



Students, staff pack Hackett gym for all-schools Mass

By Kathy Doud
Special to The Catholic Weekly

KALAMAZOO — More than 1,000 school children, teachers and staff from across the Diocese of Kalamazoo gathered Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the gym of Hackett Catholic Prep to celebrate a Mass in honor of Catholic Schools Week.

Students from preschool through high school came from 10 schools: St. Monica School, St. Augustine Cathedral School and Hackett Catholic Prep in Kalamazoo; St. Catherine of Siena preschool (in Portage); St. Ann preschool in Augusta; the Vineyard Academy in Richland; St. Basil School in South Haven; Immaculate Conception School in Three Rivers; St. Margaret School in Otsego; and St. Mary School in Paw Paw.

Priests from across the diocese concelebrated this special Mass.

Fr. Larry Farrell, the pastor of St. Monica School, read the parable of the “Sower and the Seed” from St. Mark’s Gospel, then looked up with a smile to say, “there certainly is rich soil all around us, here.”

Fr. Farrell told his young audience that Wednesday was — appropriately enough — the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of Catholic education. He encouraged them to remember the goal St. Thomas always kept in sight — eternal life. And he concluded by saying: “As I look out at these students gathered here, today, I see our future and realize what a treasure we possess in the great gift of our Catholic faith.”

Catholic Schools Week is co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The special week began Sunday, Jan. 25, and ended Saturday, Jan. 31, in Catholic schools across the nation.†



More than 1,000 Catholic school students, faculty and staff attended the Catholic Schools Week Mass on Wednesday, Jan. 28, in Hackett Catholic Prep gym in Kalamazoo. Katherine Doud/St. Monica School



Becky Reits, principal of St. Monica School in Kalamazoo (left photo), helps students board a bus to the special Mass on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at Hackett Catholic Prep in Kalamazoo. To her right is third-grader Tyler Vanness, who earned the title of being “Principal for the Day” and came dressed in a shirt and tie. Siblings Abigail (left in right photo) and Dylan Reisterer, both students at St. Monica School in Kalamazoo, sit together during the Mass, along with Ellie Ward, a third grader at St. Monica.



Preparing for Mass are (from left in left photo) Colin Tichvon, a sophomore at Hackett Catholic Prep, Fr. James Adams, who serves as chaplain at the school, and Tim DeMars, a junior at Hackett. Emily Wheaton (left in right photo) and Lizzy McQueen, both seventh graders from St. Monica School in Kalamazoo, were among students attending the Catholic Schools Week Mass.



Fr. James Adams, pastor of St. Ann Parish in Augusta and chaplain at Hackett Catholic Prep, gives communion to Jeremy McNally, a junior at Hackett (left photo). Fr. Larry Farrell, pastor of St. Monica Parish in Kalamazoo (right in right photo), and Msgr. Thomas Martin, rector of St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo, read the consecration prayers.



BRIEFLY

Three ways
NORTON SHORES — Fr. Bernie Campbell, C.S.P., will lead “Believing Three Ways in One God,” offered from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 12 and 19, at St. Francis de Sales Parish, 2929 McCracken St. The two-week series on the origins, structure and meaning of the Apostles Creed will follow Nicholas Lash’s book of the same title. To sign up, or for more information, call (616) 459-7267.

What about him?
GRAND RAPIDS — Sr. Diane Zervas, O.P., will lead “Pope Francis: The Man and Spiritual Leader” from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the Dominican Center at Marywood, 2025 Fulton St. E. The program will offer a short history and background of the latest occupant of the Chair of Peter. Where did he come from and where might he lead us? To register, or for more information, call (616) 514-3325.

Science and God
KALAMAZOO — David Moffett-Moore will lead “Creation and Contemporary Experience” from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Road. Participants will explore the use of modern scientific inquiry as a contemporary form of divine revelation. To register, or for more information, call (269) 381-6290, ext. 310.†

THE Catholic Weekly

Proudly serving the Catholic Faithful of West Michigan

Published every Friday by *The Catholic Weekly*, with news offices at 1520 Court St., Saginaw, MI 48602. Periodicals Postage paid at Saginaw, Michigan.

COPY DEADLINE

News and advertising copy are accepted until noon each Monday. Address news items to Editor and business materials to General Manager, P.O. Box 1405, Saginaw, MI 48605.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In U.S. (1) year.....\$32.95
(2) years.....\$59.00
USPS 376-750 Volume 73 No. 15

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Sr. Elaine Raymond Advisor/Director

POSTMASTER, please send form 3579 to The Catholic Weekly, P.O. Box 1405, Saginaw, MI 48605.

Business (989) 793-7661
News/Adv. (989) 793-7661
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