



SAINT PATRICK PARISH

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF HUDSON, WISCONSIN

Father John Gerritts, Pastor



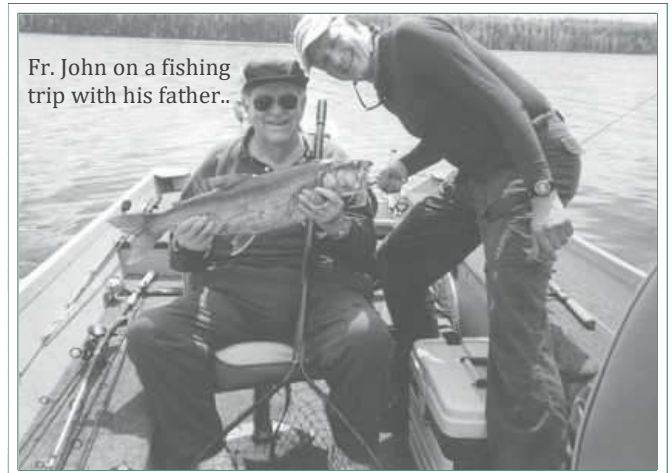
A little over a year ago Bishop Peter Christiansen met with parishioners who packed the social hall. At that meeting, parishioners voiced their concerns and pleaded with the bishop to send us a priest who could guide us pastorally and be a good administrator. We desperately wanted a priest we could trust, a priest who would listen to us, a priest who would stick around, a priest who would recognize

the talents and potential within our parish family, in short, a priest who would love our community. The bishop freely used the term that what we were looking for was a “rock star.” He left us with assurances that he would begin taking applications within the diocese for just such a priest.

Father John grew up in Merrill, Wisconsin, the youngest child of Richard and Gladys Gerritts. He recalled a typical childhood, with dreams of being an astronaut, a professional basketball player or an architect. His parents taught by example, helping out in the community and in their parish and going to church each Sunday. They impressed upon their children that you help out wherever and whenever you can. For John that meant being an altar server. The Pastor at Merrill, while Fr. John was growing up, was Father Peter Szleszinski.

In high school he began to think about a career where he could help people, perhaps as a teacher or social worker. One of his aunts was a Franciscan sister, so he knew a little about religious life and began to think about becoming a priest. He enrolled in the St. John Vianney program at Saint Thomas University,

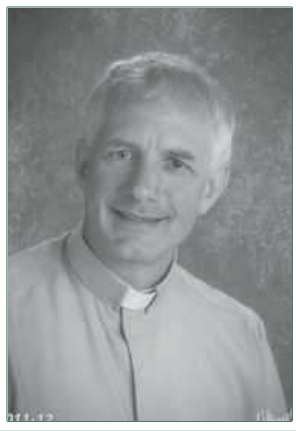
a program that stressed discernment. He found it to be a great fit; it allowed him to take classes at Saint Thomas and also run on the track and cross-country teams while being a part of the seminary program. In his junior year he decided that God was indeed calling him to be a priest. He credits many college friends, Catholic and non-Catholic, with encouraging and supporting his decision.



After graduation from Saint Thomas, he left to study at the Gregorian University in Rome. All classes were taught in Italian, so he had a six-week crash course in Italian in Brooklyn, NY, prior to leaving. Studying in Rome opened his eyes to the universality of the Catholic Church as he studied alongside young men from Asia, Africa, Europe and South America. His instructors were also from all over the world. He laughingly recalled a teacher whose native Australian accent gave the lessons he taught in Italian a decidedly unique sound. The Gregorian University takes a very historical approach to theology; Father John developed a strong appreciation of the history of our faith there.

While the classroom instruction was enlightening, school breaks meant endless opportunities for travel -

Continued on page 3



From the Pastor's Desk

"Lord, it is good that we are here" (Mt 17:4). These are the words of St. Peter as he, Jesus, James, and John went up the mountain and Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, "His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light, and behold Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Him." (Mt 17:2-3)

I speak for Fr. Patrick and myself as together we offer similar words, "Lord, it is good that we are here!" Here at Saint Patrick Parish we know we will see Jesus alive as we minister, serve in your presence, listen to your stories of faith, celebrate the Sacraments, study the traditions of our faith, and seek to live the call of the prophets. In all of this we will truly hear the voice of Jesus, so "Lord, it is good we are here!" In short, "We love it here," and we love being with you.

But I am also quite realistic that not everyday in a parish or in life is easy. Recently, Fr. Patrick and I were riding our bikes together, an easy 30-mile ride on a course that seemed to have more up hills than down. As we came around a corner and faced yet another hill, I commented to him, gasping and saying something like, "Another hill!" Coolly he stated, "There will always be 'another hill'."

That is not only true about the roads surrounding Hudson but is likewise true for our life's journey. As good as it may get or as many hills that may come our way, there will always be another hill. Now it is for us to decide, do we bail part way up the hill or do we continue? I know riding the hills around Hudson has made me a stronger bike rider (and Fr. Patrick is becoming a stronger biker as we ride the hills together). Hills seem to do that to us. If we just push on, we become stronger. We look forward to the days, weeks, months, and even years ahead, as we push on together, becoming stronger in faith, charity, hope, joy, peace, and as a community.

Editor's Note

Years ago Saint Patrick Parish put out a publication called *The Olive Branch*. It was the brainchild of Father John Parr, who saw it as a way to let parishioners know about the great things happening at Saint Patrick's. *The Olive Branch* was a self-supporting publication; design and printing costs were covered by local businesses who advertised in each issue. One of those advertisers went the extra mile and covered mailing expenses, too. Many volunteers (writers, graphic designers, copy editors, photographers, advertisers, and production specialists) donated their time, talents and treasure to make the publication not only a reality but a labor of love. Over the years, publishing *The Olive Branch* fell by the wayside.

We have a new Father John at the helm now -- Fr. John Gerrits. He, too, wants to share the good news about what is happening at Saint Patrick's, so he has asked for a parish publication to be reinstated. He is a strong advocate of transparency in all parish matters; that is why you will see the finance statement for the last fiscal year as well as the budget for the current fiscal year in this issue.

This issue marks the premier of our new parish logo. We were fortunate to have a talented designer put together three logo options; all were excellent. Parishioners weighed in on the designs, and then our parish council took all comments into consideration before deciding on the final design you see on the front page. This newsletter is being put out in record time (at minimal expense) so it didn't seem fitting to call it *The Olive Branch*. For lack of a better name, our editorial staff has dubbed it "*The Olive Twig*." We hope you enjoy this first issue.

Mary Pat Finnegan

Welcome Father Patrick McConnell



Fr. Patrick McConnell was ordained at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior on June 3, 2012. In July he joined us as our Associate Pastor. Look for more information about Fr. Patrick in the next issue of our parish newsletter.

continued from page 1

- and travel he did! So much so that when he returned to the U.S., he was issued a new passport to replace the one he had filled with stamps from countries all over Europe and North Africa. Eastern bloc countries were particular favorite destination. Not only was it fascinating to see what living under communist rule was like but travel was cheap -- a real selling point to a poor graduate student!



When asked about highlights of those years, Fr. John speaks glowingly of the people he met and the opportunities studying for the priesthood in Rome afforded him. He often accompanied a priest who said Mass at the Missionaries of Charity homeless shelter in Rome. On one visit there, Mother Teresa was present. His lasting impression of her was her endearing sense of humor. He also had the rare opportunity to introduce his family to Pope John Paul II. *"What impressed me about him was his sincerity. He's the head of the universal Catholic Church, a world leader, yet he asked my father what work he did. He asked my sister if she had children... very basic questions anybody would ask."*

Upon his return to the states, he was ordained in Merrill in 1991. In his twenty-plus years as a priest, he has served two communities, Superior and Rhinelander. When asked about the best part of being a priest, he didn't hesitate to say "celebrating the Eucharist." He also mentioned how honored and humbled he is to offer pastoral care, especially to people who are sick or even dying. *"People invite you in to a very intimate time of life...I'm always impressed with the grace and the courage that they approach death with."*

On the flip side, when he spoke about the most challenging aspect of being a priest, he said, *"I never want people to think that I am too busy to meet with them, help them, or pray with them. For some reason, people tend to think their pastor is too busy and so they don't call for a visit or to meet. I feel bad about that*

and hope that people will know they can always call. If I can't meet, I will certainly be honest with them, but I just don't want people ever to think I am too busy for them."

Father John is an avid runner and cyclist. In the winter, he enjoys cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. His love of sports is not limited just to sports in which he participates; he has been a frequent visitor to the school and to area sporting events.

Even before his visit to Hudson, Bishop Christiansen had been talking to Fr. John about the possibility of coming to Hudson. While Father John loved Rhinelander, he realized that maybe it was time for a change.

In his mind his ideal parish would be one that had a lot of activity, preferably one with a Catholic school and an active youth/religious education program. Saint Patrick in Hudson made sense. He came to us wanting to listen to the stories of the people here and of the parish. While each new pastor inevitably brings change, he is quick to point out that we will also bring about a change in him.

On January 3, 2012, we welcomed Fr. John Gerrits as our new Pastor. Late in the summer of 2011, word had come that he would be our new Pastor. From that time forward he made frequent visits to Hudson (an 8 hour round-trip), meeting parishioners, participating in Fall Fest (being an avid runner, he ran the 5K), and celebrating Mass with us. At the time it seemed unconventional that he visited us, while remaining as Rhinelander's Pastor. It was a portent of his character that he wanted to make sure everything was in order before he left Rhinelander, a parish he had served for 15 years.

In the short time he has been here, he has shown himself to be a captivating homilist, an exceptional listener, an insightful commentator and a judicious decision maker. He would be the first to balk at the title "Rock Star." Perhaps a change of perspective is in order, one in which Pastor and parishioners look to each other as the answer to a mutual prayer.



Fiscal Report July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012

	Jul '11-Jun 12	Jul '10-Jun11	\$ Change	% Change
Collections	1,392,955.78	1,213,777.71	179,178.07	14.76%
Special Collections	15,817.66	52,317.01	-36,499.35	-69.77%
Other Income	40,476.89	32,693.87	7,783.02	23.81%
Tuition	733,256.52	684,203.57	49,052.95	7.17%
Fees	71,959.26	74,011.78	-2,052.52	-2.77%
Gifts/Grants	175,423.32	122,493.58	52,929.74	43.21%
Investments	5,857.55	32,567.34	-26,709.79	-82.01%
Fundraising	210,140.92	205,157.70	4,983.22	2.43%
Scrip	396,470.77	240,887.50	155,583.27	64.59%
Food/Hot Lunch	71,044.11	116,239.74	-45,195.63	-38.88%
Total Income	3,113,402.78	2,774,349.80	339,052.98	12.20%

Wages/Benefits	1,695,648.98	1,749,701.08	-54,052.10	-3.09%
Business Expense	193,602.95	243,545.01	-49,942.06	-20.51%
Pastoral/Liturgy	113,526.84	124,266.48	-10,739.64	-8.64%
Maintenance/Utilities	198,368.70	160,493.00	37,875.70	23.60%
Fundraising	45,373.30	47,259.63	-1,886.33	-3.99%
School Supplies/Activities	76,292.14	73,635.00	2,657.14	3.61%
Diocesan Paper Expense	22,694.58	26,971.32	-4,276.74	-15.90%
Charity	11,993.44	23,013.93	-11,020.39	-47.90%
DSA Assessment		24,081.05	-24,081.05	-100.00%
Interest Expense	103,729.51	105,918.27	-2,188.76	-2.10%
Loss on Investments	3,434.07	11,281.98	-7,847.91	-69.56%
Miscellaneous Expense	5,490.93	1,178.64	4,312.29	365.87%
Scrip	395,109.32	238,808.01	156,301.31	65.45%
Food/Hot Lunch	54,829.07	54,705.93	123.54	0.23%
Total Expense	2,920,093.83	2,884,859.33	35,235.00	1.20%

Net Income (Loss)	193,308.95	(-110,509.53)	303,817.98	274.90%
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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! SCRIP sales are up over 64% from last year. Thank you to all of you who have made shopping with SCRIP part of your routine. This is by far the easiest fundraiser for parishioners to participate in. SCRIP is a term that means, "substitute money." When you purchase SCRIP, you're purchasing gift cards that are used just like cash. **Buy a \$25 restaurant SCRIP gift card, you pay Saint Pat's \$25, and you have a \$25 SCRIP gift card to spend at the restaurant. The program costs you nothing!**

We buy our SCRIP gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center and local retailers at a discount; we then re-sell the gift cards to you for full face value. The discount - from two to fifteen percent or more - is our profit.

You can use SCRIP to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, you earn money for Saint Pat's!

St. Patrick Parish, Approved Budget July 2012 - June 2013

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Collections	1,302,600.00	Wages/Benefits	1,790,420.00
Special Collections	22,500.00	Business Expense	199,546.00
Other Income	32,700.00	Pastoral/Liturgy	116,310.00
Tuition	694,000.00	Maintenance/Utilities	179,840.00
Fees	86,000.00	School Supplies/Activities	62,500.00
Gifts/Grants	137,000.00	Diocesan Paper Expense	27,000.00
Investments	6,400.00	Charity	10,000.00
Fundraising	214,400.00	Fundraising	44,000.00
Food/Hot Lunch	81,100.00	Food/Hot Lunch	55,800.00
Scrip	275,000.00	Scrip	265,000.00
		Interest Expense	97,181.00
		Loss on Investments	2,000.00
		Miscellaneous Expense	1,300.00
Total Income	2,851,700.00	Total Expense	2,850,897.00
	NET INCOME		
	803.00		

Parish Finances

Our fiscal year ended on June 30, 2012. We are pleased to provide for you the Profit and Loss Statement for the year just finished and the one from the year prior to it for comparison. We have also included the budget for the coming fiscal year, 2012-13.

Overall, we saw a nearly 15% increase in collection revenue. Much of this can be attributed to bringing back the "Debt Reduction" or "Building Fund" envelopes, and the fact that many of you understood that we were having significant financial difficulties in meeting our obligations and increased your gifting to our parish. "Special Collections" were down this past year because during the previous year, some special collections were held, which were not taken this past year. For example, special collections were taken at Thanksgiving, Advent, for the roof/furnace, and for the School Endowment. The previous year we also had a higher gain on our investments because we had not yet borrowed the money from our endowment fund for parish needs, so it was more fully invested. Currently we are making monthly payments to replenish our endowment along with paying the fund 3% interest for the use of this money.

Wages and benefits were lower this past year due to the elimination of the youth ministry position and because we had only one priest serving our parish for half of the year. No amount is entered under the title "DSA Assessment" because we have not yet paid our past year's assessment. This will need to be done soon and will be reflected in our net income. We already used the remainder of our net income to

pay off the line of credit the parish had taken last summer for the purpose of covering a cash shortfall from the previous fiscal year. Finally, we may show a net income from our hot lunch program; however, this is extremely difficult to budget, because it makes use of government assistance. The government works off a different fiscal year than we do and their payments do not come at the same time each year. Thus, some years will show significant net incomes and other years will reflect a loss, depending on when payments are received.

Profit from the SCRIP program includes the difference between expense and revenue, but it also reflects the change in the balance of SCRIP on hand from the previous year and the current year-end balance in our SCRIP checking account.

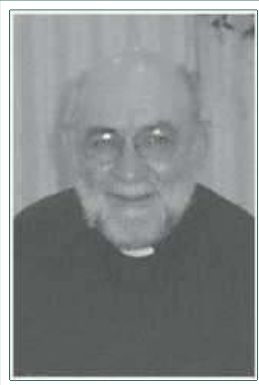
Our charity expenses are paid through special gifts given for that purpose and are tracked in one of our expanded statements. In this simplified version, our statements include them in the general category of "Gifts." Lastly, our interest expense was \$103,000; in addition, we paid \$77,500 toward the principal on our mortgage.

For the coming fiscal year, we have been conservative in budgeting for our income. We have given the staff a 2% pay increase after two years of a pay freeze. After much work by our bookkeeper, Barb Kaiser, and our Finance Council, we were able to finalize a balanced budget for the coming year.

If you wish to see the full financial report, you are invited to contact Barb Kaiser at our Parish Office (715-381-5120, ext. 103) and set a time to meet with her to review our statements.

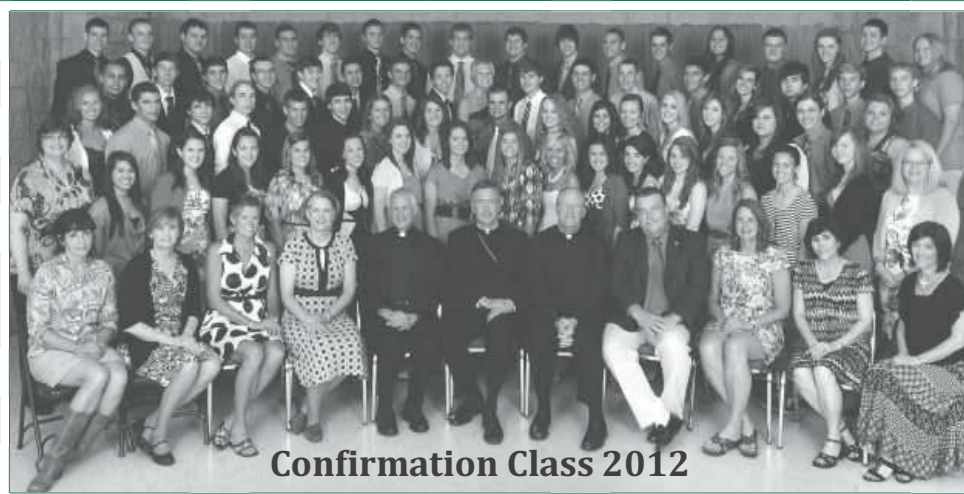
Save the Dates!

Parish Mission



Fr. Patrick Martin

Fr. Patrick Martin, a priest dedicated to "Speaking God's Love to a Broken World," will be with us December 8-12, 2012, for a Parish Mission. Fr. Patrick Martin has been preaching missions since 1976, primarily on the topic of suffering and experiencing God's love in the brokenness of our human lives. He has preached over 1000 missions, published five books, and produced numerous CD's. Along with preaching at the weekend Masses, he will offer a Mass each evening, Monday, December 10 through Wednesday, December 12. The homily each evening will be his Mission Talk. In addition he will be available each morning for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or for an individual visit.



Confirmation Class 2012

Photo courtesy of CK's Photography

S-Cubed Young Adult Group

Are you a young adult (21-40) looking to get involved in the life of our parish? Would you like to connect with other professionals, married couples or parents of young children? Then consider joining S-Cubed. S-Cubed is our parish's young adult group. Our mission is to connect the young adults of our parish, whether married, engaged or single, through service, spirit, and social events.

We were established in October 2010 and since then have hosted a monthly activity for the young adults of Saint Patrick's and their families. We plan an event with its focus on one of our name's "S's": service, spirit or social events. Some past events have included book studies, picnics, yard clean up and movie nights. We've brought together a very committed group of people and always look forward to welcoming new members. You can find out more about us on Facebook at "S-cubed" or through our page on the parish website.

If you would like to find out more about S-Cubed, feel free to contact Sally Kaiser at sally_kaiser@hotmail.com.

Coming Soon

In May our cookbook committee put out a call to all parishioners for their favorite recipes and the response was terrific! We collected over 500 recipes for the new Saint Patrick cookbook— which is sure to be a keepsake! It's at the printer now and we'll begin selling them at the Fall Festival!

A Collection of Recipes



SAINT PATRICK PARISH
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF HUDSON, WISCONSIN

Sno-tubing at Badlands



FALL FEST Sept. 21, 22, 23

- Music
- Punt/Pass/Kick Contest
- Silent Auction
- Stand-up Comedian
- Raffle
- Soccer Challenge
- Italian Dinner
- Dunk Tank
- Country Store
- Talent Show
- Dessert Auction
- Family Movie
- Kid's Games
- Bouya
- 5K Walk/Run
- Punt/Pass/Kick Contest



We'd love for YOU to volunteer! Please sign up online at www.stpatrickofhudson.org or on the sign-up sheets in the back of church

Saint Patrick Faith Formation News from Director, Dr. Larry Huiras

Coming off a Sizzling Summer, Formation Ministries gets ready to celebrate a “Year of Faith.”

After taking a successful Mission Trip to Oklahoma City, where the coolest day was 102°, and after hitting maximum capacity for both Summer Stretch and Vacation Bible School, Formation Ministries is ready to set sail and celebrate a “Year of Faith.”

Beginning in October, Pope Benedict has announced a special "Year of Faith" to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others. In that spirit, Formation Ministries will be taking extra time to help deepen the faith experiences of our catechists and the adult community this year through a special set of enrichment offerings that includes the acclaimed series “Catholicism” by Fr. Robert Baron. Special guest speakers Alice Heinzen and David Rinaldi are on tap for our middle and high school students, and the parish will be able to join our youth for a special visit this spring from renowned Catholic music artist Steve Angrisano. Additionally, we will have an Advent Parish Mission given by Fr. Patrick Martin. A mission is a very special time for us to reflect together as a parish and take some time in Advent to prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts at Christmas.

We hope that you and your families will be able to join us throughout the year in these and other offerings at Saint Patrick. Sign up or register early – these events will be HOT!



Saint Patrick Education Center News

Saint Patrick School News from Principal, Mary Piasecki

Saint Patrick Parish was founded in the 1850s during the early days of Hudson’s development as a settlement. The Parish opened a school in 1875 called St. Mary Academy on the Hill. It became Saint Patrick School with the completion of the building in 1889. That original building served the school until 1953, when it was rebuilt. In 2002, a new wing with eight classrooms was added and much of the building was renovated at that time. A school is much more than a building. Throughout our 137-year history, Saint Patrick School has been a learning community where the spiritual, emotional, and academic needs of children come first.

Saint Patrick School is dedicated to providing a high quality Catholic education to the families of Hudson, WI, and the surrounding area. Our teachers are committed to the continuous process of learning. Students receive opportunities to develop their physical, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, and artistic selves. Saint Patrick School fosters a connection between faith learned and faith lived.

There is much to look forward to as we open our doors for another school year. We welcome a new program for three-year-old children. Parents of three-year-olds can choose to have their children attend one, two, or three half-day sessions per week. New technology awaits students. We added two iPad labs this summer. Students will have the opportunity to use iPads to access educational applications as well as pages and links set up by their teachers. They will also continue to have daily access to interactive whiteboard technology, which has been enhanced this summer through the use of document cameras for all classrooms. Small group Spirit Family activities will continue as in the past. These “families” meet once a month for prayer, play, and activities.

Saint Patrick School students make a difference throughout Hudson and the greater community: writing letters to shut-ins, packing meals at Feed My Starving Children, making fleece blankets for hospitalized children, and any number of other projects — faith learned and faith lived. Students are challenged each day to achieve personal excellence through a comprehensive curriculum and seasoned staff. It seems to be a formula that works: our students excel on state tests and our graduates have found success in high school, college, and beyond.

Please call us to arrange a tour to learn more about curriculum, athletics, extra-curricular activities, tuition, and financial aid. Consider giving your children the gift of Catholic education. Please call me, Principal, Mary Piasecki, at 715 386-3941. We welcome your inquiries.





SAINT PATRICK PARISH

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Thank you very much to Mr. Ron Gagnon for his generous donation to cover mailing costs for this newsletter.
Thank you to Angie Kondrasuk for her excellent proof reading skills.

Calendar of Events

August

23	Volunteer Celebration	Saint Patrick School 6:00 p.m.
26	Bishop Christiansen here for the installation of our Pastor	11:00 a.m. Mass
28	Parish Council Meeting	KC Room 7:00 p.m.
30	Back to School Open House	Saint Patrick School 2:00-8:00 p.m.

September

4	First Day of School	
8	Catechetical Sunday	A blessing and commissioning of all catechists and teachers for the coming year.
19	Faith Formation Classes Begin	
19	Healing Mass	6:00 p.m. Church
21-23	Fall Fest	
25	Parish Council Meeting	KC Room 7:00 p.m.
28	Moonlight Mystery Madness	

October

5	Grandparent/Special Person Day	Saint Patrick School
17	Healing Mass	6:00 p.m. Church
23	Parish Council Meeting	KC Room 7:00 p.m.