For information about an ad call Mary at 633-6762 ext. 200 or office@oursaviorparish.org

Have you considered mentioning Our Savior parish in your will? Please help us continue our ministry by remembering us in your will.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Life can be difficult at times and we all need prayer. If you wish to place someone on the prayer list, please contact Frances Stewart at 251-300-7840 or memefrances@yahoo.com or Mary in the parish office. The only thing we ask of you is to please let us know if this person has either recovered, died or is no longer in need of further prayer.

WHEN REGISTERING IN THE HOSPITAL, REHAB OR NURSING HOME, please let them know you are Catholic and are a member of Our Savior Church, also contact the parish office with the name of the facility and room number. If you enter through the ER and are admitted into the hospital please inform them of your church affiliation.

CALLING ALL “MILLENNIALS”...Hello! I'm Lexie, a Catholic millennial, by choice, with a million things to explore. I enjoy everything from delicious healthy recipes, dreaming of a cross country road trip to visit all the archdioceses in the U.S., to getting lost in fictional worlds via page and screen. I created a blog to document my life lessons and varied interests. I hope to share some of my sparkle and sunshine with my subscribers through insight, amusement, and encouragement. You can check out the blog at thegenesisfeminist.com and follow me on all social media @TheGenFem.

MEMORIAL BRICKS: What a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one. Forms are on the table at the back of the church. Contact Judy in the parish office at 251-633-6772 x 203, if you need assistance.

TAI CHI CLASS meets here every Monday at 10am in Jennings Hall. It is a low-impact; slow-motion exercise that is often described as “meditation in motion”. Everyone is invited.

LINE DANCING is every Monday in Jennings Hall. Classes are from 6:30-8 pm. The cost is $4 per person. Come join the fun!!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL’S BENEFIT BINGO will be Friday, February 23rd at 6-9pm at the Tillman’s Corner Community Center (5055 Carol Plantation Rd.)

POSITION AVAILABLE  MUSIC MINISTER
Our Savior Parish is looking for a part-time permanent music minister, for immediate hire. Keyboard skills are essential, as well as the ability to work with choir and cantors. Candidate must be able to pass background and child protection screening. Please send inquiries and resumes to: Mary at office@oursaviorparish.org or faxed to 251-633-7790.
WHY DO (SOME) CATHOLICS LEAVE THE CHURCH? PART I

A couple of weeks ago I put on my Facebook page a snippet from a research study by CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) about why Catholics (especially the young) leave the Catholic Church. Overall reasons they listed actually apply to pretty well all Christian denominations, but I listed the 6 predominant ones they uncovered, and I asked for comments. I got them!

This week I want to present some of the issues (with my own spin, of course), including one referred to as the “elephant in the room.” Next week, I’ll discuss what I think is the real “elephant in the room”...

Some people (young and old) actually coherently disagree with Church teachings. One former student of mine was highly complimentary of me and completely at odds with the Church’s stand on gay marriage. Others, perhaps less coherently, were angered by the Church’s refusal to permit ordination of women. I might or might not see eye-to-eye with their perspective, but it is at least rational.

Others were distanced from the Church because of divorce and re-marriage. This is frankly a huge difficulty for far too many in our world these days. Divorce today is less like what it probably was for wealthy people in the times of Christ—a matter of “preference” for another rather than genuine incompatibility. I am convinced that this was the basis for the condemnation of Herod by John the Baptist (explicitly) and Jesus (more implicitly). Such choices these days are probably more limited to tabloid “celebrities” than to real people, who for their best intentions have found themselves unable to live with each other. Pope Francis is trying in this area, but it’s up to the Church’s leadership to re-examine this burning question.

There is also a huge psychological impact on folks when they see loved ones (parents, siblings, children) terribly torn from them in ways that convince them there is no God who really cares. Might it have been cancer, or an auto accident, or being the victim of a crime. The fundamental question of “Why?” is met with (to them) the answer of “Oh, well, sorry about that—better luck next time”... Unless someone reaches out to let them know they are not abandoned, this is a serious problem.

Close on this is the question of over-protective parents who try to “shield” their children from all that is bad in the world, only to find that the children want to embrace the world precisely because they’ve been so sheltered. This form of rebellion is typical—children (siblings, children) terribly torn from them in ways that convince them there is no God who really cares. Might it have been cancer, or an auto accident, or being the victim of a crime. The fundamental question of “Why?” is met with (to them) the answer of “Oh, well, sorry about that—better luck next time”... Unless someone reaches out to let them know they are not abandoned, this is a serious problem.

Finally, what some people called the “elephant in the room”—the scandal of child sexual abuse and its cover-up. It is absolutely evil, of course. Those scarred by this evil understandably have their trust in the Church badly damaged, if not completely destroyed.

These are some of the insights from people’s comments that I found to be valid. But in the course of reading all the comments, I found another “elephant in the room”—that will be the topic for next Sunday’s bulletin essay.

—Father David

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

“Our Savior parish is a Catholic community, fueled by the Eucharist and infused with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, committed to faith-filled worship, to outreach and welcoming for our brothers and sisters in need, to striving for Christian unity, to pursuing respect for the dignity of all human life, and to building the Kingdom of God on Cody Road and beyond.”
They are the spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ."

...they dwell in them. They will be the Father’s children who do his work."

...who live in this way and persevere in it to the end. He will permanently...

...must be simple, humble and pure. We should never desire to be over...

..."We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather we must be simple, humble and pure. We should never desire to be over others. Instead, we ought to be servants who are submissive to every human being for God’s sake. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on all who live in this way and persevere in it to the end. He will permanently dwell in them. They will be the Father’s children who do his work. They are the spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ."

— St. Francis of Assisi, “A Letter to the Faithful"
**TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR THE CALLED TO LEAD CONFERENCE.** This is a conference for all men in the Archdiocese, aged 16 or older. It will be held at Corpus Christi Parish in Mobile on February 22. You can find more information about this exciting conference offered by the Archdiocese of Mobile by visiting mobarchconferences.org

If you have not returned your CATHOLIC CHARITIES envelope, please do so now. If you prefer to donate online, you can text “CCA2018” to 41444 for a link. Envelopes are available in the pew. It is our goal to have every family participate to the best of their ability. We ask that you be the Hands of Christ reaching out to those in need through your prayerful generosity to this year’s Catholic Charities Appeal. Please, help our Parish meet our goal of $129,500 this year and obtain 100% participation.

Thank you to all parishioners who pledged during last Sunday’s Catholic Charities Pledge Sunday. Our total is $80,610. If you have not pledged yet, please do so now so that we can reach our goal of $129,500. Thank you for being the Hands of Christ.

**LADIES ALL FUN & FELLOWSHIP (LAFF)** will meet on Thursday, February 15th. Come join us for an Italian Dinner and Bunco! Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and bunco at 7 pm. Hope to see you on the 15th! 

*Don’t forget to invite a friend!*

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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<td>February 4</td>
<td>Discernment</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Discussion on the film <em>Inherit the Wind</em></td>
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<td>February 24</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>The Examen of Ignatius Loyola</td>
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Please join us for coffee, doughnuts and discussion in the library between the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses. For more information contact Eileen Rettig at 661-8619 or emrettig@aol.com.

I’m not really sure how to begin, but this past weekend our youth and adult helpers put in a lot of hours in collecting, sorting, checking expiration dates and boxing up the food items to have it ready for SVDP Food Pantry. As of now, we have collected 11,426 nonperishable food items to fill the shelves and help those in need. Our first service project this year was the Souper Bowl of Caring Project: first began taking part in 2009 and collected 351 nonperishable items and last year (2017) we collect 15,549. Last year was our first time setting up an online giving, and we raised an extra 600 items. Don’t forget to check out our online giving page. Please help us by sharing our page on Facebook: go online at yougiv-egoods.com then click on donate now (keyword our savior) and our page will pop up. By giving online you will receive a tax donation receipt. If you have any questions please contact Tina @ 633-6762 x 205 and I will walk you through it. Our online goal is 650 items. Thank You for all your support!

Hope to see you at Our Pancake Breakfast/Brunch this Sunday, February 4th; right after the 11 o’clock Mass. The Pancake Breakfast/Brunch is a fundraiser for our youth who will be attend Alive in You this summer. All donations will go towards their trip. This year we will be doing service in St. Louis, MO. Alive in You’s second payment of $100 was due on January 28th. Please make your check payable to Our Savior.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:**

- **February 4th** – Pancake Breakfast right after 11 o’clock Mass. If possible, be here by 11:30 ready to serve. If you regularly attend 11 o’clock Mass, please come over right afterwards.
- **February 16th & 23rd** – Stations of the Cross & Lenten Dinners watch for more information

Youth Group is open to all 6th-12th grade youth. Jr. High 6th-8th & High School 9th-12th

**NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**RE CLASSES** meet February 4. We are closed February 11 for Mardi Gras and return on February 18 for the beginning of Lent. Classes are also in session February 25. See you at 9:45 a.m.

**RCIA** Rite of Acceptance took place Sunday. Our Savior parish welcomed Donavon Dahmer, Rosemary Farrell, and Garry Mercer as Candidates along with Betty Mills and JJ Schock as Confirmation candidates. Please pray for them and their families. RCIA meets Feb 6. There is no RCIA gathering on Tuesday, February 13, Mardi Gras Day. RCIA Candidates will attend the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Regular gatherings resume Tuesday, February 20.

**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY** is next weekend. Please come and celebrate your vocation to family life with us.

The Family Life Committee will offer cake and punch.