



## CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

510 N. Prospect Ave. • Alma, MI 48801  
Office (989)463-5370 • Fax (989)463-1369

## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

605 S. Franklin St. • St. Louis, MI 48880  
Office (989)681-5080 • Fax (989)681-2887



Dear Parish Family,

November 7, 2010

The month of November began with the Solemnity of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls. Around the Baptismal Font are candles - one for each person who died in the past year. Please pray for the repose of their souls and the consolation of their families.

The 2010 Sunday Missals have arrived! We have 300 copies available for sale. Because of a generous benefactor, we are able to reduce the cost to \$1.00 a copy. We will be selling the annual Missals at St. Mary's parish office during the week.

After 19 weeks in the parish with only one day away, I will be leaving for 10 days for a retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Nebraska starting November 12. During this time, there will be five priests helping with our parish Masses. As your pastor, I wanted to ensure coverage for all Masses as well as funerals and anointings. Please pray for me as I take some time away to recharge spiritually.

In the *Saginaw Faith* magazine, there was an article concerning the updates coming to the texts of the Mass in 12 months. We will be planning some education opportunities to help everyone to better understand the liturgy and what will be coming up.

Also, in the new year we will be hosting a video lecture series titled *Boundaries* based on the best-selling books by Dr. Henry Cloud. This nine-week program will begin the first Wednesday in January and continue until the first Wednesday in March. There is no cost to attend the class. A study guide may be purchased for a nominal charge.

February 11th at 7:00 pm, St. Mary's will host the movie *The 13th Day*. The event is sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima. This movie is about the events in Fatima, Portugal which began in 1917, when Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children over the course of several months. Please plan on attending this free movie.

During November please continue to pray for the faithful departed; as well as for their families and loved ones. Also, please pray for each other, our parishes, and our school. God bless you and keep you! See you in a couple of weeks!

Fr. David

# The Faith Explained

## PURGATORY

Purgatory is the condition or process of purification or temporary punishment in which the souls of those who die in a state of grace are made ready for Heaven. This is an idea that has ancient roots and is well-attested in early Christian literature, while the concept of purgatory as a geographically situated place in the physical world is largely the creation of medieval piety and imagination.

The word "purgatory", derived through Anglo-Norman and Old French from the Latin word *purgatorium*, has come to refer also to a wide range of historical and modern conceptions of postmortem suffering short of everlasting damnation, and is used, in a non-specific sense, to mean any place or condition of suffering or torment, especially one that is temporary.

The English Church scholar Blessed John Henry (Cardinal) Newman argued that the essence of the doctrine is found in ancient tradition, and that the consistency of such beliefs are evidence that Christianity was "originally given to us from heaven". The teaching on purgatory is considered to be part of the Faith derived from the revelation of Jesus Christ that was preached by the Apostles. Theologians and Christians scholars then developed the doctrine regarding purgatory over the centuries, leading to the definition of the formal doctrine of the Church on the matter at the Second Council of Lyon (1274), the Council of Florence (1438-1445), and the Council of Trent (1545-63).



the  
**Psalm**  
Psalm 17:15

“Lord, when your glory  
appears, my joy will be full.”



# Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first American citizen to become a canonized saint.

Francesca Cabrini was born in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Lombardy, Italy, tenth of eleven children from Agostino Cabrini and Stella Oldini who were wealthy cherry tree farmers. Sadly only four of eleven survived beyond adolescence. Small and weak as a child, born two months premature, she remained in delicate health throughout her 67 years.

Mother Cabrini took religious vows in 1877 and added Xavier to her name to honor the Jesuit saint, Francis Xavier. She became the mother superior of the House of Providence orphanage in Codogno, where she taught.

In 1880, the orphanage was closed. She and six other sisters who took religious vows with her founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) on November 14. Mother Cabrini composed the rules and constitution of the order, and she continued as its superior-general until her death. The order established seven homes and a free school and nursery in its first five years. Its good works brought Mother Cabrini to the attention of Giovanni Scalabrini, bishop of Piacenza; and of Pope Leo XIII.

The Pope sent Mother Cabrini to New York City on March 31, 1889, to help the Italian Immigrants. There, she obtained the permission of Archbishop Michael Corrigan to found an orphanage, which is located in West Park, Ulster County, New York, today and is known as Saint Cabrini Home, the first of 67 institutions she founded in New York, Chicago, Des Plaines, Seattle, New Orleans, Denver, Golden, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and in countries throughout South America and Europe. Long after her death, the Missionary Sisters would achieve Mother Cabrini's goal of being a missionary to China. Mother Cabrini was naturalized as a US citizen in 1909.

Mother Cabrini died of complications from dysentery at age 67 in Columbus Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, on December 22, 1917. By that time, she had founded 67 missionary institutions to serve the sick and poor and train additional nuns to carry on the work. Her body was originally interred

at Saint Cabrini Home, an orphanage she founded in West Park, Ulster County, New York.

In 1931, her body was exhumed, found to be partially incorrupt and is now enshrined under glass in the altar at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine, part of Mother Cabrini High School, at 701 Fort Washington Avenue, in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. The street to the west of the shrine was renamed Cabrini Boulevard in her honor. Another Mother Cabrini Shrine can be found in Golden, Colorado.

Mother Cabrini was beatified on November 13, 1938, and canonized on July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini is the patron saint of immigrants. Her beatification miracle involved the restoration of sight to a child who had been blinded by excess silver nitrate in its eyes. Her canonization miracle involved the healing of a terminally ill nun. The date for Mother Cabrini's feast day is November 13, the day of her beatification.

