

## ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd. • Flint, MI 48505

P: 810-787-5330 • F: 810-787-5399

Winter 2020



# Patience Perseverance Hope

These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. Romans 5:5 The Jerusalem Bible

### *Greetings from the Prayer Center!*

Although only 34 degrees, it is a partially blue sky and a few streams of sunshine lighting up the beautiful pine trees on the property. This usually crazy busy place is very quiet and serene today.

I appreciate the solitude and the 'pervasive peace' that the whole property seems to emanate immediately upon entering. Others, too, are uniquely aware of this and mention to us as they enter the building.

Whether here for a study class or for assistance (clients), that peace is often palpable. The remarkable thing about that is, it is not dependent on our circumstances at the moment. Thank God for that, as daily, we are putting out crisis fires and manag-

ing very complex situations for God's people. Indeed, it (hope) does not depend on us or our circumstances, our knowledge; our experience; our social status or education.

Hope is Jesus. Paul tells us in Romans, hope does not disappoint!

Jesus, does not disappoint. He is always on time, always prepared, always fully in control.

Much like all of you I'm sure, my work days can keep me in a perpetual state of motion and busyness and I can miss this peace...

**Romans 5:3-5**

*...but, that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God*

*has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

JERUSALEM BIBLE

Most of us, practically speaking, don't think to actually thank God for our burdens and hardships, however, our faith traditions and the holy scriptures surely do indicate that they are permitted by God to strengthen and transform us for the eternal life He has waiting for us.



### **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.



# Fundraiser A Success!

In 2019, we held our Event at St. John Family Life Center in Davison. We are happy to announce it will be held there once again. The date **September 26, 2020** – the theme to be determined. We hope you will come out and support our Annual Fundraising effort!

The theme for 2019 was **Great Gatsby/ The Roaring 20s**. Amid the black & white tablecloths and the fabulous decorations and center-pieces (see pics – all were taken by Penny Messer) the tables were set for a pleasant evening.

Many positive comments were made about the location and the overall event. The decorations were classy; the food excellent; the Wine Pull great; the Craft Beer Cart got lots of attention!

**SAVE-THE-DATE! September 26, 2020**

As with every year, some things go well and others not so well. We hope you remember that we always try our best. Changes are made year to year to solve past problems. We have so many volunteers to help with this event, it is just amazing how well everyone works together to put on an enjoyable event.

The theme has not been set as yet. We will let you know as soon as it is decided.



*Craft Beer Cart. Pictured is Andy Cocagne (who generously supplied the items) along with a few friends.*



*Below left: The final 4 in the run for the Grand Prize.  
At right is our Grand Prize winner!*



# SPONSORS

This past year Desiree Londrigan stepped up to be Party Chairperson. She introduced us to the possibility of having Sponsors for our event. She worked hard to help us accomplish that feat!

Thanks to her endeavors, a number of businesses were encouraged to add support to our Annual Fundraiser. Our HIGH LEVEL SPONSORS were: **The Barclae Family**; **J.A.C.S. Enterprises, Inc.** (dba McDonald's); **Genesee Ceramic Tile**; **Simms Chevrolet**; **Antcliff Windows & Doors, Inc.**; **The Pennell Family**; **The Hamo Group** (of Wells Fargo Advisors); **Lisa & Gary Hayward Family**.

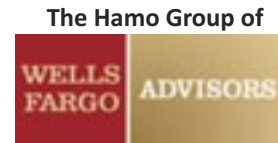
FRIENDS OF THE PRAYER CENTER included: **The Knights of Columbus**, Grand Blanc Council 6742; **Claude & Ginger DiNatale**; **Serra Foundation**; **Joseph Dunn**; **Paul Bolt**; **Anderson Hamo Chiropractic, PLC**; **W. Christopher Bryant**; **Colony Meats**.

Businesses who put an ad in our auction booklet include: **Abbey Pharmacy**; **Travel Brokers Inc.**; plus **Colony Meats** (whose ad came in too late to go in the booklet). Other sponsors include: **Ken Adkins**, **John & Anna Iafret**, **Robert Irwin**, **Cathy Frasier**, **Debbie Hawley**.

## The Barclae Family



Genesee Ceramic Tile



**THANK  
YOU  
ALL!**



## Lisa & Gary Hayward



**ANTCLIFF**  
WINDOWS & DOORS



## Denny Pennell Family

# AUCTIONS

Where would we be without the support from **Al & Barb Ogorek** for our Live & Silent Auctions. They have been such a pillar of support for our Annual Fundraiser for so many years! In addition, there are many individuals who donate items.

We extended a special thank you to **Holland Heating** for providing us with a box truck to help with our bed ministry transport – it came in very handy transporting items to the fundraiser venue as well.



### Business who donated...

**Bueche's Food World**  
**Big John's Steak & Onion**  
**Chateau Chantal**  
**Crossbow Inn**  
**Katie's Spa**  
**Liberty Family Dining**  
**Nails 4 U**  
**Italia Gardens**  
**Johnny's Pour House**  
**Ogorek Automotive Group**  
**Red Lobster**  
**Sawmill Golf Club**  
**Tim Horton's**  
**Trillium NCG Cinema**

### Individuals who donated...

**Dena Barclae**, **Joyce Ford**, **Pat Forlenza**, **Debbie Hawley**, **Lisa Hayward**, **Denny Pennell**, **Jean Shipley**, **Bev Themm**, **Peggy & Gary Wescott**, **Maryann Zimmer**.

### Big Ticket Purchases...

In addition to the many people who purchase Big Tickets year after year, there are businesses who also purchase them including: **Anticliff Windows & Doors**, **Burnash Wrecking**, **Genesee Ceramic Tile**, **Fisher Brothers Trucking**, **Ladies Ancient Order of Hiberians**, **J.A.C.S. Metamora, Inc.**, **Remax Right Choice**, **St. Joseph Hungarian Club**, **Simms Chevrolet**.





# Food Baskets & Blessings

## Thanksgiving @ the Prayer Center

We were once again blessed to receive help from the **Lansing Catholic Central Youth Group** (see pic below). They packaged food boxes and were on hand to distribute them. But the most amazing part was when the kids prayed with the families as they came to receive their boxes. See the picture at right.

One of our volunteers, Jessica Kiester, was also on hand to share – not only pies & whipped cream, but prayer as well. Everyone was pleased to have prayers said with and for them.



Above: Youth Group from Lansing Catholic Central.

We thank **St. Jude, DeWitt** (see delivery group below) for providing enough food items for 25 boxes. This plus those who chose to Adopt-A-Particular-Family meant 39 families received food. Some last-minute baskets were delivered that we handed out to people who came for Outreach Ministry the day before.



St. Francis Prayer Center is so very fortunate to have so many wonderful people in our corner – that corner that helps bring blessings to those in need in our community.

At right: Youth Group prays with recipients. Below: some donated baskets and a wagon load of turkeys!



## West Flint Optimist Club



A few days before Christmas two different families called in dire circumstances. They were being evicted Christmas week. SFPC rarely is able to help with these concerns. Our finances simply do not allow it. We were out of bed frames, and still had several to deliver for Christmas week. I prayed quickly, “*Lord, these are your people, you must make a way here. If you don’t, we cannot help them.*”

The next day I remembered a man who had called several times, and I had not been able to catch him. I had no idea who he was or what he wanted. It had been a month earlier. I called, and he said, “Are you the gal who spoke to our Optimist group in Flushing?” I said, “Yes, how can I help you?”

His next words blew me away!

“If I were to ask you specifically, what do you need TODAY? How would you answer me?”



Ever think does God really answer prayers when I can really see it?

So, I expressed the need I had prayed for the night before. Two days later I went to pick up an envelope with exactly the amount of money we needed!

Tearfully, I came back to Center and made the calls to put things into action to save those families from eviction. They came to the Center; we gave several boxes of food, and personal supplies to each family; they shopped from all our ‘extras’ downstairs; and spent the holiday in their own homes. We were even able to deliver beds and sofa’s to them as well, as they had no furniture at all.

What a **God Moment** for all of us. God is Hope, and He is always on time.

Thank you West Flint Optimist, we continue to keep you in our prayers.

Deb



# 2019 Christmas at the Prayer Center

## The Beginning...

St. Francis Prayer Center has some very amazing people in our corner. Some of you are right here in the mix while others prefer to stay in the background.

Our Christmas tree was donated by Andy from **Nicklas Tree Farm** in Metamora – it was beautiful! Thanks to Jan Rienhart and Kathy Patterson who helped decorate the tree as well as the rest of the Prayer Center.

Names for our Adopt-A-Family project are taken starting in early October. It takes a lot of organization to match families with adoptees; then to make sure the gifts are returned to the Prayer Center when needed. Thanks to everyone who adopted a family — including the 15 families adopted by **St. John's, Fenton**. They have partnered with us for a number of years. To the many individuals, groups, and businesses who have adopted families — how many ways can we say **Thank You**?



## The Party...

Our Annual Family Christmas party, held on Dec. 14, 2019, where adopted families can meet with their “adoptees.” There are 3 sessions with each lasting about 2 hours. *What a joyous time we have!*



And, oh, the food!! Wow! Kathy Vickrey & her crew (her Mom & Yvonne Harris) do such an awesome job setting out food and keeping things cleaned up. Thanks to Liz Lamson for the delectable treats that everyone enjoys. Bless all those who brought in items or came in to help during and after the parties.



## The Interview...

Channel 5 was on-site to interview Director Deb and one of our adopted families during our 3rd session; perhaps you saw it (*See links below*). This interview tells a story that gets repeated many times every Christmas season — adults, teens, and children who are so thankful for any help they receive.



## The Last Minute Help...

There were a number of families that we helped just a few days prior to Christmas. Moms who called in to say they could not get help anywhere else. With the help of one of our adopted Moms, we had set up a store of gift items that has been donated over the past year. Then Moms came in to “shop” for their children. All those generous donations given to the Prayer Center made for a Christmas that didn’t look so bright at first to become a shining a light of hope!

## Our Shining Stars...

So, no matter whether you helped a little or a lot — **THANK YOU!** Each and every one of you is a building block of what St. Francis Prayer Center represents — outreach to those in need. Thanks for helping the 35+ families with Thanksgiving Baskets or the more than 60 families (including 71 adults, 29 teens, and 80 children) helped at Christmas.

## Links to the interviews:

**TV 5 Beds:** [https://www.wnem.com/flint-organization-giving-beds-to-mother-children-in-need/video\\_5d899638-e317-5448-ba3e-5d45718df9ee.html](https://www.wnem.com/flint-organization-giving-beds-to-mother-children-in-need/video_5d899638-e317-5448-ba3e-5d45718df9ee.html)

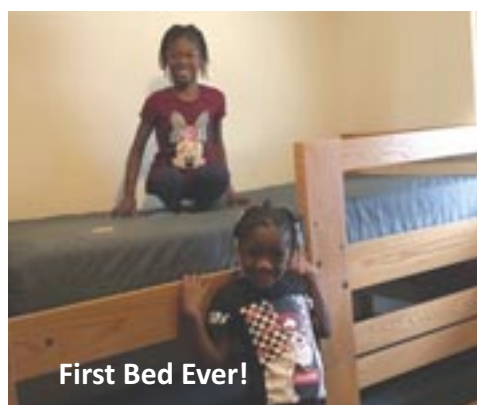
**St. Francis Adopts 60:** [https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wnem.com/news/flint-prayer-center-adopts-families-to-give-them-a-happy/article\\_5eb23878-1ee3-11ea-8820-4726ca1708a9.amp.html](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wnem.com/news/flint-prayer-center-adopts-families-to-give-them-a-happy/article_5eb23878-1ee3-11ea-8820-4726ca1708a9.amp.html)



# BED MINISTRY

## Bed Ministry

Over 500 beds were delivered to children and families in 2019. The very unexpected donation of the Holland Heating truck was responsible in a big way to make that happen. These children are not just getting an 'upgrade,' they have no bed at all, and are on the floor. We provide a mattress, box springs, frames, sheets, blankets and pillows. The majority have never owned a bed in their life. We are all



First Bed Ever!

deeply humbled to be able to provide these things and extend the dignity that goes with having your very own bed to sleep in. We thank God for the chance to do it.

## Joe's Bed Boys

Our Bed Ministry Coordinator, Joe Buffa, has developed a wonderful set of committed, hard working men to deliver these beds and fur-

niture items. They work 2-3 days a week, rain, snow, sleet, or heat, to deliver to our clients. It is always full of joy and lots of craziness as these men go from place to place.

**We are in need of bed frames; twin and full beds; blankets and comforters!**

A prayer card of the Holy Family is left on each bed, encouraging each one that God will always love them, and so will the people of St. Francis Prayer Center.

Joe Buffa, Bob Swales, Pat Doyle, Daniel Wyatt, Kevin Wallace, Leo Solano, Craig Berry, Ted Zahrfeld, John Carpenter, David Chlor, Bob Irwin, Jim Rabine, Donnie Schmidt, Doug Dutrizak, Andy Randazzo, Jason Richert, Bill Prue, Andy Wolfe, Paul Bailey, Dave Slattery, Dick Frasier, Chad, Mark Reeves, Mike Payionk, Roy Douglas, Larry Darmafall, St. Lukes Team, Peter Dahlgren, Gary Townsend, Vern Miller, Doug Zloto, Kerry Jones, Jerry Lint, and Tom Hasselbach.

## Food Pantry

Volunteer Kathy LaPorte keeps the food pantry in good order each week by volunteering 2 days a week. Food is donated or pur-

chased from Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, then boxed by family size for outreach days. Personal hygiene items and paper products are also given. Joe Buffa, Bob Irwin and our newest volunteer Paul Hartman pick up and transport the food for us.

...We are always in real need of shampoo, dish soap, laundry soap, and women's personals....

## Beds & Linens

Carol Doyle, our volunteer, heads up this department. Two days a week, her husband comes to deliver beds with the 'boys,' and she inspects, organizes and packages bags of bedding to go out with the beds. Her department is frequently overwhelmed with donations (7' piles of bags) and she plows through them like a rock star and makes magical order happen. We are so-o-o blessed to have her light-hearted personality, and tremendous organizational skills. Recently retired, they both spend many hours a week, working for God's children at St. Francis.

We were unable to get pics of some of our volunteers before we went to press. We are thankful for everyone who volunteers their time to put food & beds in the homes of those in need!

## MEET THE TEAM



Deb H



Jean S



Robin D



Cathy F



At right: Bob S, Mark R, Joe B, Pat Doyle.

Below by the truck from Holland Heating are Paul B & Joe B.



Kathy L



Liz P



Lizzy L



Linda N



Kathy B





# Those We Hold In Eternal Memory    Those We Hold In Living Memory

February 2019 thru January 2020

Sue Adkins  
Tyler Anias  
Felix Beltrame  
Mary Lou Brown  
Marjorie Burke  
Doreen N. Christ  
Terri Donajkowski  
Charity Ann Fournier  
Jane Ignace  
Duane Hammond  
Ramon Harwley  
Jan Henry  
Michael Hofmeister  
Delores Kocsis  
Lydia Moody  
Mary Morand  
Kathy Marcou  
Stanley F. Nemecek  
Adam Potts  
Jackie Pung

Eileen Pyle  
Ray Ranville  
Relatives & Friends  
of Dave Lengyel  
John G. Roche  
Audrey Root  
Laura Sanders  
Sandy Schultz  
Fred Sieradzki  
Judy Strudgeon  
Adolph Turchi  
Rick White  
Larry Whitney  
Ronald Wood



February 2019 thru January 2020

Dr. Burros  
Daughter, Melissa and Son, Steven  
Pam Eby  
Norris Hyatt  
Nancy Leach  
Margo & Drew  
Marcel Ranville's  
100th Birthday  
Relatives & Friends of  
Dave Lengyel

Rae Kiley Shields for  
successful surgery  
& healing  
Special Intention for  
a friend



## 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.



## Pentecost In-house Novena

### Ascension Thursday Mass & 9 Day Novena w/Exposition

May 21st Mass @ 12 noon opens this beautiful time of 9 days of deep prayer and teaching and preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Will be held at St. Francis Prayer Center. Deb will be here and guests are welcome to stay overnight with her.

May 21st, Thursday	Mass 12noon 6pm Novena & Worship
May 22nd Friday	Open House 12:00-7pm Novena & Worship 6pm
May 23rd Saturday	Open House 12:00-7pm Abide in Me Retreat 12-7 (Register Please) Novena & Worship 6pm
May 24th Sunday	Open House 12:00-7pm Mass 1pm Novena & Worship 6pm
May 25-29, Monday-Friday	Open House 12-7 Novena & Worship 600pm
May 30, Saturday:	Closing Mass 11:00am Pentecost Celebration at church of choice.

## He is Called Jesus Class

This 10-week class begins March 2 from Noon to 2:00 pm. It will be held at St. Francis Prayer Center. The book is \$10. It is helpful but not necessary if you have taken the Pilgrims' Way class.

## Prayer Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Prayer Center.

This group continues to grow and grow. Worship music and teaching and prayer are the focus of this group. It is uplifting and very dedicated to be a fellowship of people who desire community.



## Shepherds Healing Class

This 12-week class starts Feb. 25 at the Prayer Center from 6:30-8:30. Please register for this class by calling 810-787-5330.



## SAVE-THE-DATE! September 26, 2020 SFPC ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

### Events @ the Prayer Center

- **2020.** Prayer Group meets 1st & 3rd Monday from 6:30-8:30.
- **Feb. 25.** Shepherds Healing class starts @ PC 6:30-8:30, register please at 810-787-5330.
- **Feb. 27.** Fundraiser meeting at the Prayer Center @ 6:00 pm
- **Mar. 2.** Jesus class 12-2 @ PC.
- **Mar. 12.** Healing Mass/Service, Holy Redeemer.
- **Mar. 14.** Healing Retreat - All day @ the Prayer Center.
- **Mar. 22.** Healing Mass/Service, St. John, Davison.
- **March 28.** Holy Family Retreat @ the PC.
- **April 2.** Board Meeting @ 2.
- **April 17.** SS. Charles & Helena Church Youth Retreat weekend.
- **May 21-30.** Pentecost Novena at PC - see page 7 for info.
- **June 12-13.** Praise & Worship Camping Weekend @ the PC.
- **July 16.** Board Meeting @ 2
- **July 20.** Retreat @ Prayer Center. Abide & Be Healed. To sign up, call 810-787-5330.
- **Sept. 26.** *39th Annual Fundraiser Theme not decided as we went to press*
- **Oct./Nov.** Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving or Christmas!
- **Oct. 22.** Board Meeting @ 2
- **Nov. 23.** food basket pickup for Thanksgiving.
- **Dec. 19.** Annual Christmas Party

### Monthly Pledgers & Occasional Gift Givers – Thanks!

Our wish for you this season, is for joy, peace, and love. Without all of you there would not be a St. Francis Prayer Center!

We hold you in prayer and ask that you keep us in prayer as well. Our Outreach Ministry continues to grow each year and without you, we would be unable to touch so many families – both parents & children. **You** are the face of **Jesus** to these neighbors!

**T.H.A.N.K.S.!**

### IRS Statements

Due to the new higher standard deductions, many tax payers will be unable to itemize their charitable donations. Next year, Contribution Statements will only be sent out upon request.



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