

Faith Weavers of St. Mary

Fall 2019 Newsletter
www.faithweavers.org

Mission Statement

We are a faith community formed to support one another in working to build the kingdom of God through service to others in all aspects of our lives. We are committed to creating an environment open to new expressions of growth and maturity by expanding our vision of ourselves, our church, and our world, and through our commitment to social justice.

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Upcoming Services

Mark your calendars for the following services. All of these services will be at St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Shepherd starting at 4 p.m.

September 15, 2019, Joe Frankenfield will preside at our Prayer Service. Following our service join us for BBQ pulled Chicken and Pork and hot dogs. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

October 13, 2019, Fr. Joe Schabel will celebrate mass with us. We will have a soup and salad dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

November 10, 2019, Karon Latham will lead this remembrance and prayer service. Following the service we will have Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Bring your donations for Christmas Outreach to this service. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

December 8, 2019, Fr. Fred Kawka will celebrate mass with us. We will have a roast beef and pork dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

Invite a Friend to a Faith Weavers Service

Please invite a friend to attend one of our services. A simple invitation can be a wonderful gift to someone looking for a faith community, and ours is a great community to join.

Day of Reflection

The Diocese of Saginaw is offering a Day of Reflection on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Center for Ministry, 5082 Weiss Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603.

This day will introduce you to St. Teresa of Avila through her book, the Interior Castles. Discover, learn, and hear about the life of this 16th century Carmelite nun and Christian mystic. Experience her Interior Castles through imagery, silent reflection and journaling.

The cost of this Day of Reflection is \$35.00 and includes lunch. Registration deadline is September 19, 2019. If you register after the deadline the cost is \$40.00. To register either call 989-797-6654 or go to www.Saginaw.org/events.

Date	Time	Activity
Sept. 15 th	4 p.m.	Prayer Service with Joe Frankenfield
Oct. 13 th	4 p.m.	Mass with Fr. Joe Schabel
Nov 10 th	4 p.m.	Prayer Service with Karon Latham
Dec 8 th	4 p.m.	Mass with Fr. Fred Kawka
Jan 12 th	4 p.m.	Prayer Service
Feb 9 th	4 p.m.	Prayer Service

Faith Weavers Sacristan

Many people donate their time and talents to conduct our monthly prayer services. Bev Kalmar is one of these people. She performs the duties of sacristan at our services.



Bev Kalmar

The sacristan sets up all the items that are used by the presider at a service. At a mass Bev gets out the cups and bowls and cloths (all these items have special liturgical names) that are used in the service. Bev also gets the hosts and wine ready that will be consecrated. She brings the Roman Missal to the altar and lights the candles. In short, she makes sure all of the physical things used in the mass are in their proper place.

Bev is a native of Shepherd and has a house in town. She loves to garden and often brings the flowers she has grown to decorate the church.

She is a life-long member of St. Vincent's and has served as sacristan for the parish for many years. She has also taught in St. Vincent's religious education program, and was the religious education coordinator at St. Leo's.

Bev worked as an elementary teacher in Shepherd before retiring. She has a Bachelor's degree from Mount Mary University in Wisconsin, and a Master's in Education from Ball State.

Tornado Picnic

The thirteenth tornado picnic was another wonderful gathering of friends on a warm summer evening. Good food and great company was shared by all.

The Angera's and Galgoci's have organized this picnic from its beginning, and everyone who comes brings their favorite dishes to share.



Good friends getting together.

Through the years diving for gum in a dish a whipped cream has been great fun at the Tornado Picnic.



2011



2012



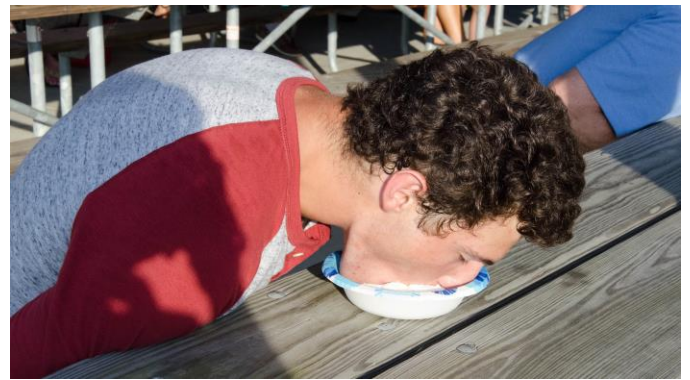
2013



2014



2015



2017



2018

13th Anniversary Party

Faith Weavers 13th Anniversary Party was held at Sleepy Hollow Hide-a-Way at the end of August. Again this year, Jerry and Marilyn Morey offered their beautiful retreat for our party.

Friends gathered to enjoy a beautiful summer day with lively conversation, delicious food, and lots of laughter.

Thanks to everyone who help make this event a wonderful success.



Charitable Contributions in 2019

The Service and Justice Committee meets quarterly, or as needed, to select recipients for Faith Weaver grants. So far this year, the committee has authorized grants totaling \$19,500. In addition, the Steering Committee made a \$1000 gift to Hidden Harvest in recognition of the service Fr. Bert Gohm has given to Faith Weavers, and a \$1,000 gift to the John H. Goodrow Fund in memory of Rev. Wayne Nicholson.

Global Compassion received \$3,000 to dig a water well in Sagva, Rajasthan India. The well has been completed, and is now supplying the villagers with water.



A \$3,000 grant was also given to the CNN School Nutrition program. The St. Vincent's Parish Catholic Relief Service program received a \$2,500 grant, and Christmas Outreach was given \$2,000. The Manda Maweni School received \$1,000 to purchase textbooks. The Stitch and Prayer Group and the Karmon Infant Safe Sleep Program were each given a \$500 grants.

Finally, the Service and Justice Committee gave \$7,000 towards the Faith Weavers' pledged of \$20,000 for the purchase of the building housing the William and Janet Marr Strickler Center.

Karmon Infant Safe Sleep Program

The Karmon Infant Safe Sleep (KISS) program was established by Faith Weavers in 2011 to recognize Sue and Dave Karmon's service to the Faith Weavers community. This program is administered by Sue Leeson, RN, a personal health supervisor at the Central Michigan District Health Department.

The KISS program provides cribs (pack-n-plays), sheets, and sleep sacks (a one-piece garment) to provide a safe sleep environment for newborns.

Isabella County had 8 infant deaths last year. This is an 11% death rate for these newborns, which is the highest percentage death rate in the State of Michigan. The average infant death rate for the state is 3%.

A safe-sleep environment is one way to help prevent these tragic deaths. Since the KISS program's inception, hundreds of pack-n-plays have been provided for newborn infants. Since last August alone, thirty units have been distributed.

KISS is part of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program to support mothers and children. WIC provides infant formula and healthy foods for women and children. Foods such as dairy products, cereals and grain products, and fresh fruits can be purchased by using a WIC card. Nutrition education is also provided to WIC clients along with breastfeeding support. WIC clients who need additional assistance can be referred to health and social services, such as, Medicaid, MI-Child, Healthy Kids, SNAP, immunizations, child health screening, and family planning.

New mothers are eligible to receive this assistance if they are on Medicaid, or meet certain income requirements. Women are often referred to the Health Department by other government agencies, or by their doctor. Others hear about the program through word-of-mouth, and apply themselves.

Faith Weavers has donated \$6,000 to the KISS program over the past eight years. Individuals have also donated directly to the Health Department for the KISS program.

Donations can be sent as a check payable to the Central Michigan District Health Department. Be sure to write "KISS program" in the memo section of your check, and mail it to:

Susan Leeson, RN
Central Michigan District Health Department
2012 East Preston St.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Friends of El Salvador

Miramar Water Well Project

Last November the Bernard J. and Camille Cebelak Foundation gave Faith Weavers, through the Friends of El Salvador Committee, \$50,000 to fund a water-well for the communities of Miramar and Flor de Fuego, and provide an electric pump for an existing well in the community of Granzaso. A spring was providing water to four communities and was no longer able to keep up with their needs. This project is benefiting about 850 rural residents.

Work has been going on since last spring. The well for Miramar and Flor de Fuego has been drilled, and the Granzaso pump has been installed. Pipes have been laid to homes in Miramar, Flor de Fuego and some areas of Guajoyo. Water-meters have been installed at each home because residents will pay for the electricity used to run the well based upon their water usage. A security fence has been installed around the concrete-block pump hut to protect the well. The final step is to run electricity to the well and the community is anxiously waiting for local utility company to do this so the water can flow.

The residents of Miramar have donated their labor, with over 3,182 labor-hours given to this project. Residents donated their time to guard the drilling equipment from theft or damage; individuals dug 500 meters of trenches, and laid the pipes to carry water from the well to Miramar, and they constructed the concrete-block hut to enclose the well pump.



Miramar residents digging trenches for the water pipes.



Laying pipes in the trenches.



Community members at the drilling site.



Preparing the foundation for the hut over the well.

Guajoyo School

The Guajoyo School was given \$5,800 for the purchase of computer equipment. They purchased eight computers with wireless capacity and four LCD screens. The school is using this equipment, along with computers purchased through a government grant, to teach students computer skills, as well as academic subject matter. Teachers would like students to use the computers in classroom presentations, and to access the Web. The school is scheduled to get an Internet connection soon.



Students using computers at Guajoyo School.

Blessed Sacrament Grant

In March the Friends of El Salvador received a grant of \$2,000 from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland. This is the fourth such grant received from the parish since 2011. The current funds supplement dollars available for a latrine construction project in a rural Salvadoran community to be determined in the fall.

Participate in the Friends of El Salvador

For more information about the Friends of El Salvador, or to become part of the Committee, please contact Tom Moore (773-3250, moore1tj@cmich.edu).

Christmas Outreach Coat

Distribution

by Jim Hornak

It is time to check your closets for unused coats that can be distributed at Christmas Outreach in December. We again expect to distribute approximately 1700 coats and snow pants and we really need your help.

Coats are needed for both adults and children. We especially need plus sizes for women and big/tall for men (Sizes 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X, and 6X) so please focus on these as you shop. You can buy coats, hopefully on sale, at Walmart, Sam's, Kohl's, Penney's and Meijer and other local retailers.. Often there are coupons available in weekend papers or in the mail. Coats can also be purchased on line from these stores. I have had good luck in past years using "clearance coats" in the search bar once you are on line.

More than half of the coats and snow pants we distribute are gently used. Coats and snow pants must be clean and have zippers and buttons intact.

Please bring your contributions to the November 10 Faith Weavers celebration.

Contact Jim Hornak at 989-772-5851 or horna1je@cmich.edu , if you have any questions about this project, or if you prefer to have your donations picked up.

Christmas Outreach

By Eileen Jennings

Once again, Faith Weavers will be asked to support Christmas Outreach. You have become one of the major pillars of this community service event. We rely on you for coats, stocking stuffers, financial contributions, and volunteer time. Your support inspires us to keep up this important community service.

Thanks to those of you who have already purchased items for Christmas stockings during the back to school sales. Many places still are offering crayons (24), pencils, glue sticks, rulers, scissors, pencils sharpeners, notebooks, colored pencils, highlighters, mechanical pencils, and other items at greatly reduced prices. We

can always use more of these items. We especially can use glue sticks, because we put one of those in the teen and adult gift bags as well as the children's stockings.

Christmas Outreach distribution this year will be on Friday and Saturday, **December 6 and 7**. We will fill stockings and gift bags on Tuesday and Wednesday, **December 3 and 4**. We need volunteers for both times.

Our stocking and gift bags will continue. We will offer stockings to children and gift bags to teens and to adults who have no children. These adult gift bags have been especially appreciated. This means we will need many items to provide everyone with either a stocking or a gift bag. We will give out about 350 children's stockings, 75 infant and 100 pre-school stockings, 250 teen gift bags, and 300 adult gift bags.

Here are just a few suggestions of items to put into the various stockings/gift bags. Use your imagination for many others:

Anyone: toothbrushes, toothpaste, glue stick, comb, pencils, pens, hand sanitizer

Teens/Adults: deodorant, regular sized shampoo and lotion.

Teen: highlighters, photo frames, colored pencils, notebooks, phone chargers, nail polish, mechanical pencils

Adults: pot holder, small flashlight, bar soap, scissors, breath mints, liquid hand soap, flashlights, puzzle books, memo pads.

Pre-school children: small stuffed animals, jumbo crayons, hair ribbons, bath toys, sippy cups.

Infants: shampoo , lotion, baby wipes, teething toys, bath toys.

Children: small stuffed animals, thin color/activity books, matchbox-type cars, girls hair ribbons, bubbles, playdoh, small toys. We will again want hotel sized shampoo, and lotion for the children's stockings. McDonald's and BK's kids' toys are also welcome so long as the bag has not been opened.

Aside from the stocking stuffers, please give us any calendars you receive in the mail that you will not use. You would not believe how popular these calendars are! **DO NOT** buy calendars. Do not take a bunch of calendars from Isabella Bank. Just give us those calendars you would otherwise throw away that you get from the various charities you support. Both wall calendars and pocket calendars are needed.

Bring your donations to Faith Weavers on **November 10**. After that, you can deliver them to Eileen Jennings or coats to Jim Hornak. This year, Finch Fieldhouse will also be open for donations until 7:00 PM on Wednesday and Thursday, **Dec 4 and 5**, and until 6:00 PM on Monday and Tuesday, **Dec 2 and 3**. (But we need the items for stockings no later than Monday evening, Dec 2.)

In addition to stockings/gift bags, Christmas Outreach will also distribute:

- Boots
- Hats and mittens
- Linens (new & gently used sheets, blankets, towels)
- Children's books
- Christmas decorations

Karon Latham is the new chair of the Christmas decorations! If you drop off items the week of December 2, please bring only clean items on this list that are in good shape or new.

We need people to **sew stockings** for us this year. Let Eileen know if you can make stockings and she will deliver the pattern and fabric. Eileen is also looking for a person to assist in managing this stocking project. The work includes contacting groups that donate items and helping purchase some items in bulk.

Thank you for all the ways you step up for Christmas Outreach. You truly do Weave Faith into Life.