

THE ZEBEDEE INFORMER

Sons of Zebedee: Ss. James and John Catholic Church
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July, 2012
 Volume 7 Issue No. 3

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SEE INSERTS FOR:

Parish Picnic, Sunday,
 August 26, 2012



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

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- Loreen Kuslits
- George Macias
- Mary Rhein
- Diane Giese
- Maureen Betz
- Paula Homuth

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Kathy Christie

Article Deadline

For Next Issue:

September 1, 2012

Next Issue: Oct. 2012

Upcoming issues:

January, 2013

April, 2013

From the Pastor

It's summer time and the living is easy...or is it?

Parish Finances

As always there has been an ongoing effort by the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee to assess our financial situation here at Sons of Zebedee. As it turns out our parish will suffer an approximate \$5,000.00 shortfall in our \$165,160.00 budget this year.

The yearly statements sent to households of the parish seem to be helpful and the follow up letter informing the members of our community that there were indications of a shortfall do elicit a response. However, when 302 letters are sent out for parish pledge renewals, well, to date the office has received 91 responses for a total of \$58,735.00 you can see the difficulty the Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council have in setting a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. These pledge cards are what the Finance Committee relies on to prepare its annual budget for the parish. Concerned about what might be seen as a trend and considering the economic situation of our nation, and in turn our parish community, efforts will be made to keep expenses down while encouraging parishioners, *particularly those families who do not make regular contributions to the parish*, to please consider making what might be considered a "small" contribution (say \$10.00 or \$20.00) to help offset any future shortfall in our parish budget.

Parish Construction Projects

The Parish Pastoral Council and the Standing Committees are taking a little break for the months of July and August and will resume their regular meeting schedules in September. Even in light of this hiatus there is much to do and much to consider as the parish never really quite rests. For example, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will continue to solicit bids in an effort to make the St. James site handicap accessible. As you know the restrooms at the St. James site have been brought up to "code" but are still not handicap accessible for those who have need of handicap facilities. The initial effort to install a lift at the St. James site is proving to be quite expensive, our first bid came in at \$125,000.00...(can you say sticker shock?)...remember that our total budget for last year was \$165,000.00. Needless to say, the process of soliciting bids from contractors continues. If it should be the case that a bid comes in that is *quite a bit more reasonable*, (which may exceed the amount of funds available to us through our Faith In Our Future account), there may be the possibility of holding a parish capital campaign to cover the cost of the construction and installation of a lift. If no bid comes in that

Pastor's Column Continued

is quite a bit more reasonable the Buildings and Grounds Committee will have to consider the alternate option of a ramp on the north side of the St. James site.

www.sonsofz.org

That's the address of our new parish website. Thanks to the efforts of parishioner, Jason Pettit our parish has taken yet another step into the twenty-first century. A great deal of parish information has been loaded onto the website for your convenience. Bulletins, this newsletter, Parish Pastoral Council and Standing Committees and Religious Education are all working to keep you, the parishioner, updated on the workings, activities and proceedings of the parish. When you've finished reading this edition of the *Informer*, check out the website and find out more, offer suggestions that will help, and keep updated on the latest of our parish community.

Parish Picnic

Our parish is once again hosting a **community wide picnic on August 26, 2012 from 11:00a.m. to 5p.m. at the Village Park in Oakfield.** Although this is one of three parish fundraisers this is a community wide gathering not just a parish event...***all are welcome and encouraged to attend and enjoy the festivities.*** As always there will be wonderful food and beverages, sweet corn...both cooked and uncooked...GREAT music provided by ***Page Four Band*** from noon to four. I'm thinking those sinfully delicious brownie sundaes and root beer floats will be available...*just thinking about them makes my mouth water...*and GREAT fellowship. There are fun games for the kids...and of course for the adults there are the raffles that include cash prizes and donated prizes from parishioners and local businesses as well as games of chance. Don't forget about the half beef raffle...with food costs continuing to rise this is one of those raffles you won't want to miss out on.

For parishioners...(this means you)...please be aware that envelopes with tickets for the Big Raffle will be available in the entrances of church for you to *pick up and sell* prior to the picnic.

Included in the envelope is a letter of invitation to the picnic which also requests a \$10.00 donation. Raffle tickets, for both the Big Raffle and Half Beef Raffle will be available at the park as well. Help us to keep costs down by picking them up from church otherwise we have to mail them out first class. —Fr. Michael

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Loreen Kustlits, DRE

Summer is here and the heat has definitely been turned UP! I hope everyone is keeping cool. Our focus at this time is VBS - Vacation Bible School. We once again are teaming up with the Oakfield United Methodist Church members to gather the children for an energy-packed, fun - filled, day-long growing closer to God experience! WOW! What a mouthful. This year our theme is the "Shake It Up Café. Our children will learn through story, science, crafts, music, and recreation. VBS is set to take place on Thursday, August 9, 2012. More information will be available on local fliers and in the church bulletins. Additional planning meetings will be held every Wednesday evening in July and the first week of August, 6:00pm at the Oakfield United Methodist Church - **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** We will need help with background décor, group leaders, and station coordinators so mark your calendars NOW - and get ready to get creative at the *Café*.

Also, the catechists and I are getting ready for fall classes. Our Catechist Meeting will be Tuesday, July 17th, 6:30pm at St. John's Hall, Byron. The schedule and activities will be discussed - please bring a list of needed supplies. With registration forms steadily arriving at my office (DUE BY JULY 31st), books, supplies, and schedules will all be ready to go and classes will be starting before we know it.

A special Thank You to Deb Conger for sharing her gifts for the past five years as Kindergarten Catechist. Also, congratulations on your certification and new job! We wish you all the best.

With that being said, our program needs a **Kindergarten Catechist.** Please give consideration to this position. We do have children already registered for kindergarten this coming fall. They need you-to play, to have fun, to share, and to be there. If you feel a nudge in your heart, that's the Holy Spirit telling you to contact me - Loreen Kuslits (H) 583-3490 or (C)602- 1966 or at the parish office - 922-1167. ***We need you to make our program successful!***

My love and prayers to all of you,
Loreen

PARISH PICNIC

George Macias

Meet Your Parishioner

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Summer is here and that means it is time for our Parish picnic! This year's picnic is Sunday, August 26th and will be at the Oakfield Village Park from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. We will have games for the kids, food, drinks, and music by the Page Four Band. We also need help with the picnic so please be generous and donate an hour or two of your time. Watch for the sign up sheets in church the weekend of July 28, 29.

Please call George at 924-9311 for information about the picnic or how you can be of help. See you at the picnic. Guaranteed, a fun time will be had by all.



Come and enjoy!

David Brown

David Brown was raised on a farm in Dundee with 2 brothers and 2 sisters. He attended a one room school until 8th grade and then attended the newly built our Lady of Angels School in Armstrong. He was in the first graduating class from the school.

David married, raised five children, owned an antique shop, and worked at Regal Ware for 14 years in Kewaskum. He moved back to Dundee and went into the antique and tavern business for 14 years. The next 14 years he worked at the Health Care Center in Fond du Lac. He presently owns the Settlement, an antique and craft shop and also has an Adult Family Home.

David has been a member of Sons of Zebedee for 3 years. He likes the atmosphere of a small church and has made some wonderful friends. He stated that in the past he had been at places for 14 years. He hopes to be at Sons of Zebedee for 14 years or more.

We are happy to have David as a member of our parish family.

David Brown,
Tim Phillips and
Carol Konzel



HUMAN CONCERNS NEWS

Due to the generosity of our Sons of Zebedee Parish family we collected \$444.46 in our Operation Rice Bowls during the Lenten Season. 25% or \$111.25 was sent to St. Vincent DePaul in Fond du Lac and the remaining 75% or \$333.34 was sent to the Catholic Relief Services in Milwaukee. You also helped the MS Walk Team members Gil and Pat Ahtonen and Dave and Diane Giese raise \$630.00 for continued research and education in finding treatments for M.S. Our Mother's Day Rose sale collected \$300.00 for the WI Right to Life. Way to go Sons of Zebedee!

Our summer will see us providing an afternoon snack at the Habitat for Humanity house project in Fond du Lac and please keep an eye out for the School Buses in the back of both church sites starting in early July. We are again participating in the Operation Back to School project to help supply the necessary school supplies for the needy children in the surrounding area.

Don't forget our Oakfield Food Pantry collection bins in the back of each Church. They are always in need of food items.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at St. John's Hall. Come join us - ALL ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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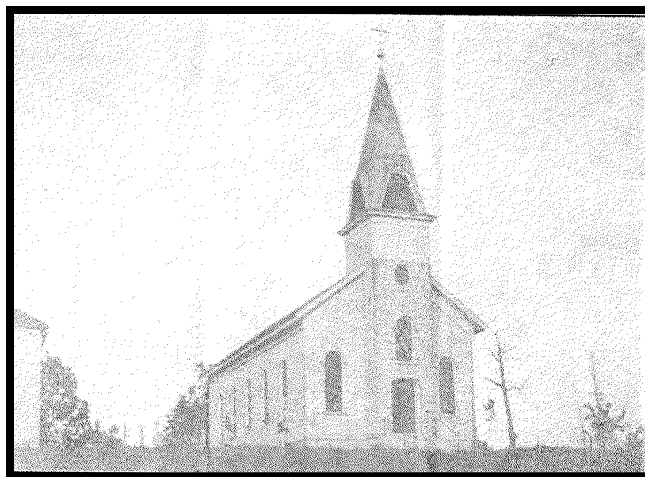
Notes from the Past

Maureen Betz

June is a popular month for weddings, but the first marriage ceremony at Sons of Zebedee's newly dedicated stone church at Byron did not take place on a perfect June day. Instead, the cold month of January claims this historic event. On January 10, 1868, Reverend Smith united in marriage Mary Honora Mahoney, daughter of Michael and Catherine Mahoney, and Nicholas Klotz, son of Ignatius and Johanna Klotz of Eden.

The church, sparsely decorated at that time and without a bell in the steeple, must have looked even more stark than the circa 1900 photograph above, with the addition of lots of snow to enfold the wedding couple.

This photograph was taken by a member of the Madden family that lived across the road from the church.) Although we have no newspaper account of that first wedding, the ceremony occurred on a Friday and, no doubt, cost considerably less than today's weddings which average \$27,000.00.



Don't forget that the Byron Historical Society is gathering wedding stories. Please share yours with this writer at 922-5351.

Twin Saints - Cosmas and Damian

Patron Saints of Doctors

Feast day: September 26

Submitted by Paula Homuth

One of my favorite saint stories is that of twin brothers Cosmas and Damian. My interest is that I am also a twin. There are several sets of twins on the role of saints, and the most famous is Cosmas and Damian. Born in the middle of the third century in Cilicia, part of today's Turkey, they were sons of Christian Arabs. Both shared an interest in medicine and became physicians. They never charged patients a fee for their services. Their medical ministries led to many conversions to the Catholic Faith as everyone knew they were selfless physicians and good Christians.

When persecution of the Church broke out, Cosmas and Damian along with their three younger brothers were condemned to death. Supposedly, the executioners chained the five brothers hands and feet and threw them into the sea to drown, but the martyrs floated safely to the surface. Then they were tied to stakes to be burned alive, but the flames would not touch them. Next they were tied to crosses so passers-by could throw stones and soldiers could shoot arrows at them, but everything thrown or shot at the brothers backfired and struck their attackers instead. Finally Cosmas and Damian and their three brothers were beheaded.

They were made famous by a miraculous operation in which they transplanted an Ethiopian's leg onto a white man's body. This miracle is often celebrated in Catholic art depicting the twin saints.

Their generosity in treating people for free has been a tradition in the Church for centuries and continues to this day. Many in the medical profession today donate time to treat people in free clinics, both in the United States and overseas. We can ask these two saints to intercede for those with healing gifts to continue to be generous to people in need.