



Faithful Cross, O tree all beauteous, tree all peerless and divine,
not a grove on earth can show us such a flower and leaf as thine.
Sweet the nails and sweet the wood laden with so sweet a load.

From Fr. Christopher Ankley

Dear Friends,

In our second reading St. Paul explains the very core of the Gospel, and he sums up all of human history in just a few sentences. In the beginning God created the human family in perfect harmony, peace and prosperity. But Adam, the leader of that family, sinned. And this original sin ruptured that harmony and created a world infected by sin and burdened with **conflict, evil, and suffering**. But to all of this **Jesus Christ** was God's response. Helpless to help ourselves, we needed a savior, someone to reverse Adam's rebellion and reestablish a right relationship between God and man.

Jesus Christ was and is that Savior. And only Jesus could do it, that gap (chasm) between us and God, after the Original Sin was too great for us to bridge. No amount of prayer or good works on our part could repair that breach. Only Jesus (both human and divine) could repair that breach. And he bridged that gap between us and God with his cross.

As we know Adam **disobeyed** God in the Garden of Eden, and all of Adam's descendants have suffered the **painful consequences**. Jesus **obeyed** God the Father in the Garden of **Gethsemane** and on the cross at Calvary, and his spiritual descendants have received from him the **restoration of righteousness** - a right relationship with God. The gap has been bridged!

And this is something we need to be reminded of, to be **reminded** of what Christ has done for us, so that we don't start taking it for granted.

There is a true story about a **group of soldiers** sitting around the barracks during a break, they are resting and letting off steam. And during that time off the talk swung around to religion. One of the soldiers, a fallen-away Catholic, claimed he no longer believed in the Sacrament of confession. His friends dared him to go to the Catholic chaplain and make a mockery of the sacrament, to prove he didn't believe in it anymore. To prove he was done with it all. So he went to the confessional, knelt down, and began. I have taken the Lord's name in vain a hundred times a day, and I couldn't care less. I haven't been to Mass in years, and I couldn't care less.

He went through all the commandments in the same way. The priest didn't give the soldier absolution because it was a terrible, irreverent, and sacrilegious confession. So when the soldier was through, the priest sensing something in the young man, said to him: For your penance, put a crucifix on a table and then, look at the crucifix, really look at Jesus on the crucifix and say, 'You died for me, and I couldn't care less.' Say that five times. When the soldier came out of the chapel, his friends were waiting for him. They laughed and jeered, asking what happened. He laughed back, and told them all about it. They were enjoying themselves and insisted that he do the penance, since that was part of confession, and the dare had been to do a full confession. So they pulled up a table and put a crucifix on it, and the soldier sat down and looked at it, surrounded by his buddies. But all he could say was, You died for me... He tried and tried, but he just couldn't get himself to add, and I couldn't care less. Tears welled up in his eyes. Finally, he got up and ran back to the chapel to make a real confession.

The Garden of Eden was a paradise, a paradise filled with many trees, that as we heard, were delightful to look at and good for food. But of all those trees only two of them are named. The first is the Tree of Life. Adam and Eve are allowed to eat of this tree; in fact the fruit of this tree would keep them alive forever. The second is the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve are not allowed to eat the fruit of this tree; because if they do they will die. But wanting to be like God, they give in to temptation and eat the fruit. The irony is however, that Adam and Eve were already like God. They were created in His image and likeness. As a consequence of the Original Sin Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, no longer able to eat from the Tree of Life. This was a kindness because God did not want them living forever separated from Him by their sin. And so they leave the garden, and they do eventually die, and then they wait. They wait for the new Tree of Life and its fruit.

Later in Salvation history we come to another garden, another tree and its fruit. This new garden is the garden of

Calvary, the new tree is a Cross, and the fruit is Jesus. And to eat of this fruit is to live forever. The Eucharist is the fruit of the Tree of Life. Jesus takes on the curses of Adam's sin, and in the Garden of Calvary he offers himself on the new tree of life, the Cross, and the fruit of this new tree is offered to us in the Eucharist. And to eat of this fruit is to live forever.

Looking at that crucifix lying on the table I wonder what went through that soldier's mind. He had tried to make a mockery of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but looking at the Crucifix everything was made clear to him. Was it something of his childhood faith that he remembered? Maybe it was something in these lines of a poem about the crucifix.

You would like to know God?
Look at the crucifix.

You would like to love God?
Look at the crucifix.

You want to be happy with Him forever and forever?
Look at the crucifix.

You wonder what God is and what He is like?
Look at the crucifix.

You wonder what you are and what you are worth?
Look at the crucifix.

You wonder how merciful God is?
Look at the crucifix.

You wonder how much He wants you in Heaven?
Look at the crucifix.

You wonder how much He will help you to get there?
Look at the crucifix.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Christopher J. Ankley

Mass Schedule

Saturday, February 25 - Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm † Ed Wyson by Wyson Family

Sunday, February 26 - First Sunday of Lent

8:00 am † Nelo & Chabe Arroyo by Krajewski Family

10:00 am † Joe Wilder by Jeri Ellerthorpe

12:00 pm † Patricia Vanderpool

2:00 pm † Fr. James O'Leary by Annette Pratt **Burmese**

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

Monday, February 27

8:00 am † Shirley Steinbacher by Pat O'Reilly

Tuesday, February 28

8:00 am † Pat Peck by Trudy Stark

Wednesday, March 1

8:00 am Intentions of Chris Jordan

5:00 pm Adoration

6:00 pm Intentions of Kate Doyle

Thursday, March 2

8:00 am † Jason Abramowicz (6th Anniv) by Linda Abramowicz

9:00 pm Intentions of Kristen Leifeld **School**

5:00 pm Holy Hour for Vocations

First Friday, March 3

8:00 am † Connie Becker by Cheryl

8:30 am Adoration

12:00 pm Confessions

2:00 pm School Stations

4:30 pm Stations Burmese

6:00 pm Stations Spanish

7:00 pm Stations English

First Saturday, March 4

8:00 am † Bernice Ferguson by Adamson Family

8:30 am Confessions

3:30 pm Holy Hour for Life

3:30 pm Confessions

Saturday, March 4 - Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm † Karen Partin by Jerry & Annette Pratt

Sunday, March 5 - Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am † Theresa Chiang by Angie Cheng

10:00 am † Virginia D'Lamatter by Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry

12:00 pm † Wendell Schoder by Schoder Family

2:00 pm The People of St. Jerome & St. Joseph **Burmese**

5:00 pm † Guadalupe Villicaña by Jerry & Carol Herman **Spanish**

Readings for Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4A, 2 Tm 1:8b-10, Mt 17:1-9



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.

Opportunities for Prayer

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

Priests & Deacons to pray for starting Sunday

Sister Maria Eugenia Gomez Duque, Deacon Gary Wright, Fr. Robert Consani, Fr. James Adams, Fr. Peter Rocca, Fr. Jeff Hanley, Msgr. Michael Osborn



ebreviary.com / coronavirus

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 daily.

Bulletin Deadline

Please send bulletin articles, either the desired text in the email, or an attached word document, to Ellen: etiption@bcacs.org, no later than 9 am Monday for the following Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

Minister Schedule

March 4 & 5

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM	Sunday, 12:00 PM
Cantor	Stephen Luster-Bartz	Michaele Eperthener	Heather Chick	Matt Davis
Reader	Frank Skeltis	Anthony Wojcik Donald Keyes	Eleonor Stark Nicole Fetterhoff	Shirley Youmans
Server	Caleb Francisco Lawrence Lan Cadence Schachterle	Roger Buch NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Dominic Cung, Robert Duh Daniel Moctezuma Spencer Williams	Luke Lyon Josh Lyon Nicholas Galbreath
Usher	Greg Domm, Chuck Mead Ann Harnisch Kenneth Kropen	John Bizon, Rita Wahmhoff Shari Wojcik NOT FILLED	Alyssa Askler Kathy Askler Carson Brown	Beverly Stevens Judith Buch, Peggy Myers Susie Labrecque

Diligent Protector of Christ, Pray for Us

Prayers for the Sick/Those in Need

Jeannette Aleo, Phillip Avery, Chris Bradley, Chuck Brown, Eric Burtrum, Gerry Campbell, Jessica Clark, Carolann Craum, Linda Cumback, Melody Dulyea, David Elliott, Patricia Elliott, Bernadette Emmons, Margaret England, Dr. Stephen Fedele, Michael John Fisher, Jeannette Gagnon, Lillian Guinot-Rohr, Bernadette Heldt, Theresa Henderson, Mary Hebbler, Linda Holcomb, Donna Hoxie, Judy Jacobs, Carolyn Kewley, RoseAnn Kienbaum, 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, Jeannette Peevers, Sandy Power, Donald Price, Sally Ringle, Jack & Betty Roy, Cheryl Scales, Julie Schoder, Shirley Springer, Carol Skalka, Carol Strobe, Michael Sutton, Frank Swart, Elle Taylor, David Tipton, Tim Trittschuh, Devi Umaphathi, Michael Wells, Elizabeth Wells, Carol White, Allen Wiseman, Sara Wixson, Mary Ann Wright, Dee Wygant, Betty Wyson, Tiffany Yager, Christine Ybarra

Prayers for the Deceased

.Dorothy Keagle, Frank Quinn, Guadalupe Villicaña, Irene Varga

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

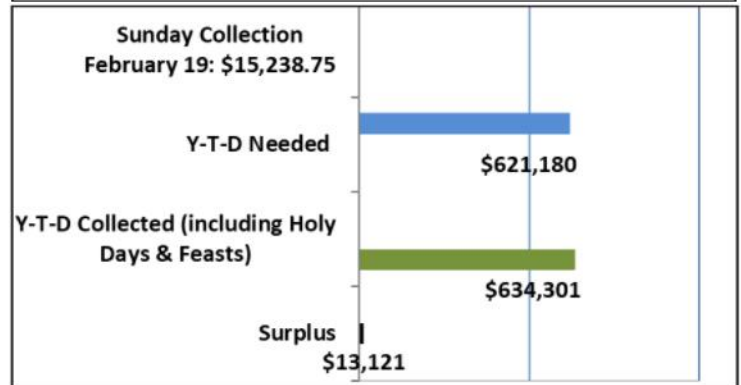
Seeking Volunteers Help with judging at First Robotics Events at Lakeview High School.

Opportunity 1 – Friday March 24 and Saturday March 25.
Opportunity 2 – Sunday March 26 and Monday March 27.
Events run 7:30-5:00 each day. Contact Rich Vitale for more information. Phone 313-600-2280. Email: rvitale@mail.com

Catechetics Formation Group St. Joseph and St. Philip parishes have partnered up to offer an adult Catechist Formation Group. This group is open to anyone and everyone who has felt the call and desire to go deeper in their faith life and want to learn how to share that faith with those around you. The group meets once a month as a community to pray, learn from excellent classes from Franciscan University, and grow together through discussion. The next meeting will be March 2 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at St. Philip in the parish center. For questions, please reach out to Max at mcrean@bcacs.org or Tim at tmcnamara@stphilipbc.org.

Kalamazoo Cursillo Movement

The Diocese of Kalamazoo will be hosting the annual Men's Cursillo March 2-5, at the beautiful Amigo Center in Sturgis Michigan. This is a great opportunity for us Catholics to Spiritually Renew our Faith. The weekend is geared to those over 18 years of age. Come, and encounter Christ! For more information, please visit <https://kalamazooкурсillo.com/mens-weekend-1>.

Financial Information

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.



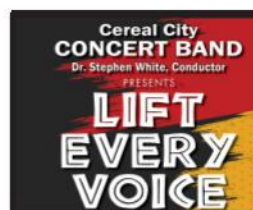
Have you ever thought about subscribing to the Magnificat, the little book that you see folks using at Mass?

The book contains Morning Prayer, Daily Mass, Evening Prayer, and Sunday Masses. The book also has meditations as well as great information about many saints that you may not know. The subscription is \$35 per year, a savings of \$15 a year. How it works: You pay St. Joseph Church, the Magnificat is delivered monthly to the office and you pick your subscription up in the Rectory office, usually in the last week of the month. It's that easy. If you would like to order a subscription or renew your existing subscription, please complete the information below; enclose your check for \$35 made out to St. Joseph Church to the office no later than March 15. Your new subscription will begin with the May issue. If you have questions, contact Barb at 962-0165.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone number _____



Sunday, February 26 - 3 pm
Pennfield Performing Arts Center
With special guest Carmen Bell

Tickets at the Door: Adults \$10
Seniors, Students & Veterans \$5

Are you looking to add something to your
Lenten journey this year?

Encounter our Lord in Adoration

5:00pm - 5:50pm

stay for Wednesday Evening Mass at 6:00pm

*Each Wednesday evening during Lent beginning
March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29*

Lenten Penance Service for the Catholic
Community will be held
Thursday March 30 at 7:00pm
At St. Philip Catholic Church at
112 Capital Ave NE



Lenten Luncheon Talks

The annual Lenten luncheons will be held at St. Jerome Parish Hall every Wednesday through March 29. Lenten luncheon Masses will begin at 10:45 am or 11 am. The speaker of the day will begin his address at 11:30 am with a light lunch after. There is no charge for these events, but a free will offering would be appreciated. Please join us talks, food & fellowship.

March 1 10:45 am	Father Maximilian Nightingale St. Monica Parish (Kalamazoo)
March 8 11:00 am	Father Simon Chummar-Manjooran St. Blessed Sacrament Parish (Allegan) & St. Margaret Parish (Otsego)
March 15 10:45 am	Father Patrick Murphy St. Philip Parish (Battle Creek)
March 22 10:45 am	Fr. Robert Johansen St. Augustine Cathedral (Kalamazoo)
March 29 11:00 am	Father David Pinto St. Ann Parish (Augusta)



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Formed is provided free to our parishioners, courtesy of our Battle Creek Catholic Parishes. When signing up, create a new account: St. Joseph Catholic Church 61 N 23rd St, Battle Creek, enter your email address and follow the prompts. For more information contact bkincaid@bcacs.org.

Website: stjosephbc.org



Seminarian Support Dinner

Hosted by the Tri-Parish Vocation Ministry

March 10th

In the St. Joseph School Cafeteria

\$50 per person
Hors D'oeuvres at 6 PM
Dinner served at 7 PM



Join us and Bishop Bradley to hear the vocation stories of our Battle Creek seminarians! We will have a 50/50 raffle and raffles for other baskets and prizes! Beer and wine included.

Tickets can be purchased at the St. Joseph Parish Office



St. Joseph Catholic Church,
Battle Creek, MI



Join us for valuable information
Tuesday, February 28th • 5:30 pm

*Your student will enjoy a scavenger hunt,
 led by current students. Light refreshments provided.*

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

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GOAL: \$250,000



Parish Directory

Pastor Fr. Christopher Ankley
frchris@bcacs.org
Parochial Vicars Fr. Pius Cung
frpius@bcacs.org
 Fr. Jacob Thomas
frjacob@bcacs.org
Deacons Deacon David Krajewski
 Deacon James Nelson

Emergency Assistance
 St. Vincent de Paul Society 969-5606
Pastoral Care of the Sick
 Homebound Pat Fellabaum 589-7300

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

Sacrament of Penance
 Saturdays 3:30 pm, First Friday 12:00 pm,
 First 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.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
 61 23rd Street North
 Battle Creek, MI 49015
 Phone: 269-962-0165, Fax: 269-788-0099

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 Youth Ministry Max Crean
mcrean@bcacs.org 788-3598
Communications, Music Ellen Tipton
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 Scout 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
Cub Scout Pack 325 Joe Brutsche
lbrutsche@msn.com 269-753-1688
Evangelization Tony Wocjik
tonyattstjoseph@gmail.com

Finance Council Ed Bauman
edbauman@hotmail.com 962-1328
Friday Adoration Marlene Hazdra
 962-8641
Hispanic Community Fr. Jacob Thomas
frjacob@bcacs.org 962-0165
Jail Ministry Rita Wahmhoff
ritawahmhoff@yahoo.com 968-3067
Knights of Columbus Ryan Hoch
ryanmatthew1970@gmail.com
Lakeview Food Pantry Janet Borders
jdbdvm@comcast.net 965-2632
Legion of Mary Pat Fellabaum
fellabaumw@aol.com 589-7300
myParish App Text App to 55321
Newcomers Phil & Mary Sue Avery
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Rosary Makers Guild Angie Disher
amdisher@peoplepc.com 850-380-7593
Online Giving Support 800-348-2886
Prayerline Linda Opack
 962-7339
Small Christian Communities Judy Buch
 (Scripture Study) 425-9395
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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