



“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as it were of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

From Fr. Christopher Ankley

Dear Friends,

Today is Laetare Sunday. And Laetare means rejoice. It's a Latin command to rejoice. Half way through the season of Lent, as we make our way towards the Passion/Resurrection, the Church invites us and reminds us to rejoice.

Now, Christian joy is different than normal earthly happiness. Normal happiness goes away, it goes away because the things that cause it, like basketball championships, new possessions, and snow days, go away. But Christian joy is based on something that never goes away, God's love for us. Loving God and being loved by him is friendship with God. And it doesn't change with the seasons. He is always faithful. This explains why Christians can sing hymns inside concentration camps, because prisons can't take away God's love. There can be joy even in the midst of sorrow.

This consistent joy of friendship with God is what the Church invites us to renew and deepen today. Because if we are honest, we have to admit that we don't always know the joy that comes from a Divine friendship. Both sons in our Gospel today have missed out on that joy that comes from a relationship with the Father.

At first the younger son wants nothing to do with the father. He's searching for happiness, but he's searching in all the wrong places. He looks to pleasure, money and power. He has no idea of the joy that's derived from a relationship with the Father. He's looking for his happiness in sin, a happiness that never lasts. But then he comes to his senses and comes back to the source of true joy. And the Father greets him with open arms, clothing him, putting a ring on his finger, sandals on his feet, restoring him, and finally telling him to dance with joy.

The **eldest son** too misses out on the joy of relationship with the Father. He does everything the Father asks but he does it without relationship and there was no joy. The oldest does everything perfectly; maybe he's searching for happiness by trying to be perfect. He obeys the rules; he does everything the Father asks of him. But he's let the routine of life embitter his heart. He's forgotten that his father wants only to give him everything; he's lost sight of his father's goodness. Even though they live together and see each other every day there is no deep and abiding relationship, the older son is not receiving from the Father. He's not receiving the love offered by the father. There is no joy only bitterness.

I have a story of St. Drithelm and it's a story of how one man became a saint when God broke through his routine. Drithelm went through the motions of being a good Catholic, he did everything that he was supposed to, but there was no deep relationship with God and no real joy. Drithelm was a normal guy living in

England in the middle ages. And one day he got very sick, so sick that to everyone around him it appeared that he had died.

It didn't look like he was breathing and his heart beat was so faint that it just couldn't be heard or felt. The next morning while his family was gathered around his body praying, he woke up, freed from all signs of the illness that has made him appear dead. And he woke up a changed man. That day he immediately liquidated his property, dividing it equally among his family and the poor. He then presented himself to the local monastery and asked to join their community. From that day forward he lived only for God and neighbor, giving such good example and such good spiritual advice that conversions multiplied all around him. Real Christian joy is attractive.

Many times Drithelm was asked about his sudden conversion. What happened to you on the night of your supposed death? They would ask. And he would answer, "God broke me out of my mediocre hum drum routine by having my angel give me a tour of the afterlife." This is how he described it.

First he was taken to a valley burning on one side and frozen on the other, with souls being tossed back and forth between the sides. The angel explained that this was where souls who had repented on their deathbed were being purified for heaven.

Then he was given a glimpse of a burning pit, filled with countless people and gross demons. It emitted a disgusting stench and bloodcurdling screams. That was hell.

Next he was brought to a lush, green valley where thousands upon thousands of people danced and laughed in little groups. Plentiful flowers wafted a delightful aroma. He thought it was heaven, but his guide informed him that it was where souls who were living a decent, but not excellent Christian life went after they died. There in that valley they learned the perfect love of the saints so that they could eventually enjoy heaven.

His last stop was on the outskirts of a place full of light and even more beautiful music and laughter, it made the other valley seem dark and boring. The angel wouldn't let him in there; it was heaven, and he had to be satisfied with only a whiff.

When he returned to consciousness, he resolved to take on a life of prayer and penance, for the sake of winning as many souls as possible for the eternal Kingdom.

The routine of life had stifled Drithelm's potential. God had created him to be a great saint, to do great things for the world, but until that special graced vision, he was just mediocre, just going through the motions with little thought or focus.

God has created each one of us to be a saint, to do great things for his kingdom and for those around us. He wants us to experience and spread true Christian joy, but our potential can be stifled if we fall into a hum drum routine in our friendship with God, just taking Him for granted, just going through the motions.

So what can we do? How do we receive all that the Father wants to give us? How do we receive all the love and joy the Father wants to give us? There are many ways but let me offer a few suggestions that can help to make these final weeks of lent meaningful, a few things that can help to open up our eyes to the Father's love and joy.

First this is the time of year when the Church begins to zoom in on the Passion of Jesus, on His final days before His glorious Resurrection and Ascension. So let us resolve to make a little time each night to read through the stories of the Passion in the Gospels, starting with Matthew. Don't worry about finishing them all. Just start. To say that Scripture is inspired not only means that the Holy Spirit breathed into the Word of God; it also means that when we read the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit breathes out onto us. So, read the Passion and allow the Lord to confront you with His wondrous love, and to help you know that all of this happened for you.

Second, let's go out of our way to help someone, spouse, sibling, parent, or stranger. It could be something as little as helping to set the table without being asked. Or taking time to help someone at the grocery store. Or giving up a good parking space for someone else. It could be something big like visiting a nursing home or a hospital. Resolve to help someone every day, doing something out of the ordinary.

Third, let's resolve to spend some time each week until Easter, and hopefully, forever after, praying in the presence of the Eucharist, either in the tabernacle or within the Monstrance. Look upon Him, consider Him, contemplate Him, and imitate Him. I am convinced that nothing can so open our eyes to God's love and joy as praying in His presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

And finally, if you haven't already made use of the sacrament of reconciliation. Let yourself be restored and renewed. It gives our Heavenly Father great pleasure when we meet him in the sacrament of reconciliation. Let the Father embrace you, let Him clothe your soul with a new robe, let him put a ring on your finger, let him put sandals on your feet, and let him tell you to dance for joy.

Let us be great Saints,

Fr. Christopher J. Ankley

Ways to pray more during Lent

- **Adoration** 7-8 pm Monday; 5-6 pm Thursday; 8 am-5 pm Friday; 3:30 pm Saturday.
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet** After English Stations Fridays.
- **Liturgy of the Hours** See below for QR code.
- **Lucernarium** Fridays March 25 and April 8. All are invited for sung night prayer in the church at 8 pm.
- **Parish App** Find over 50 Catholic prayers, and set up prayer reminders so you don't forget!
- **Pray for Priests** See below for prayer intentions.
- **Rosary** After 8 am Mass weekdays, before 10 am Mass Sunday, First Friday April 1 in Parish Center Chapel.
- **Stations of the Cross** Fridays 5 pm Burmese; 6 pm Spanish; 7 pm English.

Priests to pray for this week beginning with Sunday:

Fr. Tom McNally; Fr. Craig Lusk; Fr. Paul Redmond; Fr. Steve Rodrigo; Fr. Ben Huynh; Fr. James Adams; Fr. Alan Jorgensen

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Prayers for the Sick/Those in Need

Jeannette Aleo, Geri Bateman, Chris Bradley, Chuck Brown, Gerry Campbell, Sue Case, Jessica Clark, Carolann Craum, Melody Dulyea, Patricia Elliott, Bernadette Emmons, Margaret England, Mary Faber, Jeannette Gagnon, Bernadette Heldt, Theresa Henderson, Mary Hepler, Linda Holcomb, Donna Hoxie, Judy Jacobs, Carolyn Kewley, Pat Kukla, Joseph Larner, Robert Lindstrom, Jakob Livingston, Victor Lupina, Scott Marko, Doug Marshall, Curtis Mason, Walt Matyasic, Lori Ann McAdam, Katie Miller, Laurie Morris, Pat Murphy, Mike O'Hare, Karen Partin, Jeannette Peevers, Sandy Power, Sally Ringle, Cheryl Scales, Julie Schoder, Shirley Springer, Carole Skalka, Carol Strobe, Michael Sutton, Franklin Swart, Devi Umapathi, Michael Wells, Elizabeth Wells, Allen Wiseman, Sara Wixson, Dee & David Wygant, Tiffany Yager, Christine Ybarra, Marion Zull

Prayers for the Deceased

Pamela Allen, Violet Pagsnini

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Pastoral Care of the Sick If you know someone who would like Communion brought to them at home, please contact Linda Kellogg at 269-965-2074.

Mary's Way of the Cross



A Catholic tradition through the centuries has been to meditate on the Way of the Cross, so that it becomes our way of life.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, made that first way of the cross. In these stations we see through Mary's eyes what Jesus was going through on the way of Calvary. Then we are called to practical applications to our lives.

The stations and the words are not the heart of the matter; the heart of the matter is to go deeper and deeper into the sufferings of Christ, so that we might come out of this spiritual journey with an appreciation of what Christ did for us, and a deeper love for him and for our brothers and sisters.

"We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

~Rev Andrew Costello, C.Ss.R.

Mary's Way of the Cross will be presented by the ladies of St. Joseph Parish on **Friday April 8 at 7:00 pm**. Please join us for the beautiful mediation on the Way of the Cross.

Relief Fund for Chin State

Dear Parishioners,

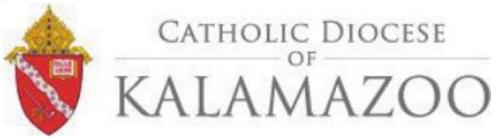
On behalf of the Burmese Community, I would like to thank you for your contribution to the Fund for Chin State. We received a total of **17,502 dollars**. With this large amount, we are going to be able to help our loved ones in a substantial way. We are so happy and grateful! Now we are working with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Burma on contributing the funds to those most in need. Please contact me if you have any questions.

May our good Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Biak Thuantho vanlalbiakrosang@gmail.com





The Diocese of Kalamazoo has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set-up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: 844.324.3374.

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service 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. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.



Liturgy of the Hours, eBreviary

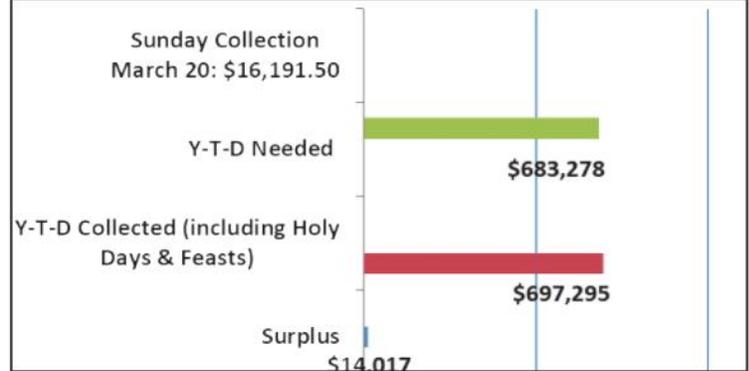
The Liturgy of the Hours prayer for the current hour is offered using the QR code pictured, courtesy of eBreviary.com. Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, Evening Prayer & Night Prayer are available for every day.

Sponsor of the Week

Advertisement for Battle Creek Hearing Services, Specialists in Hearing Care, featuring contact information and services.

Our sponsors make it possible for our bulletin to be published free of charge to our parish. Please thank them for advertising in our bulletin.

Financial Information



Connecting with Mercy Many, many thanks for your generous donations of food for those in need. Our parish is blessed with so many kind hearts!



The BCACS Band Booters Annual Pasta Dinner fundraiser is back for 2022! April 19 4:30 - 7 pm at Barista Blues Café 91 W. Michigan Tickets \$10 each

We are partnering with Barista Blues to offer a To Go Pasta Dinner, on April 19, at Barista Blues cafe, from 4:30-7 pm. Enjoy a great meal that will include spaghetti with meatballs, salad, roll and a dessert. Cost is \$10 per meal.

Band students will be selling tickets and taking donations after all masses at St Philip the weekend of April 2/3, at St Jerome April 2/3, and St Joseph the weekend of April 9/10.

The Band Boosters plans to purchase a French Horn, saxophone, and additional instrument lockers for the Middle School band room.

Thank you for your support of the Band Programs!

Bulletin Deadline Monday 9:00 am for next weekend's bulletin. Please email your article to etipton@bcacs.org.

A gift of flowers and decorations for the Easter season

You can remember family and friends by making a donation for flowers and decorations to St. Joseph Church. Your donation will be used to enhance our worship space by purchasing decorations and keeping flowers and plants fresh throughout the Easter Season. Please fill out below and place it in the collection basket by April 8. Remembrances will be printed in a bulletin insert during the Easter Season.

A gift of flowers and decorations for the Easter season - Please Print Legibly.

Form with lines for 'In memory of:', 'Donated by:', and 'Envelope #'.



Please use my gift for plants and decorations. Minimum suggested donation: \$15.00. Please submit by April 8.

Mass Schedule

Saturday, March 26 - Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent
 5:00 pm Elizabeth Iang (Birthday) by Biak Thuantho
Sunday, March 27 - Fourth Sunday of Lent
 8:00 am † John Meneguzzo by Family
 10:00 am Doug Marshall by Joanie Marshall
 12:00 pm Thanksgiving to God for healing me by Jim Hazdra
 2:00 pm The People of St. Joseph & St. Jerome **Burmese**
 5:00 pm Natalie Simonds by Joanie Marshall **Spanish**

Monday, March 28
 8:00 am Intentions of Roger Buch
Tuesday, March 29
 8:00 am † Josephine Elizondo by Elizondo & Stark Family
Wednesday, March 30
 8:00 am † Fr. John Grathwohl by Mary Ann Lupina
Thursday, March 31
 8:00 am † Fr. Tom DeVita
 5:00 pm Holy Hour for Vocations
First Friday, April 1
 8:00 am † Mike Allen by Francisco Family
 8:30 am Adoration
 12:00 pm Confessions
 5:00 pm Stations with Benediction **Burmese**
 6:00 pm Stations with Benediction **Spanish**
 7:00 pm Stations with Benediction **English**
First Saturday, April 2
 8:00 am † Florence Ankley
 3:30 pm Confessions
 3:30 pm Holy Hour for Life

Saturday, April 2- Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent
 5:00 pm † Mike O'Neill by Coleen Vitale
Sunday, April 3 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
 8:00 am † John Peter Abramowicz (6th Anniversary) by Linda Abramowicz
 10:00 am † Max Stark by Trudy Stark
 12:00 pm † Charles Aitkens by Mary Culp
 2:00 pm The People of St. Joseph & St. Jerome **Burmese**
 5:00 pm † Juanita Villeda by her grandchildren **Spanish**

Readings For: 5th Sunday of Lent
 Is 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

- Monday 7:00 pm in St. Joseph Church **Spanish**
- Wednesday 9:00 am - Saturday 9:00 am in St. Philip Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel at the Seton Center
- Thursday 5:00 to 6:00 pm Holy Hour for Vocations
- Friday 8:30 am - Benediction 4:45 pm St. Joseph Church
- Saturday 3:30 - 5:00 pm Holy Hour for Life in St. Joseph Church

St. Joseph: To sign up for a Holy hour or to be on the sub list for Friday Adoration, please call Marlene: 962-8641 and leave your name and phone number.

St. Philip: Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel at the St. Philip Seton Center, Wednesday 9:00 am to Saturday 9:00 am, call Betty Dillard: 962-8255 to sign up.

Evangelization and Conversion
 This Lenten season let us, as a parish, pray the Memorare daily, fast, and give alms in a particular way for the intention of evangelization and conversion within our parishes of St. Jerome, St. Joseph, and St. Phillip. Furthermore, join Deacon Candidate Tony Wojcik after the Stations of the Cross to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for this same intention.

Spiritual Adoption Program
 It's not too late to join the Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry in praying for babies in danger of abortion

- Think of a name for your spiritually adopted baby.
- Email us at prolifeministrybc@yahoo.com or call 968-4639 with your name, your baby's name, and your parish. We will fill out a heart to post on the board in your parish.
- Pray a short prayer daily from the Annunciation to Christmas (the same nine months Jesus was growing in the womb of Mary). You will be emailed this prayer and also receive monthly updates on how your baby is developing. (Prayer cards and hearts are also available at all three parish offices.)

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|--|--------|---|--|--|---|
| Minister Schedule April 2 & 3 | | Saturday | Sunday, 8:00 AM | Sunday, 10:00 AM | Sunday, 12:00 PM |
| | Cantor | Pat Squires | Emily Par | Jen Grady | Annette Kukla |
| | Reader | Frank Skeltis | Cristine Jones | Steven Gage William Bogan | Jacqueline Clem |
| | Server | Juan Mejia-Lugo Renzo Sanchez Camille Evangeliste | Helena Lan John Lan | Sean Gage, Elliot Ormsby Emily Par Gregory Sang | NOT FILLED Nicholas Thang Bosco Lian |
| | Usher | Ann Harnisch Kenneth Kropen Chuck Mead | Carl & Kimberly Bolles Janice Klein Kelley Klein | Ellen & John Hallacy Gerald Ulrich Eleonor Stark | Judith Buch Peggy Myers NOT FILLED |

Pillar of Families, Pray for Us



Parents and students are invited to meet St. Philip Catholic Central's dedicated, certified staff to learn about the exceptional opportunities in place for your student's high school career.



**Full House Drawdown
April 30, 2022**

St. Philip's Sheila Guerra Gymnasium
6:30pm-12:00am

An evening of fun and games where you will enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, a dinner buffet, desserts, and beverages. PLUS you may win the top prize of \$5,000.

To purchase your ticket, sponsor a table, or donate to the silent auction or balloon pop, contact Pete Werner at (209-2569) or the BCACS office at (963-1131).

St. Philip Catholic Central's Well-Rounded Programs Include:

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Join us for valuable information and refreshments
Tuesday, April 5th • 6:00 pm

To best prepare your student for the future, make your school of choice St. Philip Catholic Central High School.

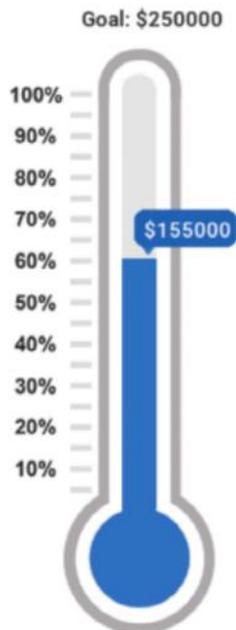
Please RSVP and direct questions to Cathy Erskine at 269.963.1131 or cerskine@bcacs.org

St. Philip Catholic Central High School is located at 20 Cherry Street, Battle Creek Michigan

Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools, in partnership with parents, community, and the Catholic Church, provide students with an excellent education and a solid faith formation. Students will know the Faith, share the Faith, and live the Faith.



Thank you!



We're closer to reaching our goal for the 2021-2022 Annual Fund Drive!

Can you help us get there?

Funds provided through this campaign offset the cost of operations, making tuition as affordable as affordable as possible to as many families as possible.

If you would like to help us reach our goal, contact Abby Lumbard at 269-963-4771 or via email at ALumbard@bcacs.org

Parish Directory

Pastor Fr. Christopher Ankley
fchris@bcacs.org
Parochial Vicars Fr. Pius Cung
 *frpius@bcacs.org*
 Fr. Max Nightingale
 *frmax@bcacs.org*
Deacons..... David Krajewski, James Nelson

St. Joseph Catholic Church
 61 23rd Street North
 Battle Creek, MI 49015
 Phone 269-962-0165

Emergency Assistance
 St. Vincent de Paul Society 969-5606
Pastoral Care of the Sick
 If you are homebound, contact Linda Kellogg
 965-2074

Sacrament of Baptism
 Parishioners should call the Parish Office to
 make arrangements.

Sacrament of Penance
 Saturdays 3:30 pm, 1st Friday 12:00 pm,
 1st Saturday 8:30 am, and by appointment.

Sacrament of Eucharist
Sacrament of Confirmation
 Contact our Schools or our Director of Faith
 Formation.

Sacrament of Marriage
 Parishioners must contact one of the parish
 priests at least six months before setting a
 wedding date.

Sacrament of Holy Orders
 If you or someone you know has a vocation,
 contact a parish priest for assistance.

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick
 In case of an accident, surgery or other
 emergency, call 962-0165.

Parish Staff
**Director of Operations, RCIA and Adult
 Faith Formation** Barbara Kincaid
 • *bkincaid@bcacs.org* 962-0165
Director of Liturgy and Music. James Zalewski
 • *music@bcacs.org* 962-2133
**Director of Religious Education and
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 • *mcrean@bcacs.org* 788-3598
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 • *etipton@bcacs.org* 962-0165
Echo Apprentice Emma Schuler
 • *eschuler@bcacs.org* 962-0165

Parish Ministries
All Saints Superfest Ed Bauman
 • *edbauman@hotmail.com* 962-1328
Boy Scouts Troop 325 Eddie Thomas
 • *scoutmaster325@gmail.com* 420-0924
Catholic Men's Fellowship Ryan Hoch
 • *ryanmatthew1970@gmail.com*
Connecting with Mercy Mary Sine
 • *sine74@msn.com*
Council of Catholic Women Colleen Vitale
 • *cvitale@mail.com* 517-256-9162
Evangelization Tony Wocjik
 • *tonyatstjoseph@gmail.com*

Finance Council Ed Bauman
 • *edbauman@hotmail.com* 962-1328
Formed Access Code **PTRKXD**
Friday Adoration Marlene Hazdra
 962-8641
Hispanic Community Fr. Max Nightingale
 • *frmax@bcacs.org* 962-0165
Jail Ministry Rita Wahmhoff
 • *ritawahmhoff@yahoo.com* 968-3067
Knights of Columbus Dave Sprague
 • *tsadave@aol.com* 734-604-1323
Lakeview Food Pantry Janet Borders
 • *jdbdvm@comcast.net* 965-2632
Legion of Mary Linda Kellogg
 • *kellogg-dl@att.net* 965-2074
Newcomers Phil & Mary Sue Avery
 • *marysue_a@yahoo.com* 979-9105
Rosary Makers Guild Angie Disher
 • *amdisher@peoplepc.com* 850-380-7593
Online Giving Support 800-348-2886
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 962-7339
Small Christian Communities Judy Buch
 (Scripture Study) 425-9395
Spanish Choir Teresa Bello
 269-274-7409
Spanish Prayer Group Sarah & Francisco Sanchez
 419-5786
Spiritual Library Rita Wahmhoff
 • *ritawahmhoff@yahoo.com* 968-3067
Tri-Parish Pro-Life Pat Hirzel
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...nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake. ---19 Lv:16

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