The ALPHA Immersion begins this Sunday evening when our teens and their parents and Confirmation sponsors gather for a supper in the PFC.

For the next twelve weeks IHM men, women and teens and their guests will be gathering at various times in the Parish Family Center to participate in the ALPHA Course. Most evening events that would normally take place during this period, are being rescheduled or folded into the ALPHA Course.

Our Sunday Homilies will include the ALPHA topic for each week of the course. Hopefully this will help participants better prepare each week.

For those who choose not to do ALPHA, our homilies will give you a sense of what is being covered each week. This could also help your conversation with ALPHA participants.

This level of commitment is unprecedented here at IHM. Lives will be changed. New and or deeper relationships will be formed between participants.

The Course

We will share meals together. Adults will hear an engaging Englishman named Nicky Gumbel talk about Jesus, supported by story, humor and most importantly the Word of God.

Our teens will hear a duo of young adults do the same in a language that speaks to their hunger to draw closer to God in and through Jesus.

If you are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit your relationship with Jesus Christ will be affirmed. For many it will be strengthened. For some it will be renewed.

As your pastor I pray that this will be a life-changing experience for each of you and for the whole faith community.

For those of you who cannot attend please pray for us. Our commitment to ALPHA is ongoing. Hopefully one of the future schedules will work better for you.

Come Holy Spirit!

Fr. John
Mass Schedule

Sunday the 20th: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 pm (Saturday) Elmer Barker —his girls
7:30 am Carl Fox —Jim & Shirley Kelly
9:30 am Pat Higley —Dick Higley
11:30 am For the People of the Parish

Monday the 21st: Saint Matthew
8 am Lysle Smith III —Donna Booker

Tuesday the 22nd
8 am Matthew Clark —Bea, Erika & Joyce
10:30 am Mass at Capital Area Rehab

Wednesday the 23rd: Saint Pius of Pietrelcina
8 am Bill Van Zwoll —Donna Booker

Thursday the 24th
8 am Steve Boichot —friends & family

Friday the 25th
8 am Janice Ezop —Fr. George

Saturday the 26th
8 am Fred Cook —Ann Martin
4:30 pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday the 27th: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 am Earl Blohm —Linda Blohm
9:30 am Bill Van Zwoll —St. Vincent de Paul
11:30 am Claridad D. Ackerson —Dennis & Lydia Verhelle

The Week Ahead

Monday the 21st
Reconciliation after 8 am Mass
School Picture Day!
Spirit & Bride Charismatic Prayer 7:30 pm Church

Tuesday the 22nd
Reconciliation after 8 am Mass
Alpha! 12 Noon Parish Office Dining Room
Alpha! 6:30 pm Parish Family Center
Youth Group 6:30pm—8:30pm Youth Room

Wednesday the 23rd
Alpha! 6:30 pm Parish Family Center
St. Vincent de Paul 7 pm, 3707 South Cedar St.

Thursday the 24th
Reconciliation after 8 am Mass
Alpha! 6:30 pm Parish Family Center

Friday the 25th
Reconciliation after 8 am Mass
Bible Study 9:30 am Parish Office
Middle School Dance 5:30 pm Parish Family Center

Sunday the 27th
Pancake Breakfast after 7:30 & 9:30 am Masses in the Parish Family Center
Alpha for High School & Confirmation Candidates 5 pm, Family Center

Next Sunday’s Readings
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Nm 11:25c29; Ps 19; Jas 5:1c6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Parish Financial Stewardship
Sunday, September 13:
Loose $ 568.57
Envelopes $ 19,090.50
Total $ 19,659.07
Offertory Collected YTD $ 205,760.95
Offertory Budgeted YTD $ 219,300.00

Building Together with Christ Campaign:
Campaign Goal: $ 1,774,600.00
Total Pledged: $ 1,204,867.65 (68%)
Cash Received: $ 779,405.98
Number of Gifts: 519 (45%) (1,150 families)

Reminder: Payment envelopes are included in your Sunday bi-monthly packets in “blue” envelopes for your convenience.
If you have not made a pledge, please call the parish office for a pledge card.

IHM’s Moms’ Group
The kids are back in school, the leaves are turning, and it’s time for the Muffin Club to reunite! Who are we? We are a Catholic moms’ group that offers fellowship and opportunities to grow in our Catholic faith and our relationship with Jesus. We seek to support each other through the joys and struggles of our vocation to motherhood. Moms of all ages are welcome! We meet every other Wednesday at 9:30 am in the Parish Office, conference room. For more information, contact Sarah at 517-231-3491.

Stewardship: A Way of Life…
“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace…”
You fill my peaceful soul, O Lord, with everything that is good. Let me be glad and rejoice in it.

Our Mission Statement
As a Christ-centered, Spirit-led faith community fed by Word and Sacrament, we bring the “Good News” of God’s love into all areas of our lives, that we may lead others to Christ.
Gestures of Worship:
Gestures and Postures of the Congregation at Mass

We finish our series about gestures used in worship with the Concluding Rites of the Mass. The closing words and gestures of the Mass send us off to everyday life with our faith at the forefront. We participate in our final blessing by standing and making the Sign of the Cross. We remain standing, as a sign of respect, during the sending forth song until all of the ministers have exited. We bow to the altar in reverence as we leave our pew or pass in front of the altar, and exit quietly. At the baptismal font, we may once again bless ourselves with holy water (the sign of our baptism) and make the Sign of the Cross. We genuflect, acknowledging Christ’s presence, toward the tabernacle.

We hope you have been inspired to grow personally this summer by using these gestures. Now we are into a new season, fall. Harvest time! It’s time to realize the fruits of our knowledge and actions. We might find:

• Growth in our reverence and respect
• Deeper belief in the sacred mysteries
• Strengthening of our faith commitment

Most of all, we hope your participation in liturgy helps to bring you closer to Jesus Christ.

Helen Hull Hitchcock. Gestures of Worship: Relearning Our Ritual

New Hymnals for IHM

IHM will transition to hard cover hymnals beginning Advent 2015. Parishioners may purchase a hymnal or hymnals in the memory of a loved one or for some other dedication. Hymnals are $20 each. If you are interested in helping us defray the cost of this expense, please submit this bottom portion to the parish office in person, by mail or in the Sunday collection and include your dedication how it will appear on a special label designed for the inside front cover of a hymnal.

DONOR: ____________________________________________________________

Suggested dedications are:

In Memory of _______________________________________________________

In Loving Memory/Given by ___________________________________________

In Celebration of/Given by ___________________________________________

In Honor of/Given by _______________________________________________
Is There More To Life Than This?

Have you ever felt like there is more to life than what you are experiencing? Maybe you feel like you are on a wheel of constant motion and you can’t stop because you have so many responsibilities to take care of. Maybe you have this “angsty” feeling that while coming to Mass is just what you DO, that maybe there is more to it than just showing up each weekend or whenever and going through the motions. Maybe you are very involved but wonder why Fr John is always going on about evangelization and this “Alpha Course”. Maybe you’ve listened to the testimonies each weekend and people talk about having a personal relationship with Jesus and you wonder what they are talking about and when will they be done?

We all have questions about life: what do others think of us, am I doing what I should be doing with my life, am I of any value to this world, what is the point of all of this?

We have all kinds of material comforts and family comforts, maybe a great job and a place up north. Our kids turned out pretty good, we got some great promotions-yet, we still feel like there is something more, a hole inside of us that isn’t quite filled.

Jesus tells us “I am the Bread of Life”. We hear this so often at Mass. But do we really stop to think about what this means? Who is Jesus? Why does he call himself the “Bread of Life”? He also says “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” What does this mean to us?

When Jesus was calling the Disciples, he said “Come and See.” Philip encountered Christ’s invitation to follow Him and when he went to tell Nathaniel, Nathaniel sneered at him “What good can come out of Nazareth?” and all Philip said to him was “Come and see”. Nathaniel did, and became a follower of Jesus Christ.

Now, maybe for you, you think “What good can come out of Alpha? Why is Fr doing this crazy idea of shutting everything down and doing it 5 times a week?” Well, I say to you, “Come and See”. Come and see if Jesus is who he says he is. Come and see if following Jesus is really all it’s cracked up to be. Come and see what going to Mass is all about. Come and see what other parishioners are there that you can meet and spend time with. Come and see what is for dinner. Come for one week and see what you think. Come and see what Christ might have for you that you never thought you could ever have, whether that is peace in your heart, a renewed relationship with a friend, or even an experience of God and his great love for you.

Come and see.


No question too small, no problem too heavy. Just come.

Alpha for Teens: Sunday 5 pm – 7:30 pm
Alpha for Adults: Tuesday 12noon – 2:30 pm – full but keeping a waiting list.
Alpha for Adults: Tuesday: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (to accommodate Religious Education families)
Alpha for Adults: Wednesday: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Alpha for Adults: Thursdays: 6:30 pm– 9:00 pm
**Health Ministry News**

Screen time is a term that means the time spent watching TV, playing video games or using the computer. Pediatricians recommend no screen time for children under 2 years and no more than 2 hours for older children. Screen time is considered unhealthy for children because:

- More time spent sitting and very little time moving their bodies
- They learn unhealthy eating practices from advertising
- Screen time encourages snacking
- Overstimulation can prevent children from getting the sleep they need

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**Children’s Stewardship Corner**

!(Donations benefit a charity of the children’s choice)

Last Sunday: $37.97  Total to Date: $105.92

Thank you for your good deeds!

Please use Children’s envelopes available at no charge in the gathering space (Stewardship section).

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**8th Grade Visit Day at LCHS**

Lansing Catholic High School will be hosting its annual 8th Grade Visit Day on Thursday, October 8. Students will take a tour of the school, attend mini lessons in various subject areas, learn about student activities and athletics, and meet other 8th graders, current LCHS students, teachers, counselors, administration, and coaches. If you have an 8th grader who does not attend a Catholic partner school, but would like to attend this event, please contact the Admissions Coordinator Karen Gavin at karen.gavin@lansingcatholic.org or 517-267-2102 to register your student.

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**Tuesday Evenings**

Safety: To avoid traffic issues on Tuesday evenings, please enter the parking lot on Maple Hill and exit on Rosemont. All grades will enter from the South School Doors. Parents are asked to walk with their child (grades 1-2) to and from the north school wing.

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**Focus on Youth: 7th/8th Grades**

Family Faith Formation Kickoff!

Sessions begin this Tuesday evening with dinner at 6:30 pm for students and parents. Around 7 pm students will go to their class rooms. Parents are invited to stay in the Parish Family Center for ALPHA. Students will return to the PFC for pickup by parents at 8:30 pm.

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**Ministry to the Grieving**


**IHM Prayer Circles** are ready and available to pray for those who have lost members of their family or friends. Please contact the parish office, 393-3030.

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**50th Anniversary of Rosary Making**

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish will be celebrating their 50th anniversary of rosary making and the completion of over one million rosaries made and distributed all over the world for prayers for World Peace. Sunday, October 11, following the 11:30 am Mass in the Parish Family Center, please join us for a potluck luncheon. Michael Ford, President and General Manager of Our Lady’s Rosary Makers International (OLRM.org), Louisville, KY will be guest speaker. All are welcome to come and hear more about this wonderful mission work. For more information contact the parish office, 517-393-3030, or email us at ihmrosarymakers@copper.net.

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**Michigan Catholic Choir**

New members are always welcome! Rehearsals are 7 pm Mondays in Marshall at St. Mary, or Tuesdays in Schwartz Creek at St. Mary. Phone Dan at 810-275-1264 or go to: TheMichiganCatholicChoir.org.
Family Faith Formation
Preschool—6th Grade

Registration: It is not too late to register children in grades preschool (age 4) through 6th. Forms were mailed out to families who had children enrolled in last year’s program. Additional forms are available at the parish office and in the gathering space of the church. Parents may also have forms mailed to them by calling the Family Faith Formation Office.

Classes for children grades 1–6th begin this Tuesday, September 22 from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm or 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the school classrooms. Please be sure to mark on the registration form which session is preferred. Class locations are as follows:
1st grade: Room 101, 2nd grade: Room 104, 3rd grade: East/West Room; 4th grade: Room 6, 5th grade: Room 7, 6th grade: Room 8

The evening session from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm is set up so that parents can take part in the Alpha Course while their children have their own session from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the school classrooms. The evening begins with dinner at 6:30 pm in the Parish Family Center. Catechists will pick up students attending dinner at 7:00 pm in the Parish Family Center and parents will pick up their children in the school at 8:30 pm. After the Alpha experience in December, the evening session will be from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Safety: To avoid traffic issues on Tuesday evenings, please enter the parking lot on Maple Hill and exit on Rosemont. All grades will enter from the South School Doors. Parents are asked to walk with their child (grades 1-2) to and from the north school wing.

Liturgy of the Word for Children is scheduled to begin Sunday, October 4 at the 9:30 am Mass. Children age 4 to 4th grade are invited to a Liturgy of the Word that is appropriate to their understanding and experience. Father will invite the children to come forward before the scripture readings for dismissal and they will follow their catechists to a designated place in the school. While children in grades 1st through 4th will rejoin their families after the Prayers of the Faithful, preschool (age 4) and kindergarten children will remain with their catechists for an extended session. Parents are more than welcome to attend with their children who may be reluctant at first. Parents will pick up their children after mass from rooms 103 & 101 in the school. The Liturgy of the Word for Children is separate from the 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm faith formation sessions offered for children on Tuesdays. There is no need for children in grades 1st to 4th to enroll for Children’s Liturgy of the Word. Just come to the 9:30 am Mass and Father will invite the children to come forward. Parents who have children in preschool and kindergarten are asked to enroll as they have in the past.

RCIA for Children: IHM offers RCIA adapted for children. RCIA for children, as with adults, is primarily a journey of faith. It is not so much a program as it is a process that leads children into a deeper union with Christ and His Church.

For more information, please contact Aaron Epkey at 393-3030 or epkeya@ihmlansing.org

IHM-St. Casimir School
Kindergarten — 8th Grade, 882-6631

Monday is Picture Day! Wear your bright smile, dress up or wear school uniform and bring in your picture packet from Lifetouch.

Our friends from LCHS will be in to visit the middle school students on Thursday, September 24. Maybe we’ll all get passes to homecoming (LCHS homecoming is Saturday, Oct. 3 this year). The annual Mary Goeddeke Walk-a-Thon will be held on Friday, September 25. New this year, the middle school students will take advantage of the Lansing City River trail. The route has been redrawn so that the students will begin at Hawk Island Park and loop the River trail and back for their pizza lunch. The elementary students will be looping in the school neighborhood as in the past. Students will be collecting pledges and competing for prizes to bring in profit for the important Educational Fund which supports about 30% of our school families in tuition assistance. If a student requests a pledge, please be supportive!

Support the 8th graders as they fundraise for their Washington, D.C. trip: Thursdays from 3-7 pm, come out and enjoy the South Lansing Farmer’s Market in the St. Casimir parking lot and have a taco dinner. Tacos are $2 each/or 3 for $5. Support the kids and find some great local products! This will run through September.

Faith Formation
7th/8th Grades & High School

High School Youth Group: We’ll be officially starting our Alpha for Youth, (and parents), course THIS Sunday, September 20th from 5-7:30 in the PFC. Don’t forget to check out Tuesday night youth group from 6:30-8:30 in the youth room!

2015-2016 Confirmation Candidates: What a great turnout last week! We hope to see more Candidates, parents and sponsors THIS Sunday, September 20th as we begin our Alpha journey! See you from 5 - 7:30 pm in the PFC! Please submit the needed paperwork asap and contact Toni: watterst@ihmlansing.org or call 393-3030 x221 with.

7th/8th Grade Faith Formation: Meeting times for Fall have been switched to Tuesday nights in order to encourage as many families to join the Alpha course as possible! See this week’s Focus on Youth, page 5. Contact Toni: watterst@ihmlansing.org or call 393-3030 x221 with questions.
Save The Date!

**Pancake Breakfast:** IHM Knights of Columbus will be offering their delicious Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 27, following 7:30 and 9:30 am Masses in the Parish Family Center. No charge (a free-will offering accepted). Meal includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, potato, and drinks. Please join us!

**40 Days for Life Kickoff:** Sunday Sept 20 7pm, at Glad Tidings Church, 2202 Donora St, Lansing with P&W, guest speakers Jon and Della Seeley, and an explanation of 40DFL. At 8 pm, we will walk to the abortion clinic where Fr. John Byers will lead us in a candlelight prayer vigil. Our efforts to intervene on behalf of mothers and their children while praying to God to bring about an end to abortion continue with the Fall 40 DFL campaign in Lansing. 40daysonlife.com/lansing.

**Food Fest:** St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church Thursday, September 24, 725 W. Mount Hope. Food will be served in the basement all day 11 am to 7:30 pm. Our menu will be Imjadara with salad or Kafta on rice with salad. Home made sweets will be available. Tours of the church are given on request. Dine in or Take out. 10% of the proceeds will be given to Volunteers of America. Call Charlene at 517-303-6212.

**Mass and Healing Service** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church with Fr. George Daisy, Friday, October 2, 6 pm. Join us for this Eucharistic Celebration sponsored by La Pieta International Prayer Group of Lansing. The Healing Service is immediately following Mass with Emma De Guzman. For further information call Jack Chan, 517-668-8113 or Norma Diaz, 517-351-3045.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** Celebrate the Year of Marriage by making your good marriage even better! Renew and enrich your marriage and your faith! Upcoming weekends are Sept. 25-27 and October 16-18. For locations visit: www.wwme.org or call (888) 628-7433.

**Golf Scramble!** Join us on Saturday, Sept. 26th at Centennial Acres in Sunfield. Sign up as an individual or as a team - $80/golfer. This event will benefit **Shared Pregnancy**, a faith-based women’s center located in downtown Lansing for over 32 years. Shared Pregnancy supports women in unexpected or challenging pregnancies, as well as families with young children. Learn more at: www.golfoutingpro.com/event/sharedpregnancy or contact Karen at 616-566-8756.

**World Apostolate of Fatima** is holding it’s 40th annual convention on Saturday, Oct. 3, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Davison, MI. Theme: Peace is the Message of Our Lady of Fatima. Registration at 8:45am, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 12:00 noon, Banquet at 1:30pm. Cost is $18. Speakers: Fr. Roy Horning, Sr. Ann Shields, Fr. Jim Rolph, R. J. Kelly. For tickets and/or info please call Judy Edwards (517-449-1736).

**IHM Parish Picnic:** Our annual picnic at Hawk Island Park will be held on Sunday, October 4 at 1 pm in the large shelter. Enjoy hotdogs, hamburgers and sides prepared by IHM Knights of Columbus.