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| MASSES | |
| Saturday | 5:30PM |
| Sunday | 9:00, 11:00 AM, 5:30 PM |
| Weekdays & Holydays | Consult bulletin |
| Adoration | Thursday 7:00 AM-Friday 7:00 AM |
| Baptism | First Sunday of the month; contact RCIA/RCIC Coordinator. |
| Reconciliation | Wednesday 6:00—7:00 PM Saturday 4:00—5:00 PM |
| Matrimony | Six months preparation necessary; call Father for an appointment. |
| Anointing | Call Father. |

RECTORY OFFICE 361-5126
6369 Belmont Avenue, Belmont, MI 49306
PASTOR—Fr. Peter Vu ext 201
DEACON—Peter Conigliaro
deaconpeterabvm@gmail.com
SECRETARY—Ranel Piatek ext 200
officesecretary@assumptionbvm.com
OFFICE MANAGER—Linda Kozlowicz ext 206
MAINTENANCE—Bill Fix
CUSTODIAN—Dianne Harmon

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL 361-5483
6393 Belmont Avenue
Principal—Michael Micele ext 251
Secretary—Colleen Kleeves ext 250
schoolsecretary@assumptionbvm.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 361-5126
6391 Belmont Avenue
Director—Cheryl Sokolowski ext 257
Secretary—Renee Smith ext 256
religiousesecretary@assumptionbvm.com

YOUTH MINISTRY 361-5126
Sr. & Jr. High—Beth Baltruczak ext 258
youthminister@assumptionbvm.com

RCIA/RCIC COORDINATOR 361-5126
Sr. Felicia Bertaina, MC ext 255

MUSIC 361-5126
Director—Lori VanderStel ext 230
Contemporary Ensemble—Julie Staudacher 874-5508

STEPHEN MINISTRY 361-5126
Sr. Andreina Stufara, MC ext 203

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
Parish Life—Dianne Harmon 365-2099
Education—Robert O'Brien 884-0317
Worship—Mary Ann Hurst 863-0834
Social Concerns—Carrie Powers 364-1338
Finance Council—Bill Dani 887-4208
Pastoral Council—

CONSOLATA MISSIONARY SISTERS 361-2072

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Grand Knight—Mike Staskiewicz 334-9854
Deputy Grand Knight—Joe McDaniels 887-0207

When considering the future or your legacy:
ABVM Education Endowment Fund—contact Rectory Office

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, we the parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commit to know, love and worship the Lord Jesus Christ. With Mary, our mother and model, we will proclaim the gospel, serve others and welcome all to the family of God.

Where new parishioners are welcome



www.assumptionbvm.com

and your helping hands are always needed"

Churches Should Comfort People First

A few years ago, at a church conference that I was attending, the participants were divided into discussion groups and each group was asked the question: "What is the most important thing that the church needs to be saying to the world today?"

There were a variety of answers, each stressing a different aspect of the gospels: Conservatives tended to stress the importance of challenging the world towards sounder teaching and of pushing it to pay more attention to the issues of family, marriage, and private morality. Liberals tended to put the stress on social justice and the issues of peace and poverty. Both agreed that the world needs to be challenged in the area of consumption and greed.

The issues of challenge that were named are valid and important, but I had a nagging thought that perhaps we, the churches, need to speak something else to the world before we speak these other challenges or certainly concomitant with them. I also had the nagging impression that, albeit for different reasons, both the liberals and the conservatives were deriving a secret glee from the fact that the world wasn't working very well, that it was paying a heavy price in terms of sadness, despair, and dissipation for not listening to us, the churches.

What, beyond the challenges of truth and justice, should we be speaking to the world? Words of understanding, consolation, comfort. One of the major tasks of the churches is to console the world, to comfort its people.

"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." I heard this echo from Isaiah from a wonderful old priest shortly after I was ordained: Working for a summer in one of our Oblate parishes, I was living in the rectory with an elderly priest, a fine, saintly man. He had been ordained for more than 50 years and had, during all those years, been exemplary, honest, faithful, and generous. He was deeply respected. Now, in his late 70s, legally blind, and semi-retired, he celebrated mass every day, heard occasional confessions, and spent most of the rest of his time praying. I was taken by his goodness.

One evening, sitting with him, I asked him: "Father, if you had your life as a priest to live over again, would you do anything different?" I was expecting him to say no, given his obvious goodness and fidelity. His answer surprised me.

"If I had my priesthood to live over again," he said, "I would be gentler with people the next time. I would console more and challenge more carefully. I was one of those people who was taught and who deeply believed that only the full truth can set us free, that we owe it to people to challenge them with the truth, in season and out. I believed that and did it for most of the years of my ministry. And I was a good priest, I lived for others and never once betrayed in any real way my vows and my commitment. But now that I am older, I regret some of

(Continued inside)

| The Mass Intentions  and The Week Ahead | |
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| Monday, February 22, The Chair of Saint Peter, apostle | |
| 7:00 AM | Mass, † The Poor Souls in Purgatory |
| 6:30 PM | RCIA |
| 6:30 PM | Stephen Ministry Training |
| Tuesday, February 23, Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr | |
| 1:00 PM | Fatima Club |
| 4:00 PM | School Spelling Bee |
| 5:30 PM | Boy Scouts 283 |
| 6:30 PM | Adult Faith Development Series |
| 7:00 PM | Young Adults |
| Wednesday, February 24, Lenten Weekday | |
| 4:30 PM | Religious Ed |
| 5:30 PM | NO Mass—NO Reconciliation |
| 6:30 PM | Confirmation, RCIC & Religious Ed |
| 7:00 PM | Finance Council |
| Thursday, February 25, Lenten Weekday | |
| 7:00 AM | Mass, † For Those who have no one to pray for Them |
| 7:30 AM | 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration |
| 9:15 AM | Rosary |
| 10:00 AM | Intercessory Prayer |
| 3:30 PM | Junior Girl Scouts |
| 8:00 PM | Usher's Club |
| 8:30 PM | ABVM Men's 35+ Basketball |
| Friday February 26, Lenten Weekday | |
| 9:00 AM | Mass, † Kelly Prysby |
| 5:30 PM | Stations of the Cross |
| 5:30 PM | K of C Lenten Meal until 7:00 PM |
| 7:00 PM | Station of the Cross |
| Saturday, February 27, 2nd Sunday of Lent | |
| 1:00 PM | K of C Basketball Free Throw Contest |
| 4:00 PM | Reconciliation until 5:00 |
| 5:30 PM | Mass, † Sylvia Armock |
| Sunday, Date, 2nd Sunday of Lent | |
| 8:30 AM | The Holy Rosary |
| 9:00 AM | Mass-CLOW, † Eric Gryka |
| 11:00 AM | Mass-CLOW, The members of our Parish |
| 11:00 AM | PS/K/1st Rel Ed |
| 12:00 PM | Children's Choir |
| 12:30 PM | LFUL Marriage Prep |
| 5:30 PM | Mass, † Ed Rasch |
| 6:30 PM | Junior High & High School Youth Ministry |
| 8:00 PM | Gr 8—Young Adult Basketball |

| Liturgical Ministers & Volunteers for February 27 & 28 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Greeters | 5:30 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM | Judy Young Fran & Orv Egeler Dorothy Deja Bette O'Connor Rogers |
| Lectors | 5:30 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM | Connie Kowalski & William Ricks Theresa Gonder & Bob McCambridge Neil Hikade & Dave Mish Michelle Balcom & Alicia Urbane |
| Eucharistic Ministers | 5:30 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM | S. Courtade, G. Doerr, K. Gould, R. McEnanly, L. Moerdyk, B. Sack & T. TenEyck M. Burns, M. Gelderbloom, M. Hurst, J. & M. Kirkwood & E. Schmuker L. Bush, R. DePuydt, T. Kuzma, B. O'Brien, A. O'Rourke, D. & J. Thorn F. & J. Arends, G. Balcom, B. & P. Rasch, P. Staley & T. Vanvliet |
| Altar Servers | 5:30 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM | G. Goodfellow, J. Purwin & D. Simmons R. Linak, M. Miklosi & C. Armock N. Bush, J. & M. Westman T. Fase, T. Hoving & A. Bolin |
| Ushers | All Masses | Team A |
| Children's Liturgy of the Word | 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | Volunteer Needed Sally Schaberg |
| Nursery | 11:00 AM | Kathleen Feeney-Stuive Charlie Riddering & Travis Hoving |
| Housekeepers for the Lord (Fri or Sat) | | Jeanne Boruta, Lois Kriscunas, Beth Weber & Sue Courtade |
| Collection Counters | | Noreen Eshleman, Deb Pomarius, Karen Fix & Doris Dietrich |

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2010
 Monday: 1 Pt 5: 1-4; Mt 16: 13-19
 Tuesday: Is 55: 10-11; Mt 6: 7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3: 1-10; Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7: 7-12
 Friday: Ez 18: 21-28; Mt 5: 20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26: 16-19; Mt 5: 43-48
 Sunday: Gn 15: 5-12, 17-18; Phil 3: 17—4: 1; Lk 9: 28-36

Collection Counters Needed
 Beginning in April the collection counting will take place on Monday mornings per recommendations from the Diocese. We need to increase our counting teams as many of our past people work during the week. If you are available to help us out with this ministry, please call the rectory at 361-5126 ext 200.



Eucharistic Adoration
 Please pick up your schedules. The Subs lists are in the wall pockets in the Narthex. Subs; don't wait to be called. You can come any time.
 The lists for committed people are in a box on the pamphlet table as you come in for Eucharistic Adoration. Remember: Use the bathrooms that are in the back by the Narthex. All lights must be turned off when leaving.
 Thank You, Mary Gelderbloom



Church Greeters Needed
 If you enjoy meeting and greeting people, you are encouraged to join our group of Saturday and Sunday greeters. Give our parishioners and visitors that warm special hello that makes them want to participate in our church services. For information call the rectory at 361-5126 ext. 200

Build for Tomorrow
 Raise the Roof Fund
 Total Funds Needed: \$398,000.00
 Total Funds Collected: \$318,056.00
 Please use your lavender "Raise the Roof Fund" envelopes for your contributions.

Stewardship is what I do after I say "I Believe"
 February 14—week 33
 Weekly Goal..... \$18,014.00
 Envelopes & EFT—\$36.16 Average \$15,535.39
 Loose & Children..... \$1,601.87
 Envelopes Issued..... 1110
 Envelopes & EFT Returned (31%) 349
 Annual Goal To Date..... \$594,462.00
 Actual \$603,305.15

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(Continued from outside)

what I did. I regret that sometimes I was too hard on people! I meant it well, I was sincere, but I think that sometimes I ended up laying added burdens on people when they were already carrying enough pain. If I were just beginning as a priest, I would be gentler, I would spend my energies more trying to lift pain from people. People are in a lot of pain. They need us, first of all, to help them with that!"

He's right. What the world needs first of all from us, the churches, is comfort, help in lifting and understanding its complexity, its wounds, its anxieties, its raging restlessness, its temptations, and its infidelities and its sin. Like the prodigal son, the world needs first of all to be surprised by unconditional love. Sometime later, and there will be time for that, it will want hard challenge.

And our comfort must be offered not on the basis of what is best inside of human understanding. The comfort we offer rather must be the product of what we ourselves feel when we come to know for ourselves the ineffable, all-empathic, all-embracing, all-forgiving heart of God.

We will comfort the world, and it will be comforted, when we show it that God sees its heart with the eyes of the heart, that God feels for it more than it feels for itself, that God never feels frightened by the assertions of human freedom, that God always opens another door when we close one, that God is not put off by all the times when we are too weak to do what is best, that God understands our complexity, our weaknesses, our anger, our lusts, our jealousies, and our despair, that God never stops loving us even when we put ourselves in hell, and that God descends into all the hells we create, stands in inside of our muddled, wounded, and guilty hearts and breathes out peace.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser (The Catholic Weekly & Times, August 2008)

FAITH ENRICHMENT SESSION VII

Tuesday, February 23, 2010—6:30-8:00 PM
in the Ministry Center

THEME:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:
THE SEVEN PETITIONS**

Bring your Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church
For more information call 361-5126 ext. 255.

2010 LENTEN SCHEDULE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6 Fridays of Lent at 5:30 & 7 PM

(Feb 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26)

RECONCILIATION

Regular schedule:

Wednesday 6-7 PM & Saturday 4-5 PM

Special schedule:

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|----------------|------------------|
| Monday, 3/22 | 9-10 AM & 6-7 PM |
| Tuesday, 3/23 | 6-7 PM |
| Thursday, 3/25 | 9-10 AM & 6-7 PM |
| Friday, 3/26 | 10-11 AM |
| Monday, 3/29 | 9-10 AM & 6-7 PM |

A REMINDER

To serve as a Godparent for Baptism or as a Confirmation Sponsor, a Catholic must have received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. If you have questions or need information, call the Parish Office or 361-5126 ext. 255.

RCIA

Are you, or someone you know, interested in learning more about the faith of Catholics? Or have you ever considered joining the Catholic Church and celebrating life and sacraments with us? For information call 361-5126 ext. 255. We will be glad to hear from you.



Usher's Club Meeting

Thursday, February 25—8:00 PM
in the Church Activity Center

All ushers and those interested in becoming ushers are encouraged to attend. Any questions contact Bill Powers (616) 364-1338.



ST. LAZARE MEN'S RETREAT

Attention men of the Parish—it is time to make your reservation to spend a quiet, restful and holy weekend at St. Lazare

Retreat House in Spring Lake. During the weekend, plenty of free time is available as well as many opportunities to attend conference sessions and celebrate the Sacraments. Each person is assigned their own room, and meals are provided. Call your Parish Captain, Bob Courtade at 616-866-3287, to reserve your room for the weekend of March 5, 2010. Space is limited, so don't delay! Please check out the St. Lazare web site at www.stlazareretreat.org to learn more about St. Lazare Retreat House as well as to see the schedule for the weekend.

Knights of Columbus

Lenten Meals Theme Menu

Come nourish your soul and body during Lent by attending the Stations of the Cross at 5:30 & 7:00 PM and by enjoying a Lenten meal cooked and served by our Knights of Columbus from 5:30 until 7:00 PM. See and print the entire Lenten menu by going on the website www.assumptionbvm.com.

February 26 Red, White & Yellow Pasta

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| Vegetable Lasagna | Garlic Bread |
| Marinara Sauce | Minestrone Soup |
| Fettuccine Alfredo | Dessert |
| Macaroni and Cheese | Grape Punch |
| Salad Bar | Water |
| Relish Tray | Coffee |

Unemployment Support Meetings

Support meetings are held each Wednesday morning from 9:15 to 11:00 AM at the Brophy Center, located between the church and school at 1120 Four Mile Road NE. Members of the St. Jude support group visited here recently to invite Assumption parishioners to join them in any or all of their encouraging and informative Wednesday morning sessions. All meetings are free and expert resume reviews are provided at no cost. Questions? Call Linda Cherrette at 581-4563.