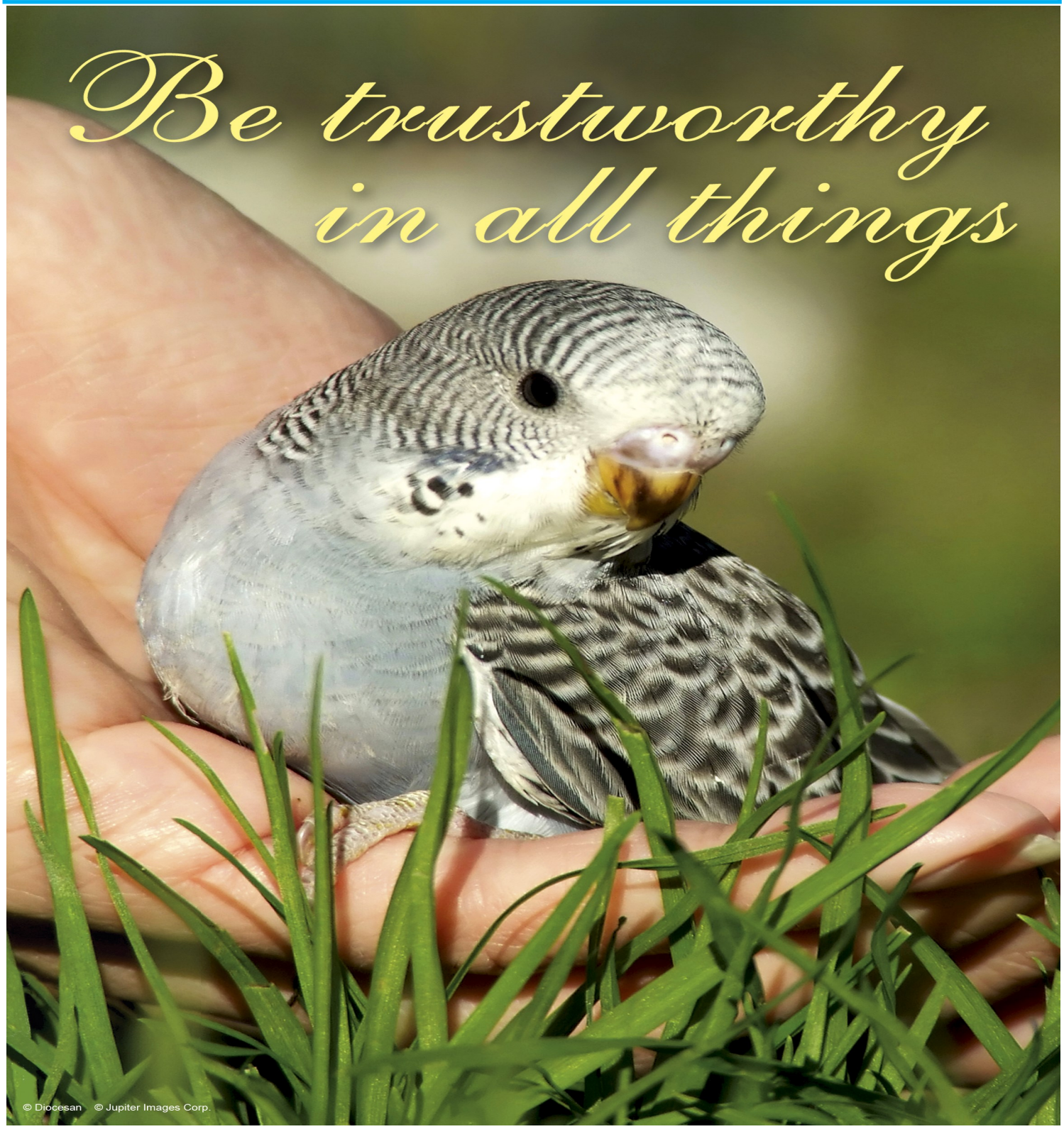
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
St. Clare Catholic Church
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Fr. Arul Lazar, MSFS - Pastor
icclarechurch@gmail.com

Dennis Cristofaro - Deacon
Rectory 273-8953

Talking with God

We have good intentions and resolves and one thing so many of us want is a deeper relationship with God. It is a longing that comes from our hearts but we don't always know what to do with it. Below are a few hints and resources to get us started – or re-started – talking to God. It sounds simple, so why does it get complicated?

The good news is that God is the one who really wants to talk with us. God wants us to feel that he loves us with a bottomless love and is just waiting to listen to anything we want to say. Further proof of this good news: It was God who sparked our hearts to make us want to respond to him in a newer way. What is standing in our way?

I just don't know where to begin.

We can reflect on our prayer and what we mean by prayer. Sometimes the most difficult journey in prayer is the short distance from our heads to our hearts. We might enjoy reading theology and spirituality books and websites, but it can draw us into concepts and ideas about God rather than feeling in our hearts how much we are loved by God. The shift in focus happens when we move from "saying prayers" to praying in the sense of entering into a close, personal relationship, which centers on a sense of closeness, accompaniment and intimacy. Prayer is really just conversation with someone who loves us more than we can imagine. What do we want to thank God for? What do we worry about? What are we facing today? What do we want to ask of God? Speak, then listen.

I don't have a minute free all day – when can I possibly pray?

Spending 30 minutes in silent meditation is wonderful, but most of us can't do that in our lives. But we all can find small "in-between" moments in our lives when we can find a greater intimacy with God. It means looking for the tiniest spaces in our day when we can simply lift our hearts to God.

Here are a few suggestions. Which ones might work for me today?

- Brushing teeth is something we do every day for a few minutes. If we transform that time into a simple dialog with God, it can begin and end our day in prayer.
- A drive in the car can become a brief retreat if we turn off the radio and use that time to have a conversation with God.
- A regular shower or bath time can be the perfect, undistracted spot to connect with the One who loves us.
- We can pray walking to a meeting, crossing a street or heading into a store.
- As we reach to answer a phone, a 2 second prayer for the person calling can change my interaction with the caller.
- If we find our mind wanders, gently transform it into a prayer by saying to God, "I am distracted by the meeting I have today. Let me tell you what I am worried about." Or, "I can tell I am preoccupied by my relationship problems with my brother. Please give me the grace to forgive him." We can take our distractions to God and ask for help.
- Ask, "Where is my focus, on me or on God?"

Have a good week, and Praised be to Jesus Christ!

Fr. Arul

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 20 - Vigil Mass
4:00 p.m. †Robert Modaff
By: Bob & Kim Modaff

Sunday, September 21 - TWENTY FIFHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10:30 a.m. †Gloria Schuster
By: John & Diane Norton

Monday, September 22 - Weekday
8:00 a.m. †Paul Ringstad
By: Maryland Cheney

Tuesday, September 23 - Saints Pius of Pietrelcine, Priest
6:00 p.m. Mass at St. Clare

Wednesday, September 24- Weekday
8:00 a.m. †Larry Broker
By: Dick & Vicki Imgrund

Thursday, September 25 - Weekday
NO MASS

Friday, September 26 - Weekday
8:00 a.m. †Arnold Fitch
By: Marie Koole

Saturday, September 27 - Vigil Mass
4:00 p.m. †Don W. Falborski
By: Mom & Dad

Sunday, September 28 - TWENTY SIXT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10:30 a.m. †Rita Barton
By: Mark & Sharon Voege
and
The People in Our Parish

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

First Reading: Amos 6:1a,4-7
Responsorial Psalm: 146:7,8-9, 9-10
Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

DAUGHTERS OF MARY

The Daughters of Mary are resuming our monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We are meeting Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs' church hall. We are planning for our Annual Holiday Bazaar coming up on November 1st. We hope that everyone will be working on those wonderful crafts and donations for our booths. We'll need lots of homemade crafts, raffle items, gift basket stuffers, baked goods, and white elephant things. All women of the parish are invited to be members of the DOM. We encourage you to join us in supporting our parish work. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Schopf at 269-718-9218 or Sherry Butler at 616-334-3262. We look forward to seeing you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LECTORS, SERVERS AND MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m.

Sacristan:	Carol Falborski
Lector:	Jen Graber
Body of Christ:	Carol Falborski
Blood of Christ:	Susan Studabaker & Pat Larkins

Sunday, September 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Sacristan:	Francis Granzotto
Lector:	Chad Thelen
Body of Christ:	Francis Granzotto
Blood of Christ:	Mark Voege, Sherry Butler
	Sarah Mercer, Sharon Voege

IC PARISH SUPPORT

	Week of 9/14/25	YTD
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025– June 30, 2026		
Sunday Collection (72)	$ 4,221.00	$62,664.00
Online Collection (0)	$0.00	$4,005.00
Holy Days	$0.00	$ 1,319.50
Visitors/Loose	$ 541.00	$ 8,087.42
Mass Stipend	$ 0.00	$900.00
Utility Fund	$ 0.00	$ 492.00
Donations/Bequests	$ 0.00	$ 90.00
Total Offertory	**$ 4,762.00**	**$ 77,557.99**
Weekly Need	$ 6,017.00	$ 72,204.00
Over/Under	$ (1,255.00)	$ (5,353.99)

Income not included in weekly needs:

IC Help	$75.00
Votive Lights	$24.00

Experience a Cursillo Weekend

Women's Cursillo Weekend

October 16-25, 2025 - Women's #80 Cursillo weekend, Amigo Center, Sturgis

Flyers and forms available on our website.
https://kalamazoocursillo.com/forms

For more information contact Marie Koole marieb-koole@yahoo.com 268-506-3636

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

GOAL	PLEDGED	BALANCE DUE
$ 52,499	$ 45,358.50	$ 7,140.50

Bishop Annual Appeal– Continuing Our Mission

A sincere thank you to all who have made their pledge! Your generous gift helps bring Christ to people and people to Christ in countless ways.

We are moving CLOSER to our parish goal, but we need your support to reach it! Your participation makes all the difference—please prayerfully consider joining this vital effort.

No Pledge is too small or too large!

Dear Parishioners,

IC Family Night
September 24, 2025 5-7 p.m.

Join us for our a family night where we will be combining the evening with a Service Project. With the participation and support of Home Depot we will be constructing birdhouses/birdfeeders or similar item that will then be shared with another community organization. We are focusing on the Catholic Social Teachings of Peace and the Common Good.
A light dinner will be provided.

Acompáñenos en nuestra noche familiar, donde combinaremos la velada con un Proyecto de Servicio. Con la participación y el apoyo de Home Depot, construiremos casas/comederos para pájaros o artículos similares que luego compartiremos con otra organización comunitaria. Nos centraremos en la Doctrina Social Católica de la Paz y el Bien Común.

OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, will start Sunday, October 5. Inquiry sessions will take place Sunday mornings, 8-10 a.m., in the church hall downstairs. These sessions will be open to anyone interested in the Catholic Church, anyone considering becoming Catholic, and any Catholic who would like to be confirmed, return to the Church, or learn more about their Catholic Faith. Please invite someone you know who might be interested in OCIA. See or call Mark Brost for more information.

The **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR)** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit ReportBishopAbuse.org or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Reports will be kept confidential.

Happy Birthday to Richard Ruden who is celebrating his 80st birthday on September 22th.

Happy Birthday to Mary Ellen Cole who is celebrating her 90th birthday on September 26th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR PARISHIONERS! September 22 - 28

Harold McGee
Gerardo Munoz Duran
Sherry Butler
Larry Hagenbuch
Chad Thelen
Dale Schultz
William Creedo
Bobbi Hagenbuch
Mary Ellen Cole
Thomas James
Lincoln Burkey
Cesia Ramirez
Jim Ruden
Emily Espinoza
Peter Hickey
Kemp Kotschevar
Carter Doney

2nd Collection

Please be generous next week's special collection for the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. In the United States, over 11% of the population lives in poverty. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd.

Spanish Speaking Community

There will be a meeting after 10:30 Mass on Sunday, October 12th with our Spanish speaking community to explore the possibility of having a weekly Spanish Mass

Please call **Rectory Office** for more information **269-273-8953**.
Están coordialmente invitados a una junta que se llevará acabo el día Domingo 12 de Octubre después de la misa de 10:30 para coordinar Misas en Español.
Porfavor asistan.
Si Ud. tiene alguna pregunta porfavor llame a la oficina.

ST. CLARE CHURCH

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

SUNDAY - September 21

8:30 a.m. †Steve Campbell
By: Ken & Sherry Roberts
and
The People in Our Parish

TUESDAY - September 23

6:00 p.m. †Pat Wragg
By: Dick & Vicki Imgrund

SUNDAY - September 28

8:30 a.m. †Deceased Members of Phil & Melva Sobota
By: Phil & Phyllis Nusbaum

Lector: Theresa Gage
Ministers: Lou Scohy, Theresa Gage, Volunteer
Altar Server: Hope Collins
Ushers: John Luxon & Evan Nemeth
Coffee Crew: Betsy Rambadt & Eydie Ward

SC PARISH SUPPORT

	Week of 9/14/25	YTD
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025– June 30, 2026		
Sunday Collection (12)	$585.00	$ 9,880.00
Online Collection	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
Holy Days	$ 0.00	$ 254.00
Visitors/Loose	$ 595.34	$ 5,282.34
Mass Stipend	$ 0.00	$ 120.00
Utility Fund	$ 10.00	$ 272.00
Donations/Bequests	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
Total Offertory	**$1,190.34**	**$ 15,808.34**
Weekly Need	$ 1,324.00	$ 15,888.00
Over/Under	$ (133.66)	$ (79.66)

Income not included in weekly needs:

Catholic Campaign Human Development	$11.00
Capital Improvement	$678.00

THANK YOU to all who helped organize the beautiful Mass at the fairgrounds!
> We ARE the body of Christ!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
645 S. DOUGLAS AVE., THREE RIVERS, MI

St. Clare Mission Parish
23126 M-86
Centreville, MI 49032

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

Dear Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name, we ask for healing and health for those on our prayer list. Please bless them and meet all of their needs. Amen.

Mark Brost
Terry Collins
Ben Doering
Roger Doering
John Gavin
Harry Gruber
Anastasia Gutierrez
Laurie Highfield
Shonna Kazor
Greg King
Emma Klett
Cassandra Lems
Greg Mecham
Nora Middleton
Frank
Felipe
Mary Reck
Blanca Rubi
Charity Schaefer
Jared Vidal Rubi
Raul Vidal Rubi
Marlene Schultz
Mike Stumpf
Michael Tison
Craig Vaughn
Todd Ziehm
Vincent Zoski
Andreanne Komrska
Jim & Mary Larson
Sharon Jacobs
Tim Zebell
Karen Szwaja
Mark Stevens
Roger & Theresa
Connie Shoemaker
Shirlene Koth
Joseph Tobon
Sheyla Perez Miranda

Welcome To Our Parishes

If you would like to enroll, change your address, or simply have questions about our parish, please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Church office:
645 S. Douglas, Three Rivers, MI 49093

Name_____
Address_____
City/Zip_____
Phone_____

Please circle one: IC Church St. Clare

O I would like to enroll as an active member.
O Please change my address to the one shown above.
O I would like to learn more about school/parish activities.
O I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.
O I would like to offer the name of a homebound or ill Catholic who is not currently being visited:_____.
O I would like to speak with a priest about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

EWTN

GLOBAL CATHOLIC RADIO

EWTN.COM/RADIO

Parishes & School Information

Rectory Office

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper & Bulletin Editor – Raquel Arias
M,T,W,F 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. • Office closed on Thursdays
Telephone: 273-8953 E-mail: icchurchtr@outlook.com
Bulletin Deadline Monday at noon.

Mass times: Saturday 4:00 pm at Immaculate Conception

Sunday 8:30 am at St. Clare
Sunday 10:30 am at Immaculate Conception
Monday, 8:00 am at Immaculate Conception
Tuesday 6:00 pm at Immaculate Conception
Wednesday & Friday, 8:00 am at Immaculate Conception

Eucharistic Adoration: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm first Friday of every month.
Sacrament of Penance: 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. Saturday and by request.
Sacrament of Baptism: contact the Parish Office at 273-8953.
Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements must be made a minimum

Permanent Deacon - Dennis Cristofaro 708-446-8244
d.cristofaro@att.net
Music Director -
Director of Religious Ed. - Mark Voege 269-816-4466
High School Youth Ministry -
RCIA - Mark & Mary Brost 269-251-6392

MINISTRIES OF THE PARISHES

Sacristans, Lectors , Ministers Holy Communion: Jean Heins 412-480-9129
Altar Servers: Dcn. Dennis Cristofaro, 708-446-8244
Ushers: Mike Sebo, 269-492-5754
Homebound/Nursing Home Visitors: Rectory Office, 273-8953
Jail Ministry: Tom Springer, 273-4702 or 269-816-4965
Art & Environment of the Church: Mary Sorensen, 278-5275
SC Prayer Shawl Ministry: Celeste Nemeth, 467-1869
IC Prayer Shawl Ministry: Nancy Schopf, 718-9218
IC Prayer Chain: Call the Rectory to add someone to the prayer chain.
IC Help: Call the Rectory to donate or for help. 273-8953

BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

IC PARISH COUNCIL - LARRY LARSH	244-4547
SC PARISH COUNCIL - PETER RAMBADT	503-0825
IC FINANCE COUNCIL - SARAH MERCER	273-2228
SC FINANCE COUNCIL - JOHN LARIMER	625-6498
IC SCHOOL COMMISSION - BOB MODAFF	506-4041

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PARISHES

Knights of Columbus #4141: Brian Johnson - 269-718-3883
Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm, church hall

Daughters of Mary: Nancy Schopf - 718-9218
Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., church hall

St. Clare Ladies' Guild: Phyllis Nusbaum, President - 269-358-8299
Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

St. Clare Men's Club: Ron Holben, President - 517-290-0547

Collaborative Evangelization Committee: Marie Koole - 506-3636
Meeting times are flexible

OUR MISSION

Together with our community,
We provide a Christ-centered Education to:

- *Build Faith based on the truths of the Catholic Church*
- *Develop Knowledge for becoming productive citizens*
- *Practice Christian Service as Jesus taught*

Thereby allowing each student to flourish and become the Child of God they were created to be.

NUESTRA MISIÓN

Juntos con nuestra comunidad,
Proveemos una educación centrada en Cristo para:

- *Fomentar la Fe basada en las verdades de la Iglesia Católica*
- *Desarrollar el Conocimiento para ser ciudadanos productivos*
- *Practicar el Servicio Cristiano como nos enseñó Jesús*

Permitiendo así que cada estudiante florezca y se convierta en el Hijo de Dios creado para serlo.

Immaculate Conception School (PK-8th)
Principal - Sharon Voege
Website: www.iccatholicschool.com 269-273-2085