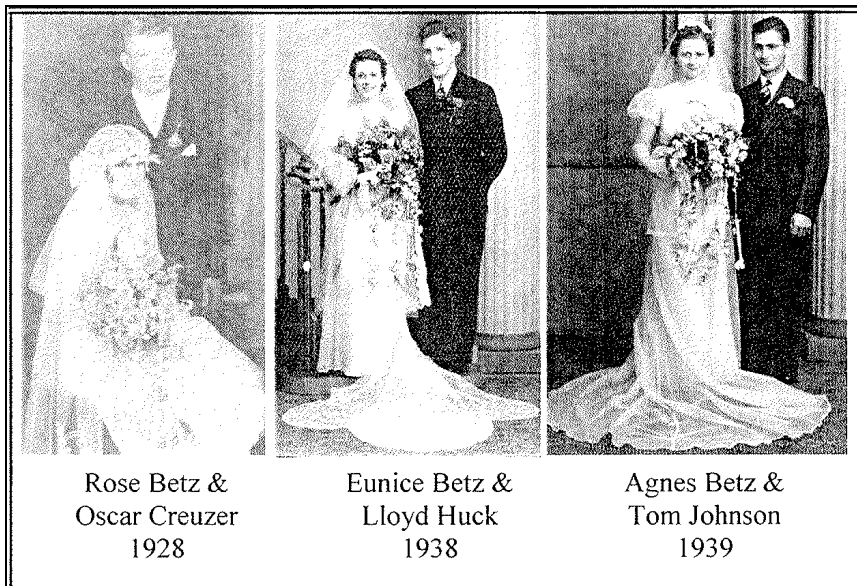
Notes from the Past

Maureen Betz

Weddings remain one of the most joyous sacraments in our church. They not only symbolize faith, hope, and love, but they are historical records in the form of written documentation and photographs.

The marriages portrayed on the right are those of three sisters, the daughters of Henry and Catherine Betz, all of whom were united in marriage at Sons of Zebedee.

The Byron Historical Society is featuring weddings in their upcoming 2013 commemorative calendar. Why not make 2013 the year of the wedding by digging in the old photograph albums and in those dusty boxes stored in the attic to uncover wedding photos? Share the stories with your family. In addition, Town of Byron wedding photos are being gathered now for inclusion in the 2013 calendar. Please contact this writer at 922-5351 if you have photos and/or stories to enrich our calendar and our local history.



Rose Betz &
Oscar Creuzer
1928

Eunice Betz &
Lloyd Huck
1938

Agnes Betz &
Tom Johnson
1939

Saintly Information

Submitted by Paula Homuth

March 1st is my Mother's birthday. One of the scripture readings for this past March 1st was from the Book of Esther. This prompted me to write my "Saintly" article about Esther.

My Mother's name is Esther. She was born to her earthly life March 1, 1908. On February 22, 2000 she was born to her Eternal Life. My cousin, a Jesuit priest, was the celebrant at her funeral Mass. He eulogized my mother by comparing her to the biblical Queen Esther from the Old Testament. This piqued my interest to learn more about this courageous woman from the Bible.

I learned that the Book of Esther is one of only two books in the Old Testament bearing the name of a woman. The importance of her story becomes apparent, for in this short Bible book her name appears 55 times and only Sarah compares to that frequency.

She was a young Jewish girl raised by an uncle living with other Jewish people as refugees in Persia. She eventually became Queen of Persia. When the lives of her Jewish people were threatened, she prepared to go to the King to ask for intervention. After she fasted and prayed and urged her people to do the same, she went to the King. Her life was put in jeopardy as the custom of that time prohibited a woman to appeal to the King. Their prayers were answered and her people were spared. The people gave thanks to Esther, but Queen Esther gave thanks to God. She used her position as queen, knowing it was a God given gift. Just recently I read that Queen Esther foreshadowed Mary as she interceded for her people to the King. In turn, we are encouraged to call on God (King) through Mary.

To this day, the Jewish people celebrate the festival of "Purim" which signifies the deliverance from that massacre. I learned more details about Esther in a recent movie entitled "One Night With the King."

It is said that all those in Heaven are saints. Most people believe that the heroin of the Bible are Saints and Esther was a heroin of the Bible, although the canonization process did not begin until the 10th century.

Esther called on God immediately. She realized her complete and total dependence on God, as we are encouraged to do. Keep praying like it all depends on God...because it does.