

From Fr. Christopher Ankley

Dear Friends,

May 10th is the Feast day of St. Damien of Molokai and like all the saints he truly understood the deep meaning of today's Feast of the Ascension. Damien was born in 1840, he was the son of Belgian farmers. He and his brother Pamphile joined the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. These missionaries were responsible for bringing the Catholic faith to the Hawaiian Islands.

Damien was liked by everyone; he was generous, good-natured, and joyful. In 1864 more missionaries were needed in Hawaii so a group of priests and brothers were chosen to go, Damien's brother Pamphile was among the group chosen. Just before the departure, however, Pamphile came down with typhoid fever. He couldn't go to Hawaii. Damien, still a seminarian, offered to take his place. The voyage from Belgium to Hawaii lasted 18 weeks, and during the trip Damien finished his studies for the priesthood and as soon as he landed in Hawaii he was ordained.

Damien spent the next nine years among the people of Hawaii, visiting all the remote regions of the islands either by canoe or on horseback. The people loved him; and with their help he built many chapels across the islands. After nine years of priestly service the Bishop asked for a volunteer priest to go to the island of Molokai. This island was known as the "living graveyard." People went there when they were diagnosed with leprosy. They never left; it's where they eventually died. Conditions were terrible; huts were ramshackle with muddy floors. No fresh water and the food given to them was usually rotten and always in short supply. And doctors rarely visited; if they did they only poked at the people with their canes. They rarely received the medical care they needed.

Father Damien volunteered to serve the lepers of Molokai. Once there, like the lepers, he never left. He treated the people with love and respect. He wasn't afraid to eat with them or to embrace them. He cleaned their wounds and changed bandages. He was not afraid to anoint them or to place the Sacred Host into their decaying mouths. Father Damien worked hard, he built new houses, piped in fresh water, got doctors to

come to the Island, got medical supplies and good food for them to eat. He built a church, a hospital, and a school for the children. He even invited an order of sisters to come and teach the kids, and operate the hospital. Father Damien eventually contracted leprosy and after 18 years of service to the people of Molokai he died. At the time of his death the Island was a transformed place. It was an oasis for the sick. St. Damien was canonized in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI.

As I said at the beginning St. Damien understood the deep meaning of today's Feast of the Ascension. This feast reminds us of our special dignity; Jesus ascended not only in spirit but in Body as well; His human body ascended to Heaven. Showing us that human life is headed somewhere, it's headed to God. Where He goes we follow. Now many times when we think or speak of the Ascension of Jesus we also call to mind the Assumption of Mary. When she too was taken into Heaven body and soul.

Now the Church right from the very beginning has taught that Mary was assumed into Heaven without decay. But it wasn't until 1950 that the Assumption was formally defined as a Dogma of the Church.

In 1950 Pope Pius XII saw that it was necessary to remind the world of the **dignity**, and the **greatness**, and the **ultimate destiny** of the human person. The world had just emerged from the trauma of Auschwitz, of Stalin's purges, of death marches, and of so many other atheistic degradations of the human person that the Pope, together with the bishops from around the world, prayerfully concluded that it was a fitting time to make more formal something the Church had always believed. In calling for a universal feast to celebrate Mary's bodily Assumption, the Church wanted to remind the world that the ultimate destiny for each and every one of us is not a gas chamber, or a prison camp, or destruction of any kind. The end for which we were made is to share in communion with God, and not just in spirit, but in body as well. We are marvelously made. And that's how God sees each and every one of us, and that's how we are to see one another. Just as St. Damien did on the Molokai.

In our second reading St. Paul prays that the Ephesians receive a spirit of wisdom, a wisdom that will enable them to see reality as it truly is and to live and make decisions according to reality. That prayer is for us as well. And on Ascension Sunday we are reminded of this reality: the human person, every human person, from the first moment of conception, is not only made in the image and likeness of God but is destined to return to God, not just in spirit but in body as well, to live in God's own life in perfect happiness forever. Where Jesus and Mary have gone; we will one day follow. That is the reality of both the Ascension of Jesus and the Assumption of Mary. And because of this reality, we understand that there are no mere mortals. We are called to share in the divinity of God. And because of this reality we understand not only the significance but also the true greatness of every single human person, no matter how small they are or how different from us they appear. Thinking in accord with reality we understand the reasons why it's against human dignity to kill children in the womb, to turn away the immigrant, to exploit men and women in pornography, to use human embryos as spare parts, or to walk in an unfeeling manner past someone in need.

Pope St. John Paul II once wrote to a friend saying, "The degradation and the pulverization of the dignity of every human person is the fundamental crisis of our age; it lies at the root of every horror." He goes on to say that, "You can only really know and learn about something by knowing the end for which it was made, by knowing its purpose, by knowing its destination. Today's Feast teaches us the end and purpose of every human life: to be glorified in heaven! On this Feast of the Ascension let us ask God to give us a spirit of wisdom and courage so as to more and more understand the reality of human dignity, to live according to that reality, to boldly bear witness to it, and like St. Damien stand up for it in the world in which we live.

Let us become great Saints,

Fr. Christopher J. Ankley

Mass Schedule

Saturday, May 28 - Vigil: The Ascension of the Lord

5:00 pm † Joel & Jeffrey Miller by Laura Miller

Sunday, May 29 - The Ascension of the Lord

8:00 am † Sr. Cyrilla Jegla by Steven & Larry Peck

10:00 am † Federico Elizondo by Elizondo & Stark Families

12:00 pm Intentions of Ayesha Franklin

2:00 pm **No Burmese Mass**

5:00 pm The People of St. Joseph & St. Jerome **Spanish**

Monday, May 30

8:00 am † Pat Maliszewski by Phil & Mary Pat Harter

Tuesday, May 31

8:00 am Genevieve Green by Neil & Nancy Haack

6:00 pm 8th Grade Graduation

Wednesday, June 1

8:00 am † Rev Richard Basso by Family

Thursday, June 2

8:00 am † Patricia Spurgeon by Phil & Mary Pat Harter

5:00 pm Holy Hour for Vocations

First Friday, June 3

8:00 am † Donna Marie Kachman by Mom & Dad

8:30 am Adoration

12:00 pm Confessions

4:45 pm Benediction

Saturday, June 4

8:00 am † Deceased Members of the Tindall Family

8:30 AM Confessions

10:00 am Ordination at St. Augustine

3:30 pm Holy Hour for Life

3:30 pm Confessions

Saturday, June 4 - Vigil: Pentecost

5:00 pm † In Honor of Our Mothers by Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry

Sunday, June 5 - Pentecost

8:00 am † Daniel Krezenski by Adirenne Becker

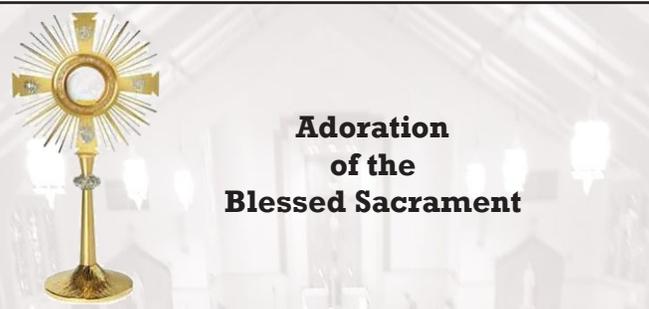
10:00 am † Max Stark by Trudy Stark

12:00 pm † Della Carr by Phil & Mary Pat Harter

2:00 pm **No Burmese Mass**

5:00 pm The People of St. Joseph & St. Jerome **Spanish**

Readings For: Pentecost
Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13



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.

Ordination at St. Augustine

Jacob Thomas will be ordained to the priesthood on June 4 at 10:00 am at St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo. All are welcome to attend.

More Opportunities for Prayer

- **Liturgy of the Hours** See page 4 for QR code.
- **Parish App** Text App to 55321 (new code).
- **Pray for those who are home-bound.**
- **Pray for those who are sick or in need.** See page 5.
- **Pray for Priests & Deacons** See below for intentions.
- **Rosary** After 8 am Mass weekdays, before 10 am Mass Sunday, First Friday June 3 in Parish Center Chapel.

Priests & Deacons to pray for starting Sunday

Msrgr. Mike Osborn, Fr. Stephan Philip, Fr. Nicholas Sseggobe, Deacon Jason Aiello, Deacon Ron Brown, Fr. Bruno Okoli, Fr. Jacob Thomas

Minister Schedule

June 4 & 5

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM	Sunday, 12:00 PM
Cantor	Stephen Luster-Bartz	Jen Grady	Robert Valkner	Susie Labrecque
Reader	Chuck Kincaid	Cristine Jones	Nicole Fetterhoff, Eleonor Stark	Sandy Power
Server	Bryn Hall Truman Hall Nicholas Galbreath	Helena Lan John Lan	Nicholas Htet, Assumpta Tling Navaden Brown Spencer Williams	Daniel Moctezuma Cooper James Rabbitt Charlie Buckley
Usher	Ann Harnisch Kenneth Kropen Chuck Mead	Carl & Kimberly Bolles Janice & Kelley Klein	Ellen & John Hallacy Gerald Ulrich	Michael Olson Rosemary Coon Shirley Youmans

Noble Scion of David, Pray for Us



Bishop's Annual Appeal

Week 3 Pledges \$80,140.24
 Number of families 148
 53% of \$150,252 goal

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.

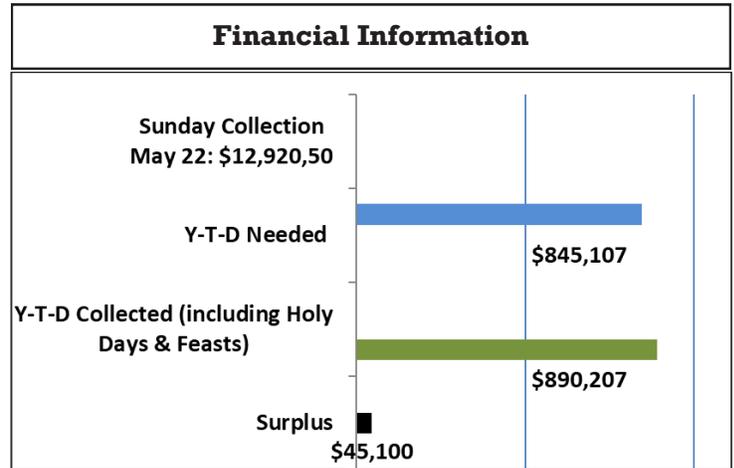
National Conference of Burmese-American Catholics

Dear fellow parishioners,

In our Catholic faith, community is one of the foundations. To preserve our community in Christ, Burmese Americans from across the states are gathering in Owensboro, Kentucky to celebrate Mass, renew our faith, and share cultural dances. The conference will take place on the fourth of July weekend. During the conference, a Burmese transitional deacon, Daai Mana, is getting ordained as a priest for the archdiocese of Owensboro.

As an act of fraternal charity, we, the Burmese Catholic Community of Battle Creek, are planning to attend the conference as a group. However, we are short on funds. Therefore, we are doing a car wash fundraiser on June 12. We will be selling tickets after Masses next weekend and the following weekend. Each ticket will be \$15 which will include Burmese traditional food. Please, prayerfully consider supporting us. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely, Biak Thuantho vanlalbiakrosang@gmail.com



Special Collections - Second Quarter 2022

- June 5 Mt. Olivet Cemetery • June 26 Peter's Pence

The Catholic Vocation Fund The Catholic Vocation Fund is an endowment fund managed by the Battle Creek Community Foundation. Income and dividends are used to support religious vocations. Contributions can be made by writing a check payable to The Catholic Vocation Fund and mailing it to Battle Creek Community Foundation, 32 West Michigan Avenue, Ste. 1, Battle Creek, MI 49017. **THE FIRST \$10,000.00 DONATED TO THE CATHOLIC VOCATION FUND, BY JULY 1, WILL BE MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR.**

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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](https://www.ebreviary.com). Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, Evening Prayer & Night Prayer are available for every day.

St. Philip Class of 1970, 50 (+2) year reunion, Sep 16 & 17, 2022! Mark the dates. Check class FB page or email. More info to come.

Catholic Men's Fellowship Catholic Men's Fellowship ("Men's Group") is a group of Christian brothers who meet weekly on Wednesdays from 7 pm till 8 pm and we discuss the struggles and joys of being a Christian man in today's world. An email is sent out Monday each week letting everyone know where we will meet that Wednesday. We welcome any man 18 years of age or older (Catholic or not) who wishes to join us in Christian fraternity and encounter spiritual growth. Please reach out to Ryan Hoch with any questions, he can be reached by email at ryanmatthew1970@gmail.com.

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

St. Joseph Website: [stjosephbc.org](https://www.stjosephbc.org)

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New Code for myParish App: Text App to 55321

An Act of Mercy, Visiting the Sick

This time of year can be difficult for families with aging parents. We have been contacted by a few of those families seeking assistance in one way or another with their aging parents. Showing an Act of Mercy can look like this:

- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home – Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)!
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis. Give caregivers time off from their caregiving responsibilities so they can rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.

If these things are something that you can offer our families, please contact Barb at bkinaid@bcacs.org. She would be happy to share the information with you. God Bless You.

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.

Connecting With Mercy

"Where charity and love are, there is God." Ubi Caritas, sacred chant.



Pentecost Sunday is also Red

Geranium Sunday It is a long standing tradition at St. Joseph Church for parishioners to bring one red geranium with them to Mass on Pentecost Sunday, June 5 this year.

There will be a place set up for them near the altar. They will be planted in front of the church. Please help us continue this tradition, by bringing a geranium with you to Mass next week.

Council of Catholic Women's May Flower Raffle

will take place June 14 in the Parish Center. If you didn't get tickets, they may be picked up in church or school offices. Checks may be made out to St. Joseph CCW. Thank you for your continued support.

Are you Spring cleaning? Please set aside "stuff" for our St. Joseph Garage Sale. It will be held in the gym July 14, 15, & 16. This will be to benefit **Ukraine**. Want to help? Contact Rita Wahmhoff 269-968-3067.

At St. Mary Church

St Mary Parish is cleaning house. Call it a Spring Cleaning, call it a Garage Sale, call it a Purge. Stop by the parish grounds (939 Charlotte Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49048) on **Saturday, June 11 between 10 am and 3 pm** to look for treasure that you need at home. Items are from St. Mary Parish campus only

(please do not bring items to sell). Items marked for sale will include artwork, books, furniture, kitchen ware, tools and much more. These items will be spread throughout the campus including the parish rectory/garage, the upper garage and Fr. Bart Hall. So bring your walking shoes and we hope to see you then. Proceeds from the sales will benefit the Parish general fund.



Prayers for the Sick/Those in Need

Jeannette Aleo, Chris Bradley, Chuck Brown, Eric Burtrum, Gerry Campbell, Jessica Clark, Carolann Craum, Linda Cumback, Melody Dulyea, Patricia Elliott, Bernadette Emmons, Margaret England, Travis Eveleth, Mary Faber, Jeannette Gagnon, Kathy Grenfell, 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, 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, Frank Swart, Devi Umaphathi, Michael Wells, Elizabeth Wells, Allen Wiseman, Sara Wixson, Dee & David Wygant, Tiffany Yager, Christine Ybarra, Marion Zull

Prayers for the Deceased

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.

To add a name to the above list, please email etiption@bcacs.org. If you are asking for another person who is sick/in need, please make sure wish their name to be printed in the bulletin.

Rosary Repairs From Nancy Haack: If you are interested in getting your rosary repaired (not a rope rosary), I would be happy to fix it for you (for free). If you have a rosary that is unfixable, I will take it. Many times the beads or crucifixes can help rebuild a broken rosary.

What you need to do if you want your rosary repaired:

1. Please place your rosary in a zip lock baggie including a piece of paper with your name & phone number and/or email address on it; Attention; Nancy Haack
2. Drop the rosary bag off at the rectory either in person or in the drop box at the rectory's front door.
3. Once the rosary is fixed, I will call you & return the rosary to the rectory where you can pick it up.

If you have medals that you **cannot find a home for**, please place them in a baggie & those can be dropped off at the rectory. I will find a home for them.

St. Joseph's Rosary Makers Guild The Rosary Makers Guild recently donated 460 handmade mission rosaries to Catholic Charities. So far, we have made and donated a total of 1,090 rosaries for the various ministries supported by our Diocesan Catholic Charities. If any of the various ministries here in our Parish needs rosaries, please let us know.

Summer High School Opportunity Our Tri-Parish Youth Group is planning to attend a youth conference put on by Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio! The weekend is July 15-17 and will include dynamic Catholic speakers, praise and worship in adoration, as well as opportunities to receive the Sacraments. If interested to attend, chaperone, or volunteer as a driver, contact Max Crean mcrean@bcacs.org or 269-788-3598.

Sister Camp is Back!!

At St. Joseph Church in Battle Creek
JOIN us for a week of faith, fun & games!



DATE: June 13 – June 17
 TIME: Registration begins at 8:30am
*We begin each day with Mass at 9:00 am
 and end the day at 12:30 pm.*
 PLACE: St. Joseph School Cafeteria
For more information contact: mcrean@bcacs.org



St. Joseph Middle School Choir and Band Concert took place on May 19. High School Band Students joined the Middle School Band.



There was a performance during the school day for the elementary school students and a performance in the evening for parents.



Directors Ayesha Franklin, Choir, and Monica Hudson, Band, did a wonderful job preparing the students for this concert.

The BCACS Band Boosters were on hand to sign up members for the 2022-2023 school year. If you'd like to sign up, please contact Erin Hiatt at 269-967-8075.

New College Scholarship! Mary Ann Cole Memorial Kindness Scholarship



Mary Ann (Clay) Cole graduated from St. Philip Catholic Central High School in 1944. Her classmates voted her “Most likely to help others.” It was rare throughout her life to see Mary Ann not smiling and having a conversation with someone. She was known for being a caring and loving person. She would usually greet everyone with a hug, a kiss and a smile. Even if she did not know you, she acted as if she had been best friends with you forever.

Mary Ann Cole’s family is offering the **Mary Ann Cole Kindness Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating senior as a tribute to a woman who demonstrated her strong faith by the way she treated others. If you are interested in donating to this scholarship fund, please contact Abby Lumbard at 269-963-4771.

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