



Winter / Easter 2019

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

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Joy in OBEDIENCE

Often, we find joy in the most unexpected places!

Certainly, we expect to experience joy at specific events and in celebration of achievements and milestones.

Many years ago, I taught baptism classes and routinely worked with the young married couples and their sponsors. It was a joy for me to do, and I loved the opportunity to love on those babies, while evangelizing their parents and family members.

Funny, how certain subjects and topics can sway a good natured crowd into a tentative and nervous group! Enter the word 'obedience.'

I spoke frankly about having the children baptized, but *not* continuing to bring them to church. I encouraged them by reminding them that they, too, were children of God the Father and that their identity as a son or daughter of God is what defined them — not their job or status in the business world.

By reminding them how much they were loved, even now as grown adults, and that regardless of where they'd been or what they had done — practiced or not practiced their faith — that they got a different opportunity with this little child's baptism. Here was an opportunity for them to make a *choice* to be obedient to what life and faith God had called them to. It offered to them a 'new turn' to be obedient.

As parents we expect (and hope)

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. *1 Peter 1:8-9*

that our children will be obedient to us. If our hearts are in right order, it will not be to lord over them our 'parental position,' but to love and protect them in the decisions they make for their lives. CCC 2228

Should we as adults be any less obedient to the God who created us?

When the angel Gabriel announced to Mary she was carrying the Christ Child Jesus, her 'Fiat,' or yes, was immediate, "I am the Lord's servant, be it done to me according to his will." (Luke 1:38) This complete submission to God is a profound model for us today, as it has been and will be in all ages. Except, in the Power of the Holy Spirit, it would not be possible to do such a thing!

What JOY the whole world would experience for all of time, with one woman's 'yes' to God! She sets the standard for the rest of the world to follow in what it really means to be obedient. Only in Truth and Love and in great Power can we emulate her obedience.

I am humbled beyond measure each day I serve this Prayer Center, and am reminded often by the Lord, that I didn't ask for this particular job, but that He, in His wisdom, placed me here. He reminds me that I said "yes." He also reminds me that the Center and its people do not belong to me. They belong to Him.

As we travel through Lent and the Passion of Jesus, may we keep the 'yes' of the Son of God, to His Father, first and foremost in our hearts and minds.

His yes, included a death by crucifixion, and heartache for those He loved who also betrayed him.



But, the wisdom of the Father knew well the JOY that would come from his 'obedience.'

He knew well the sacrifice would yield *Unspeakable Joy*, as His children would be with him in eternity as a result of the obedience of his son Jesus.

May the Holy Spirit impress on your heart this Holy season, the specific call He has given each of you, and may you be filled with Holy Courage to say yes to it!

Director Deb

Thanksgiving/Christmas Special Help. Thanks to...

- **Lansing Catholic Central Youth**, here for a retreat helped pack Thanksgiving baskets and hand them out to the 30 or so families that were recipients.
- **St. Jude, DeWitt** donated food for 25 families.
- **Mary D, Kathy V, & Debbie A** contributions to the baskets for Thanksgiving. 
- **Dana H** for 10 Thanksgiving dinners.
- **Home Depot** for the donation of our beautiful Christmas tree. Upon hearing about our need, they reached out a helping hand.
- Christmas decorating helpers: **Powers Catholic teens, Pat F, Cathy & Dick F, Kathy L, and Deb Hawley** giving direction.
- **All who adopted a family** for Christmas by purchasing gifts and giving food or a food card. Most of the recipients were first-timers!
- Those who made a **monetary donation** or **shopped** or **wrapped gifts**. 
- Those who **helped with the Christmas Party** — preparing food, preparing desserts, setting up & keeping things orderly.

A Volunteer's Perspective

What helping with the SFPC Christmas "Adopt-A-Family" means to me.

We have been connected with the "Adopt-A-Family" for Christmas program spearheaded by the St. Francis Prayer Center for 15-20 years. The motto—"GIVING IS BETTER THAN RECEIVING" has always been dear to my heart. Helping families with children receive gifts they REALLY need at Christmas is the whole TRUE meaning of Christmas. The practice of GIVING is exactly what Our Lord intended for each of us to do in our lives. GIVE TO THOSE IN NEED. It is one of the "Corporal works of Mercy." My heart is filled with JOY when I see the eyes of children especially, light up at receiving something they really wanted/needed like a warm coat, hats and mittens; a warm comforter to wrap up in during our cold winters; a doll, or truck, a toy that is educational and family oriented. Each family has been appreciative and you know without a doubt that it will make their Christmas filled with more JOY.

Thank you St. Francis for the opportunity and I hope everyone who reads this will consider "Adopting a Family" each Christmas.

—Agnes (Henige) Taylor

Christmas Party, A Volunteer's View – What It Takes for Food Prep

A person never knows that the choices we make could help benefit others.

A few years ago, I asked Debbie about the annual Christmas Party at St Francis and stating that shopping wasn't my strong suit maybe there was another way I could help. She mentioned that she could use someone to take over the luncheon. Right away, not knowing any details, I gave her an enthusiastic yes!

I had worked part-time through St John Vianney and Powers Catholic serving food and drinks to many for various functions. A couple of weeks later, Deb and I discussed the party and I discovered that we were talking about 150 or so people. I tried not to panic and called my Mom like any girl in trouble would do and she calmed me down so we could make a plan. I am pretty sure she started making her famous meatballs that afternoon. I was sure my friends would like to help but wisely they just started throwing money at me instead! I have had generous help from friends and coworkers the past 3 years, every little bit helps.

After making way too much food the first year, we have since perfected our menu. My mother, **Yvonne Stevenson**, starts making and freezing 400 meatballs in October. Lunch also includes: Sloppy Joes, mac & cheese or cheesy potatoes, hot dogs, veggies, potato



chips, bread and butter pickles, and baked beans. Plus all the extra fixings such as buns and condiments.

My sister, **Donna Beckner**, came from Iowa one year to help and **Yvonne Harris** has been there every year making us look like we are standing still while she works and has everyone laughing and feeling welcome. She is a gem! My mother, Yvonne, helps serve as well.

The Prayer Center is so festively decorated and there are cookies and sweets in every room. The whole day is magical and we love talking to the sweet families who are so grateful for every gift, lunch, cookie, Christmas carol and hug. We feel so blessed to be part of the wonderful St Francis family. We could always use a few more hands if you have a free Saturday this coming December.

—Kathy Vickrey, Food Chairperson

Those We Hold In Eternal Memory



March 2018 thru February 2019

<i>Jimmy "Shorty" Adkins</i>	<i>George & Doris Lemieux</i>
<i>Betty Bardon</i>	<i>Lawrence Marx</i>
<i>Henry Bolanowski</i>	<i>Robert McDonell</i>
<i>Doug Colton</i>	<i>Stanley F. Nemecek</i>
<i>Guy Thomas Cormier</i>	<i>Mary Newberry</i>
<i>Mary Coulter</i>	<i>Dolores Deogracias Noveloso</i>
<i>Cayetano Daus</i>	<i>Daniel O'Brien</i>
<i>Eric Day</i>	<i>Marion Theresa Palmer</i>
<i>Robert Fate</i>	<i>Jim Perry</i>
<i>Sally Flynn</i>	<i>Richard Pollick</i>
<i>Thomas Gormley</i>	<i>William Robinson</i>
<i>Robert J. Guidos</i>	<i>Frank Servitto</i>
<i>Pat Haley</i>	<i>Big Al Steele</i>
<i>Charles Kachel</i>	<i>Sheldon Teachout</i>
<i>Joe D. Kalush</i>	<i>Dolores Wilson</i>
<i>Colleen Kanous</i>	<i>Richard Windle</i>

Those We Hold In Living Memory



March 2018 thru February 2019

<i>Jarod & Terese Bellows</i>	<i>Helen Joseph</i>
<i>Cokley Family Grant</i>	<i>Sister Gerry Maloney</i>
<i>Fr. Robert Copeland</i>	<i>Virginia Matsco</i>
<i>Dorothy Flory</i>	<i>Barbara Nelson</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Haapala – 50th Wedding Anniversary</i>	<i>Elizabeth Nemecek – Mother's Day</i>
<i>Louise Haapala</i>	<i>Fr. Ryan Riley</i>
<i>Fr. David W. Harvey</i>	<i>T. J. Zimmer</i>

Give the Gift of Prayer

Please consider using our Gift of Prayer Memorial Cards. The money is placed in our Outreach Ministry fund. It is used as a "Gift that keeps on Giving." The names of loved ones are kept on the altar at the Prayer Center and remembered in all of the Masses, Prayers, and Ministries of the Prayer Center.

Please consider this to help support the Prayer Center. In need of memorial cards, please contact the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330.



Fundraiser Moves to the Fall!



**FROM END
OF APRIL**

**SEPT. 28,
2019**

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

We are swapping our Annual Fundraiser with the Fall Harvest Appeal (will now be known as the **SPRING APPEAL**).

For 37 years, St. Francis Prayer Center has held their Annual Fundraiser near the end of April or early May. Since we were unable to secure a specific venue for our needed date in time to get necessary licenses and tickets printed, the Board has agreed to move the event to the Fall. With having to work around Easter and other events within the parishes each year, the decision was made to swap these two events.

Spring Appeal first; Annual Fundraiser in Fall!

Our hope is that you will still be a willing participant for the Fall Fundraiser. Ticket sales will be starting in mid- to late-July. As we go to press, the location has yet to be determined. We are looking at a couple of different locations. More information will be available in our Summer newsletter.

The theme will be Great Gatsby/Roaring 20s!

We need lots of help with the Fundraiser. People are needed to contact businesses and secure donations for our Live & Silent Auctions. We need Big Ticket sellers! Tickets are \$100 each and include dinner for 2. We need helpers at the function to check people in, to sell drink tickets, to monitor the Auction items, to sell 50/50s, to handle the Wine Pull as well as other things that may come up between now and then!

Perhaps your group would be willing to create a basket of goodies to be used in our Silent Auction. Or, do you know of someone willing to give us a cottage weekend, a trip or some other item that could be used for our Live Auction? We ask that any donations get to us at least 2 weeks prior to the event – by Sept. 14.

We are looking for Ambassadors for the Prayer Center both for the Fundraiser and other events throughout the year. If you would pray and consider becoming a spokesperson for the Prayer Center, please let Deb Hawley know or call the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330.

Thank You Monthly Pledgers! Thanks Occasional Gift Givers!

Although our Annual Fundraiser and Spring Appeal (*formerly Harvest Appeal*) generates a portion of our needs, we still need all of you and your **much appreciated** on-going support. We have received so many blessings from you in the past. Our joy is beyond measure. *“Whatever you do for the least of these, you do also for me.”* Thank you from the “least” of these. **You are appreciated!**

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St. Francis Prayer Center Mission Statement:

Secure in God's love, the St. Francis Prayer Center, Flint, exists to serve all people, especially our poor, our parishes and our diocese through the ministries of prayer, evangelization, healing, formation, direct services and social justice.



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(no spaces).

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www.stfrancisprayerflint.com
Donate through PayPal. Don't have an account?
You can use your credit card by clicking on the
“Don't have a PP account?” icon.

Upcoming Events @ the Prayer Center

- **April 4.** Board Meeting @ 2
- **Apr. 6.** Holy Family Catholic Church, Grand Blanc - RCIA one day Retreat.
- **April 13.** Holy Redeemer, Burton - one day RCIA Retreat.
- **April 26, 27, 28.** A weekend Retreat for SS. Charles & Helena Church Youth.
- **May 5 & 19, June 2 & 9.** Holy Family, 4-week RCIA Spirit Filled Catholic Living Seminar
- **July 18.** Board Meeting @ 2
- **July 20.** Retreat @ Prayer Center. Abide & Be Healed. To sign up, call 810-787-5330.
- **Sept. 28.** *Annual Fundraiser – Theme: Great Gatsby/ Roaring 20s*
- **Oct. 17.** Board Meeting @ 2
- **Nov./Dec.** Sign up to Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving or Christmas!
- **Nov. 25.** Thanksgiving food basket pickup
- **Dec. 14.** Annual Christmas Party

HOLY SMOKES!

\$5,000+ raised thru a Facebook Fundraiser! Big shout out to Buffa & Buddies! An amazing job. *Does that small effort you do really help that much?* Yes. Yes it does. This is a shout out to all those wonderful people who have helped with our bed ministry including: Joe Buffa, Bob Irwin, Bob Swales, teens from Power Catholic, Dave Slattery, & their many helpers. They picked up donations, delivered countless number of beds (& set them up!) plus bedding, and moved inventory from one location to another. Wow!