



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DEAR PARISH FAMILY

This past week we had a funeral Mass for Patrick Ryan. Please pray for the repose of his soul, and for the consolation of his family and friends.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the people who provide ministries and serve as volunteers. The chicken dinner was a great success, school sports are humming, thank you, thank you, thank you! Last weekend we had a special blessing for our teachers and catechists on Catechetical Sunday. Thanks, teachers!

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month dedicated to the Rosary. We have Rosary CDs provided by the diocese for FREE. Also there are a few Rosary booklets and inexpensive plastic Rosaries for those who may need one.

During the month of October half an hour before the weekend Masses, we will play the bishop's Rosary CD. Come early to church and pray along.

Also, from October 7 - 15, St. Hyacinth in Bay City will be hosting a nightly Mass and talk for a nine days of prayer 'Rosary Novena.' Priests from across the state will be speaking with Mass at 7:00 pm every night (Sunday night Mass will be at 7:30 pm)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Friday, October 3 at 2:45 pm, we will have the blessing of animals in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We've scheduled this so that par-

ents can bring pets (or livestock) for the blessing at the end of the school day so that our school children will be able to participate in the event.

INVITATION

Please consider inviting folks who may be 'between parishes' to come to St. Elizabeth and make our parish their parish home. A brief word of encouragement can help people to finalize their decision.

For anyone visiting St. Elizabeth looking for a 'new' parish, we're happy to have you! Thank you for worshipping with us!

Finally, we've started up parish council and finance commissions. While these groups serve as in an advisory capacity - I'm looking for all the advice I can get. If you served in the past, or served at another parish, and are interested, please let me know.

BISHOP KEN'S HOMILIES

Little Books is publishing a collection of the homilies of our beloved Bishop Ken Untener. Cost is \$14 for people in the Diocese of Saginaw. More information is available at www.littlebooks.us

MASS INTENTIONS

You may have noticed in the bulletin that there are names or causes listed after the Masses on the schedule. These are the Mass intentions for that particular day's Mass.

Anyone can ask to have a Mass offered for any reason: for example, in

gratitude to God, or for the intentions or needs of another person, or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

Having Masses offered for others, particularly the dead, originates in the very early Church. Inscriptions in the catacombs from the 2nd century confirm the antiquity of this practice.

There is a nominal Mass stipend of \$10 that goes to the parish. If you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular person, living or dead, or any intention; please contact the parish office during the week.

BLESSINGS

For anyone going into the hospital, or who has a chronic illness; or if you're healthy and it's your birthday or anniversary, if you're going on a trip, or if you just need a spiritual boost - I'm always available to give you a special blessing after Mass. Just stop and ask.

And, although things have gotten a lot busier with school in session, I'm working to keep up with home visits. Please remind me if I've missed you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Please pray for each other and for me. As Catholic Christians, it's important not only that we pray daily, but also that we support each other and our community with our prayers.

God bless you! I'll see you at church, on the playground, at school, or out and about!

Fr. David



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROSARY

The Rosary is one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. Introduced by the Creed, the Our Father, three Hail Marys and the Glory Be, and concluded with the Hail Holy Queen, the Rosary involves the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the Glory Be. During this recitation, the individual meditates on the saving mysteries of our Lord's life and the faithful witness of our Blessed Mother.

Journeying through the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries of the rosary, the individual brings to mind our Lord's incarnation, His ministry and life, His passion and death, and His resurrection from the dead. In so doing, the Rosary assists us in growing in a deeper appreciation of these mysteries, in uniting our life more closely to our Lord and in imploring His grace and assistance to live the Faith. We also ask for the prayers of our Blessed Mother, who leads all believers to her Son.

The origins of the Rosary are sketchy at best. The use of prayer beads and the repeated recitation of prayers to aid in meditation stem from the earliest days of the Church and has roots in pre-Christian times. Evidence exists from the Middle Ages that strings of beads were used to count Our Fathers and Hail Marys. Actually, these strings of beads became known as Paternosters, the Latin for Our Father.

The structure of the Rosary gradually evolved between the 12th and 15th centuries. Eventually 50 Hail Marys were recited and linked with verses of psalms or other phrases evoking the lives of Jesus and Mary. Around this time, this prayer form became known as the rosarium (meaning a rose garden), which was a common term to designate a collection of similar material, such as an anthology of stories on the same subject or theme. During the 16th century, the structure of the five-decade Rosary based on three sets of mysteries prevailed. Pope St. John Paul II recommended adding the Luminous mysteries in 2002.

Tradition holds that St. Dominic (+1221) devised the Rosary as we know it. Moved by a vision of our Blessed Mother, he preached the use of the Rosary in his missionary work. However, other scholars would rebut that St. Dominic not so much "invented" the Rosary as he preached its use to convert sinners and those who had strayed from the faith. Moreover, at least a dozen popes have mentioned St. Dominic's connection with the Rosary.

The fact that the Church continues to include the Feast of the Holy Rosary on the liturgical calendar (October 7) testifies to the importance and goodness of this form of prayer. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the Rosary is beyond description."

