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# *The Canticle of St. Francis*

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Parish Newsletter: Volume 8, Issue 4

Winter 2003

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## NEW STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLAN FOR OUR PARISH

Since 1998, St. Francis parish has been guided by a Pastoral Plan. This plan is a “road map” to guide us to become a more effective parish community and to help us more fully live the life of Christ.

In 2002, the Pastoral Council found that most of the original plan had been accomplished and that it was time to create a new

plan to guide the parish for the next six years. To better understand the needs of the parish, our council contracted with the Gallup Organization to do the Spiritual Engagement Survey within the community. I

am sure that many of you remember doing this. The results of the survey and other consultations within the parish, along with extensive visitations at almost fifty successful large parishes and congregations by pastoral council members, staff and ministry members prepared us to write the new plan.

During the summer and early fall of 2003, the pastoral council, staff and ministry members finalized the plan. This new plan has a Vision Statement, Heart Values and nine Focus Areas: 1. Evangelization and Outreach, 2. Community Building and Family Life, 3. Stewardship, 4. Catechesis and Formation, 5. Worship, 6. Pastoral Care, 7. Social Ministry, 8. Administration, Operations & Communications, and 9. Elementary and Middle School. You can find the complete text of the Pastoral Plan on the parish



*Parish leaders gather for annual meeting*

web page.

Now we begin the implementation. As I have said many times before, all of the listening in the world, and all planning is in need of God’s blessing and grace if there is to be spiritual and ministerial fruit. So we begin this new segment of our parish journey with heartfelt reliance on God, and also praise and thanks for God’s love and care.

Once again, our research and planning has led us to the same ingredients for a *plan for church* that we can find in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. God seems to continue to call St. Francis to be a Pentecost-like church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit -- enlivened by God’s Word, the Sacraments, and the gifts of the Spirit. It is characterized by small groups or com-



munities, filled with a spirit of evangelization and concern with conversion, and alive with a contagious missionary passion that reaches out to those separated or alienated from us, or those unchurched.

Each day as you pray, please remember our parish community in your prayers. As I do, ask God’s continued guidance. May we as individuals and as a parish become more fully the light of Christ to our world.

*Fr. Jim McDougall, Pastor*



***Christmas Liturgies***  
*& upcoming events on page 2*



### Advent Communal Penance Service:

Thursday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. in church

### CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Wednesday, December 24 Masses

5:00 p.m.

5:15 p.m. (PAC)

7:00 p.m.

11:30 p.m. Caroling begins

Thursday, December 25 Masses

12:00 midnight

9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

### Mary, Mother of God/ World Day of Peace:

Wednesday, December 31

5:00 p.m. mass

Thursday, January 1

10:30 a.m. mass



# Save The Date



## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI Elementary & Middle School

2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

- **PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION SESSION**

If you are interested in enrollment for Grades K – 8, please join us for one of these informal question & answer sessions and tour the school, begin in the Parish Activities Center (PAC), either

**JANUARY 29, 2004 – 7:00 P.M.**

OR

**FEBRUARY 5, 2004 – 1:00 P.M.**

- **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Will be mailed in late-February 2004, call

- **INFORMATION/OPEN HOUSE EVENING**

**Tuesday, March 9, 2004**

The evenings begins with a meeting at 6:30 P.M. in the PAC

- **REGISTRATION:** will take place on

**MARCH 9-19, 2004**

2270 E. Stadium Blvd ♦ Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
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*A Faith-Filled Future*



St. Francis of Assisi  
Catholic School

### St. Francis Educational Trust Fund Benefit Evening

**Thursday, May 6, 2004**

The Educational Trust Fund was established in 1987 to help ensure the continuation of quality Catholic education for years to come. "A Faith-Filled Future" will be the theme of the benefit evening being held at St John's Center of Plymouth. The Benefit will include scrumptious food and drink, one-of-a-kind treasures and a special presentation from John Find-

later. He is a former teacher and administrator in the Archdiocese of Detroit. His uplifting and motivating presentation is titled: "They Better Be Different because They Have Spent Time with Us!"

Please save **May 6** for this special evening, and plan to attend to help support Catholic education!

## Come & See . . .

*a Program for Catholics  
Returning to the Church*

**begins January 12, 2004**

Call 734-821-2125 for  
further information.

