

The beginning of another week! Isn't it wonderful that a fresh beginning comes around every seven days. Often I need that. Just a quick shot in the arm.

FUN
RELATIONSHIPS
FUN
COMING UP

LESSONS FOR
SUNDAY FEB. 24
Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42
1 Corinthians 15:35-
38,42-50
Luke 6:27-38

Several Events are coming up that will offer an opportunity to connect or reconnect with each other In **March** we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Sunday the 17th following the service. Wear green and bring a green dish to pass.

In **April** our parish schedule is focused on Easter and Holy Week affords us many opportunities to be together as a parish

In **May** we will gather after service on Sunday May 5th for our annual celebration of Cinco de Mayo with tacos and Mexican fare along with some games to laugh and have fun with.

I sincerely hope that you will put these dates on your calendar and plan to participate. These are awesome opportunities to build our relationship with each other as well as the Lord Jesus.

If you walk around the corner in the building next Sunday you will see a string of hearts placed on the wall, to commemorate Valentine's Day. Margaret Smith came up with the idea of members of the parish creating these hearts with messages of love and encouragement to other members of the parish. You should take time to read some of them. It's an effective way to communicated to others what we might not say in words.

Grateful Last Saturday several from the parish met at the building to assemble sandwiches for Mark Lewis to take to Kalamazoo to pass out to the homeless there. We are very grateful to those who did. Many hands makes light work. Mark said, *The response from the congregation has been overwhelming and so positive, with the many donations of clothes, personal care items and time with the sandwiches. Also Norm Bailey's help with the distribution. The impact on most of them was expressed by their thanks for the lunches prepared and their willingness to be prayed for. All of this would not of been possible without the generosity of those in our church.*

We have a need Please read this with an open mind. The Praise Band members have been serving this parish for many years without a break. It's

been the same members week after week playing and singing. As with any endeavor a little relief goes a long way. If you can sing or play an instrument (specifically a guitar) please consider helping the members of the Praise Band find some relief. It involves one practice a week and then ministering in the Sunday morning service. Again many hands make light the weight. Please talk to Lynne Maxwell at your earliest convenience.

We are happy to know that Sonya Sylvester went home from the hospital on Monday this week. She is recovering as the doctors do more work to pinpoint what the presenting problem was. But at least she's home waiting and not in the hospital. Thanks Be To God

It's not too late to join the catechism class on Wednesdays at 6:15pm.



AROUND THE WORD

Last Sunday we saw how Jesus teaching in the Beattitudes is really not a call to obey but a time to stop and get an aroma for what it's like to life in God's alternate society-the kingdom of God. I read a portion from Dallas Willards' book The Spirit of the Disciplines to emphasize this.

This Sunday we continue in the gospel reading of Luke 6.27-38 to go deeper into that aroma and culture of God's new governance. This will fill out our picture and feel for what life in the kingdom is like. It's challenging and impossible to live this life unless one has been converted to following Jesus. So we will probably deal with some feelings of being overwhelmed but that's a good thing if we use it to motivate us to reach out to the Lord for his enablement through the Holy Spirit. Come Sunday expecting the Lord to speak to you in a loving manner calling you deeper into life with him.