God is Good and Life is Beautiful!
A Priest’s Pro Life Story

St. Pope John Paul II the great, upon his visit to New York City in 1995, said: “You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion.” Mother Theresa taught that in every abortion there are two victims: a dead baby and a dead conscience. She said that a culture that promotes abortion is a culture that has made a funeral of the conscience, because any culture that accepts abortion, is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants. A pregnant couple in today’s culture faces a dilemma because they are presented with different options. The culture tells them: which option would you prefer, less suffering, less responsibility, less sacrifice versus more suffering, responsibility, and sacrifice? Obviously, we tend to look for lesser than greater when it comes to suffering, sacrifice and responsibility! What option will a couple opt for after such a struggle in their hearts? I look at my parents who underwent this dilemma when one wanted to eliminate me in the womb and the other still wanted to protect me. I’m Fr. Amal, a Catholic priest of the Servants of Charity, stationed at St. Louis Center in Chelsea. I hope most of you will recognize me as I have helped out with Masses at Old St. Pat’s and preached a mission appeal to you last November. I was born on February 14, 1983, in Tamilnadu, the southern part of India. I am the youngest of my family with four brothers and three sisters.

It was on July 17, 1998, when my father took me to the seminary, although I had already applied for admission to the 11th grade at a regular school nearby. I felt like a lamb taken for slaughter, filled with fear and voiceless, as I was dragged behind my father! I was thinking of maybe joining the diocesan seminary after completing 12th grade, not sooner! Once at the seminary, I always looked for a chance to escape home; but the threat of no education, if I returned, compelled me to remain with my confreres. When my parents visited, I described my life at the seminary as “prison” to them. Then my mother told me this story: with seven children already, my parents were struggling to feed my siblings with at least one good meal a day, to fill their stomachs. Many times my mother ended the day with just water for her own dinner. During the day she worked the fields and after feeding the children, there was nothing left for herself. It was a huge surprise when she conceived me during this time, as she was also 46 years old!

Due to the inability to feed the family, my father approached an old man who prescribed herbal medicine for people in our village. The medicine man gave my father abortion medication to give to my mother without her knowledge. The herbal medications caused an acute stomach-ache for my pregnant mother. Defenseless, I was fighting for life in her womb! Seeing her suffering, my dad gave her fresh cow’s milk to help her heal. My mother told me: "at the time I prayed for your life and promised the Lord to offer you to Him if you were born unharmed... So decide for yourself to stay or return home".

Continued on inside cover
Only then did I realize how precious my life was! I remembered the bible passages: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you (Jer. 1,5) and Psalm 139; 15-16 “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb”. God was so intricately aware of me that He made certain that my arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet, and toes and every part of me were being formed perfectly. Think of it! How wonderful!

It was then that I began to live my life more fully, after learning of God's saving plan for me in my mother's womb. I'm happy not only because I know my birth was no accident but also because God had a specific plan - a purpose for me. He has executed His plan for me! There could be no other reason than this to keep me joyful. Each time I reflect on my life - I’m moved. My life is a free gift from God and for God! It was really difficult for me to forgive and accept my father after learning the truth. I had to put myself in my father's shoes to understand why he did not want more children. In a culture, which proposes many options to pregnancy, we need to pray for the couples who struggle and strengthen them in their time of crisis and fragility. We may easily want to condemn and accuse those who choose the option against life. I had moments when I went back and reflected on the difficult circumstances of my dad. What would I have done if I was in his situation? As we march and advocate for Life, let’s not forget to pray for couples who may be easily trapped with options that seemed appealing in a time of crisis.

Rachel’s Vineyard
Healing the Pain of Abortion, One Weekend at a Time
Lansing area retreat date: February 15-17. This weekend is a designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. It is a chance to get away from daily pressures to focus on the buried emotions of the past in light of present symptoms and begin healing through a supportive trauma sensitive process. Transfer the Pain of the Past into Hope and Love. Contact: New Life Center 517-993-0291 or rachelsvineyard.org

Approaches for Dementia
Dr. Cameron J. Camp, PhD will be at the St. Louis Center on Wednesday February 20th, from 7-9pm to present how the Montessori Method, originally developed to educate children, evolved into an effective method for working with persons with dementia. For more information or to RSVP contact PR Director Joe Yekulis at 734-475-8430 or joey@stlouiscenter.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Instead of flowers and candy, give the gift of yourselves to each other on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. Upcoming weekends will be held Jan. 25-27 at Holiday Inn-Troy and March 15-17 at St. Francis Retreat Center DeWitt. Apply online at wwwme.org or contact Chris & Darla Vinton at 734-531-9191.

Thank You Old St. Pat’s
The team at ArborWomen would like to express their gratitude to the parishioners of OSP for the generosity that was shown through the Advent Giving Tree. Your gifts enable new moms to learn how to safely care and provide for their infants. A very special thank you to the DiPirro family for coordinating the Giving Tree project.

World Day of the Sick
World Day of the Sick is Monday, February 11th this year. At Old Saint Patrick, we will offer a special Mass with anointing of the sick on Saturday Feb. 9th at 4:00 pm Mass. We may need drivers to transport the sick. If you are able to help, give us a call. Save the date and invite the sick, elderly, or infirm who may benefit from healing sacrament.
**Extraordinary Form Latin Mass on the Feast of Candlemas**

We invite you this February 2nd at 7pm to Old St. Patrick’s, for a special Tridentine Latin Mass sponsored by Juventutem Michigan (An organization of young adult Catholics who pursue holiness by attending the Traditional Latin Mass). Our celebrant will be Fr. Clint McDonnel, an accomplished vocalist and assistant professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, marks the traditional end of Christmastide in the old calendar. We will have a blessing of candles at the beginning and a procession around the church. Be sure to bring your own candles to be blessed! Following Mass, everyone is invited to the Parish Hall for a reception.

**Old St. Patrick Youth**

**January 20th**— No Youth Group

**January 27th**— Are you aware of the difference between the voice of God and the voice of the Evil one. Come test your knowledge!

**February 3rd**— Ben Eriksen is joining us this evening. He will share his thoughts about an important issue facing teens today.

**February 10th**— Service Project! Check back next week for more details

**Mass Intentions**

| TUE 700: | End to Abortion |
| WED 815: | Rose Lybrink † |
| THU 830: | Florence Remski † |
| FRI 815: | Celestine Kreifels |
| SAT 400: | Christmas Flower Memorial |
| SUN 800: | Parishioners |
| 1030: | Jerry Fox † |

**To Pray is to Love**

- **Please pray for those in need, including:** Dan Krebs, Patricia Fuller, Lisa Ann Kozakowski, John LaRock Sr., Michael Cooper, Phil Rutledge, Kathy Cooley, Robin Fahmie, Karen Prins, Sandra Adams, Richard Pelkey, Tom Dawson, Pete Siebertz, Nicole Brcic, John Dziuban, Jim Stephensen, Mason Rutledge, Georgiana Bruen, Wayne DeForest, Ron Fuller, Ann Mary “Nancy” Phillips, Katie Hutton, Betsy & Charlie Rodgers, Pam Wiitala, Chris Dreffs, Caroline Pribble, Emma Thompson, Howard Pease, Kelli Merlo, Shirley Dreffs, Bryan Eaton, Phillip Campbell Sr., Glenn Klecker, Paul Messimilla, Dolly DeVos, Patricia Dawson, Lois Roth

- **Please pray for those in the military, including:** Adam Draves, Nathan Baker, Garrett Moore, Larry Workman, Daniel Scott Brown, Mark Richard, Philip Maxwell, Tony Phillips, Anthony Darket, Samuel Chase Johnson, William Godfrey, Bill Lott, Mike Nelson, Frank Snaith, Allan Fletcher, Noah Kranz, Chas & Holly Carter,

- **Pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.** Michael Kunitz: Byzantine Catholic

- David Pellican: AOD
St. Patrick Parish Calendar

**SUNDAY, January 20**
Donut Sunday
9:15 Religious Education
9:15 Fish Fry Meeting
No Youth Group

**MONDAY, January 21**
6:30 RCIA
7:00 K of C Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, January 23**
2:30 Mass @ Regency Home

**THURSDAY, January 24**
7:00 Choir Practice

**SUNDAY, January 27**
9:15 Religious Education
9:15 K of C Rosary
11:30 Parish Rosary
6:30 Youth Group

Old St. Patrick Parish Directory

**Reconciliation**
Tuesday 5:30pm - 6:40pm
Saturday 2:30pm or by appointment; Don’t hesitate to call for an appointment!

**Weekend Schedule for Holy Mass**
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

**EF/TLM Latin Mass**
2nd Sunday of Month 12:30pm

**Weekday Schedule for Holy Mass**
First Saturday of the month 9:00am
Tuesday 7:00pm
Wed. & Fri. 8:15am School Year, 8:30am Summer
Thur. 8:30am

**Eucharistic Adoration of Our Lord**
Tuesday 5:30pm – 6:45pm
First Friday 7:00pm – Saturday 8:45am

**Baptisms**
Baptism Preparation classes as required by the Diocese of Lansing may be scheduled to accommodate your family’s needs. Contact Dcn. Frank Joseph Papp, 734-426-1070 or email fjapp@umich.edu to arrange date, time and location.

**Marriages**
Arrangements are to be made at least nine months prior to the wedding.

**Funerals**
Funeral arrangements are made by contacting the parish office.

**Parish Registration**
Contact the office for a registration form.

**Office hours**
Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
Office: 734-662-8141
Emergency: 734-663-1851

**Address**
5671 Whitmore Lake Rd, Ann Arbor, 48105

**Website**
www.stpatricka2.org
E-mail: info@stpatricka2.org

**Altar Servers**

**SATURDAY 4:00/Jan 26**
N. Holody
M. Grech

**SUNDAY 8:00/Jan 27**
J. P. DeJak
A. Hehmann

**SUNDAY 10:30/Jan 27**
D. Franzonello
N. Perrydore
A. Russell
J. Shurtliff
P. Zachmann
P. Zachmann

How does a cucumber become a pickle?

It goes through a jarring experience.

Knights of Columbus

*IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL*

**Family of the Month**

Our Family of the Month for January is the John Tuttle Family. John is a 3rd Degree Knight and has helped out at our Pancake Breakfast’s, Pray & Play Sunday, Fish Fry’s, Scrap Metal Drive and our Soccer Challenge. He is also a skilled photographer and taken photographs for our special occasions - Christmas, Easter, Corpus Christi, First Holy Communion, etc. Erika, his wife, sings in the choir and has started Martha’s Meals Ministry at OSP’s, the ministry provides meals for families in need. Erika also homeschools their six children. The three oldest children, Katie, Gretchen and Zita attend St. Augustine’s Homeschool Enrichment Program. The three youngest, Fulton, Agnes and Mitzi will attend when they are old enough. The family helps out where ever else there is a need, like cleaning up after Donut Sunday. Thank you Tuttle Family for your excellent service to our parish. May Our Lord Bless You.

**Knight of the Month**

Steve Willacker is our Knight of the Month for January. He is on the Church Financial Committee and an Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Steve participates in Eucharistic Adoration, praying the Rosary after Mass, traffic control for our All Soul’s Cemetery Procession, Community Director for our council and a big advocate for Catholic Radio. He was very instrumental in the parking lot project by helping with the planning, prints and dealing with the asphalt and electrical contractors. Congratulations Steve and thank you for your dedicated service to our parish. May God Bless You.

**General Meeting**

Monday, January 21st at 7:00pm, the Officers and Knights will meet in Parish Hall. All Knights are encouraged to attend.

**Ink Cartridge Recycling**

Please place your empty ink and toner cartridges in the box in our Parish Center Coat Room. We recycle them and use the monies for charities. Thank you!
Old St. Patrick Men's Retreat
“Angels and the Spiritual Life”
(there are still some spots available)
Marysville Retreat Center-Holly, MI Jan 25-27

Retreat Master: Fr. Matthew Hincks, ORC
Fr. Matthew is a priest of the Order of Canons Regular of the Holy Cross, which promotes devotion to the Holy Angels. He was ordained in 1998 and has given many retreats and missions on the Work of the Holy Angels across the country.

The weekend will include:
- Four Spiritual Talks
- Daily Mass
- Confession
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Fellowship

Opus Sanctorum Angelorum, the Work of the Holy Angels, is an international movement within the Catholic Church promoting devotion to the holy Angels. Through a consecration approved by the Church, we ask the holy Angels to lead us more effectively to God. These powerful spirits help us make progress in the spiritual life.

Cost for the weekend retreat is $150, which includes food and lodging. Last day to register is Monday Jan. 21st call the office at (734)662-8141,

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<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td>4:00-5:30 pm Registration</td>
<td>7:30 am Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>5:30 pm Evening Prayer</td>
<td>8:00 am Breakfast</td>
<td>8:00 am Mass</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Dinner</td>
<td>9:00 am Talk I: Friendship with your Guardian Angel</td>
<td>9:00 am Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 pm Talk I:</td>
<td>11:00 am Mass</td>
<td>10:00 am Talk IV: The Three</td>
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<td>Introductory Conference</td>
<td>12:00 pm Lunch</td>
<td>Dimensions of the Eucharist</td>
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<td>8:00 pm Mass</td>
<td>1:30 pm Talk III: The Power of the Rosary</td>
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<td>9:00 pm Social</td>
<td>2:30 pm Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy</td>
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<pre><code>                    | 5:30 pm Dinner                                                          |                            |
                    | 7:00 pm Question &amp; Answers                                               |                            |
                    | 8:00 pm Holy Hour &amp; Confessions                                         |                            |
                    | 9:00 pm Night Prayer &amp; Benediction followed by All Night Adoration   |                            |
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