

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

Our role as a Christian steward is about faithfully developing and utilizing our time and talents for the benefit of others within the amount of time God has given us here on earth.

Stewardship Live It!

THE COLORFUL PEOPLE OF CATHOLICISM

AUGUSTINE - PART I

One of the decisive periods in the official suppression of paganism in Africa occurred during the years 399-401. A Roman mission arrived in Carthage in 399 with authority to close the temples. In the same year religious riots erupted that caused at least 60 deaths. By 401 the Catholic bishops in Council at Carthage had sent an embassy to Rome to appeal for even more legislation to uproot the remnants of idolatry. Among these bishops was Augustine of Hippo, the outstanding genius of the Western Church.

Special Thanks . . .

We would like to thank all of the Faith Formation families for their overwhelming generosity to Isaiah House during the St. Rita's Faith Formation service project. We are completely dependent on donations and many items received from the children will help us continue our gentle ministry to the dying. Their acts of kindness to Isaiah House show us that Jesus' love shines brightly in their hearts.

Kathy Doerner, Director and
Jane DeBrine, Administrator Isaiah House

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SAVE THE DATE

Arthritis; Everything You've Been Aching to Know

The WPCC Health Ministry is pleased to present their spring health program, **Arthritis; Everything You've Been Aching to Know**.

This program will be presented by Joanne Insull, Program Director for the Upstate Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. As part of her job, Joanne develops education programs and exercise programs for people with arthritis as well as for professional education and public health programs.

The program will focus on prevention, maintenance and treatment and will be held on **Sunday, April 20, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm**, at St. Paul's Church, 783 Hard Rd.

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Fiesta Plant Sale Puts Down Roots: Now is the time to prepare for the Fiesta Plant Sale! When you are digging and dividing your plants and shrubs for the sale, please mark the name and flower color on each pot. This will make it easier for customers to be able to find the specific plant they want and know the color of the plant they are purchasing. We are in need of different varieties of Hostas, flowering shrubs, perennials, as well as planting containers. Please call Carol Van Atta at 671-7832 (for digging and dividing of plant donations) by mid April or Joyce Hollander at 671-3281 (to volunteer at the plant booth).

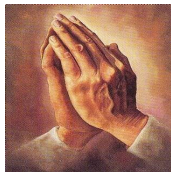
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ST. RITA'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008
July 14 through 18 from 9:00am to Noon.
Registration forms are available in the Narthex.

Augustine was born in 354 in a small town, Thagate, in Latin Africa (Algeria.) His mother Monica was a lifelong devout Christian. After fathering a son, he underwent a conversion. He pursued a career as a professor of rhetoric to the court of the Emperor at Milan. When he came to Milan, he fell under the influence of Bishop Ambrose. His study of the philosophy of Plotinus helped him change careers from rhetoric to philosophy. He then received the sacrament of Baptism from Bishop Ambrose in 387. He endured personal tragedy with the death of his mother and son Adeodatus. Following these events, he traveled to Hippo and was ordained to the priesthood. In 393 he was honored with an invitation to address the African Catholic bishops. In 395 Bishop Valerius chose him as his co-adjutor, and a few years later succeeded Valerius as bishop of Hippo.

Augustine turned the episcopal house into a monastery, and required priests to take vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience to a strict rule. From 395 to 410, he wrote 33 books, one of them being his "Confessions," a masterpiece of introspective autobiography, which he wrote after becoming bishop. The Confessions were a fiercely honest scrutiny of his whole past life and analyzed his motives behind his spiritual evolution. He also wrote "The City of God," a book that was written as Alaric, with his Gothic army, laid Rome to a terrible sack for three days. It took him 13 years to write "The City of God." He passed Christian judgment on the whole history, culture, and religion of pagan Rome and relates it to what he regards as the ultimate meaning of history itself. History, he claims, can only be understood through the biblical revelation that discloses it as a continuing struggle between two cities, one made up of those who pursue only earthly goods and live under the curse of Adam. They constitute the City of Man and find their fitting symbol in the Roman Empire. There is another city, however, destined to last forever: the City of God. The City of God embraces all those souls who live only as pilgrims in the midst of the world and have placed their hopes only in God.

The sack of Rome drove many inhabitants to seek refuge in Africa. Among them was a theologian named Pelagius, who came to Carthage with his disciple Celestius. Augustine and Pelagius came to theological blows over the idea of human freedom. Pelagius believed that man was in full control of his own moral destiny. In spite of the evil influences of sin, he could out of his own resources choose the good. God's help was limited mainly to external means—the Commandments, the teaching and example of Christ---so that one could observe God's Commandments without sinning if one so chose.



EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

7:00AM RAYMOND KUPSKI – A.W. Laduca
9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008

9:15AM ART YAEGER – Family

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008

9:15AM FRITZ MUELLER – Kathleen Mueller

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2008

5:00PM DONALD BROWN – Carol Brown

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008

7:30AM ARTHUR CONN – Wife Phyllis
9:00AM WAYNE SERGEANT – Family
10:30AM ANH DUONG – Friends

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This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of Wayne Sergeant



PARISH VISITATION

Do you have a loved one at home, in a nursing home, or hospital that is in need of a visit? Our pastoral staff is here for you. Please call Rose Leisenring at 671-1100 ext. 17 or Drew Desmarais at 671-1100 ext. 15.

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Companions in Grief Support Group



Wednesday, April 16
at 7:30pm at Holy Trinity Church

Speaker: Jim Mulcahy
Topic: "When will I get better?"

All who have experienced the loss of a loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome!

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DAILY MASS PARTICIPANTS

Please Call the parish office at 671-1100 x 22 anytime for the most up to date daily Mass schedule.

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Did You Know? Our bulletin is available each week on-line at www.saintrita.org – check it out!

From the Desk of Bishop Clark...

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Stem cell research is very much on the minds of many patients, doctors and medical researchers. It seems that every week a news story appears about progress being made in this new and unique realm of medical research and treatment. But there is much confusion in the minds of the people about the state of stem cell research and exactly what the Church teaches about the use of stem cells in medical treatment.

It is important to note that the Church wholeheartedly endorses further research and development of medicine that uses *ethically derived* stem cells. Stem cell treatments are becoming available for numerous diseases in the United States and throughout the world. All of the existing stem cell treatments were developed using stem cells from a patient's own body, the body of a consenting donor, umbilical cord blood or amniotic fluid.

During the next ten years, the New York State government will invest \$600 million of taxpayers' money in stem cell research. It is imperative that the citizens of the state help to guide this investment into research that is ethical and that produces treatments for patients now. Some scientists create human embryos for scientific research and are attempting to clone human embryos for experimentation, *yet not one cure has come from embryonic stem cell research*. We believe it is morally objectionable to create and then destroy life for the use of others. Such activity contributes to the creation of a culture where the basic dignity of each human being is disregarded.

I am pleased to announce the availability of an educational video that clarifies many of the issues related to stem cell research. Please take the time to view the video at:

www.adultstemcellinitiative.org

For those of you without Internet access, a DVD is available at your parish for viewing. The protection of nascent human life is of the utmost importance in our culture today.

With every good wish I remain,
Your brother in Christ,
Matthew H. Clark
†Bishop of Rochester

No Faith Formation Classes this week

TUESDAY 4/15

1:00pm Recovery – Rm 3

WEDNESDAY 4/16

7:00-8:30pm Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:00-9:00pm Bible Study – Rm 1
 8:30-10:30pm Men's Basketball – Gym

We welcome the newest members of our parish family who were baptized this weekend:

- Thomas Jonathan Obstarczyk*
- Zachary John Broccolo*
- Rebecca Marie Kneiss*
- Colin Jacob Ritchie*
- Nora Kaitlin Curry*



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BIBLE READINGS:

- 13 Sun **Fourth Sunday of Easter** Acts 2:14a,36-41
Ps 23:1-6 1 Pt 2:20b-25 Jn 10:1-10
- 14 Mon Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3;43:3-4 Jn 10:11-18
- 15 Tue Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7 Jn 10:22-30
- 16 Wed Acts 12:24-13:5a Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8 Jn 12:44-50
- 17 Thu Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3,21-22,25,27 Jn 13:16-20
- 18 Fri Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11 Jn 14:1-6
- 19 Sat Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14
- 20 Sun **Fifth Sunday of Easter** Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

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ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
Next Weekend ~ April 19 & 20

- Saturday, 5:00pm:**
Christina Smith, Erin Hasso, Lauren Navarro
- Sunday, 7:30am:**
Josh Kwiatkowski, Jack Samuelson, Mike Hansen
- Sunday, 9:00am:**
Matt Hayes, Joseph Hayes, Tyler Fulmer
- Sunday, 10:30am:**
Kyle Swovick, Kevin Connell, Erik Rall

PARISH SUPPORT
For Last Weekend April 5 & 6

Last Week	Weekly Goal	Variance
\$18,927	\$13,700	+ \$5,227
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$597,648	\$561,700	+\$35,948

(Our fiscal year is 7/1/07 – 6/30/08)

The surplus in the weekly collection is allocated to reduce the overall budget deficit of the parish.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CROP WALK ~ Sunday, May 4 at 1:30pm

Start at the Webster Baptist Church on South Ave. Choose your walk from a variety of distances – maps available. Call Carol Van Atta at 671-7832 for sponsor forms or to make a pledge. We walk because they have to walk miles for food and clean water. Your participation in any way makes a difference.

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SACRISTAN: Jean Melia and MaryAnn Beikirch
 Week of April 13

LINENS: Luann Young
 Week of April 20

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BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS!

Breakfast is served from 8:30am to 11:00am in the gym. Order from a complete breakfast menu. We offer a "Special" each Sunday but also have a traditional menu as well with items such as eggs (any way you like), bacon, sausage, pancakes . . .



Next Week's Special is: Blueberry Pancakes or Waffles served with your choice of bacon or sausage and a bottomless cup of coffee for a donation of \$4.00.

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Boy Scout Fundraiser ~ Discounted Delta Sonic car wash and oil change tickets are available through our parish Boy Scout troop. These are great deals if you go there anyway! Call Liz Staszak at 746-3510.

From the desk of Mary Jo DiNoto, Youth Minister
 671-1100 ext. 18 or mdinoto@dor.org

Youth News

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome! Check out our website at www.saintrita.org for more information.

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, May 4 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Our last Combined Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group gathering for the season. Anyone in grades 6-12 are most welcome to attend. Meet in the Parish Center Gym. Parents and family are welcome to join us this evening as there will be a special recognition for our current 8th graders moving into Sr. High Youth Group, our 11th graders starting their final year of Youth Group and for our 12th graders who are graduating. Please contact Mary Jo if you will be attending.

To All Current 5th Graders, you are invited to attend our Youth Group "Moving Up Ceremony" on Sunday, May 4 from 5:30 until 7:00pm in the Parish Center Gym with your parents. Come and see what Youth Group is all about!