

**Jesus said: “My sheep hear my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.”**

John 10:27–28





By the time you read this, we may have a new pope. But as I write it, we are between pontiffs, and in this moment a few thoughts about Francis come to mind. These are by no means exhaustive, nor do they claim to be the most important moments in his papacy. They're just a couple of things that come to my mind, and so now they will come to yours.



Para cuando lean esto, puede que tengamos un nuevo papa. Pero mientras escribo, estamos entre pontífices, y en este momento me vienen a la mente algunas reflexiones sobre Francisco. No son exhaustivas, ni pretenden ser los momentos más importantes de su papado. Son solo un par de cosas que me vienen a la mente, y ahora se las traerán a ustedes.

Francis illuminated Catholic Social Doctrine's first theme (On the Life and Dignity of Every Human Person) with his advocacy of a more equitable and just distribution of the earth's resources, Francis shows the way to protect the life and dignity of those who are poor: "You pray for the hungry, and then you feed them. That is how prayer works."

Francisco iluminó el primer tema de la Doctrina Social Católica (Sobre la vida y la dignidad de toda persona humana) con su defensa de una distribución más equitativa y justa de los recursos de la tierra. Francisco muestra cómo proteger la vida y la dignidad de los pobres: "Rezas por los hambrientos y luego los alimentas. Así es como funciona la oración."

A friend reminded me a few days ago of a young boy named Emanuele, who, given the opportunity to ask a question of the Holy Father in a public setting, asked if his recently deceased father, a professed atheist who nevertheless had Emanuele baptized as an infant, could be in heaven. Sharing this question with the crowd, Francis answered this way: "Do you think God would ever leave a man like this far from him? Does God abandon his children?" The crowd shouted back, "No!" Turning back to Emanuele, Francis added, "This is the answer, Emanuele. Surely God was proud of your father. Because it is easier, being a believer, to baptize your children than to baptize them when you are not a believer. And your father had the courage to do that." He then encouraged the boy to continue honoring his father in prayer. "Pray for your father. Speak to your father," he told him.

Un amigo me recordó hace unos días a un niño llamado Emanuele, quien, al tener la oportunidad de hacerle una pregunta al Santo Padre en público, preguntó si su padre, recientemente fallecido y ateo declarado, que sin embargo lo había bautizado de bebé, podría estar en el cielo. Al compartir esta pregunta con la multitud, Francisco respondió así: "¿Creen que Dios dejaría a un hombre así lejos de sí? ¿Acaso Dios abandona a sus hijos?". La multitud gritó: "¡No!". Volviéndose hacia Emanuele, Francisco añadió: "Esta es la respuesta, Emanuele. Seguramente Dios estaba orgulloso de tu padre. Porque es más fácil, siendo creyente, bautizar a tus hijos que bautizarlos cuando no lo eres. Y tu padre tuvo el valor de hacerlo". Luego animó al niño a seguir honrando a su padre en oración. "Reza por tu padre. Habla con tu padre", le dijo.

Some say Pope Francis tended to confuse people. Maybe he did, a little. It is confusing, after all, when we first begin the transition from being told what to do to thinking for ourselves. Francis challenged us, as Catholics, to think for ourselves — not in a way that simply allows us to make up our own rules, guidelines, and morality, but to take the input that the Church, along with the scriptures, our intelligence, and our experience offer us, and, entering into prayer, find the way forward. This is pastoral, it's Jesuit, and it's Catholic. Francis affirms the value and goodness of Catholic faith as a way of life that makes people and our earthly home better.

Algunos dicen que el Papa Francisco tendía a confundir a la gente. Quizás lo hacía, un poco. Después de todo, es confuso cuando comenzamos la transición de que nos digan qué hacer a pensar por nosotros mismos. Francisco nos retó, como católicos, a pensar por nosotros mismos, no de una manera que simplemente nos permita crear nuestras propias reglas, directrices y moralidad, sino a tomar las aportaciones que la Iglesia, junto con las Escrituras, nuestra inteligencia y nuestra experiencia, nos ofrecen, y, entrando en oración, encontrar el camino a seguir. Esto es pastoral, es jesuita y es católico. Francisco afirma el valor y la bondad de la fe católica como una forma de vida que mejora a las personas y nuestro hogar terrenal.

May he rest in peace, and may we learn well what he has taught us.

Que descanse en paz y que aprendamos bien lo que nos ha enseñado.

*Rick Hardy, Pastoral Associate for the Collaborative*

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Come join us on  
Sunday, May 18 12:00 until 2:00 p.m.  
in the church basement to celebrate  
**Fr. Bob Flickinger**  
on the occasion of his  
**50th Anniversary of Ordination**

If you are unable to attend, you may send a congratulatory message to Padre at 513 Monroe Blvd., South Haven, MI 49090. Please feel free to write your well-wishes in the book on the table in the Connector.

## Second Collection May 17/18

Your support for The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps CRS address the needs of people in developing countries through innovative solutions that strengthen communities and equip them with resources and skills to prosper.

A second collection will be taken up after Communion next weekend. Envelopes are on the bulletin shelves for your convenience.



### Scripture Readings for the Week of May 11, 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Rev 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30
<b>Monday</b>	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3, 43:3,4; Jn 10:1-10
<b>Tuesday</b>	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle</b> Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn 15:9-17
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; Jn 13:16-20
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
<b>Saturday</b>	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14

Dear Friends of St Basil's,

Many thoughts cross my mind during this Easter season. I am thinking about our beloved Pope Francis, who blessed us by being a true Pastor of peace and justice. May he rest in peace! May the Holy Spirit guide the cardinals during the Conclave, inspiring them to select a worthy successor who has the grace and wisdom to minister to God's people.



The changes that evolved from the Vatican Council included the establishment of the "Permanent Diaconate." How undeserving I have been with this blessing. God has given me a long life, and I am presently the "Senior Deacon" in this diocese. How does this affect the parishioners of St Basil? I am not able to serve at the altar because of age related disabilities. However, I will PRAY FOR ALL OF YOU!!

As Deacon Bill, I thank you for all your prayers, support, and friendship I have been privileged to receive from all of YOU over the years. I have been truly blessed to serve you.

*Deacon Bill Van Dril*



### Please pray for...

*Tom Flickinger,  
brother of Fr. Bob Flickinger*

that he may now enjoy the great blessings of eternal life. We pray also for his family and friends, that they find peace in the promises of Christ.

## Pray for our First Communicants

Throughout the month of May, St Basil will have 26 children receiving their First Communion. Please say a prayer for them and their families. First Communion will take place at various Saturday and Sunday Masses throughout the month. If you are at one of the Masses with a First Communicant, be sure to wish them well!

Last Sunday at the 9:00 Mass Heidi Skuza, daughter of Andrew and Colleen and granddaughter of Barry and Diane, received her First Communion, with many family members present.



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, May 10

5:00 p.m. † Stanislaw Tadeusz Kot  
7:00 p.m. People of the parish (Español)

### Sunday, May 11

9:00 a.m. † Chris Janicki  
11:00 a.m. † Deceased members of the  
Bacehowski family

### Monday, May 12

9:00 a.m. † Edward Kusmider

### Tuesday, May 13

9:00 a.m. † Carla Roark-Hunter

### Wednesday, May 14

9:00 a.m. † Dale Curran

### Thursday, May 15 No Mass

### Friday, May 16

9:00 a.m. † Carol Miedona, 1st anniversary May 15

### Saturday, May 17

5:00 p.m. Intention of Fr. Bob Flickinger on the  
50th anniversary of his ordination  
7:00 p.m. People of the parish (Español)

### Sunday, May 18

9:00 a.m. † Colette Frederick  
11:00 a.m. † Deceased members of the McCloskey family

## Flowers on the Altar

There are many dates available to arrange for flowers on the altar. Please call the parish office to schedule a date, 637-2404, and then contact your favorite local florist to make the arrangements.

## St. Basil Catholic School



Recently our Kindergarten students had the opportunity to connect with the 7th and 8th graders. Together, they listened to Ben Gowel, a talented professional musician and songwriter. Mr. Gowel shared some of his songs and spoke to the students about the significance of pursuing their dreams. He also touched on the roles of his faith, strong work ethic, and the support from his family and friends in building his music career.

## 75th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser

Our School Boosters are planning quite the celebration for the 75th anniversary of our parish school. Scheduled for Saturday, May 31 at the beautiful Black River Barn, you will enjoy dinner, dancing, beverages, and silent/live auction FUNdraising. We are still seeking business and individual sponsors for this black-tie gala.

You may have noticed the sticky notes on the board in the South Lobby. These are requested elements to go in our silent auction baskets, so if you are able to contribute any of the items, we would very much appreciate it. Take a tag, purchase the item, then drop it off at the school during regular hours, or on the table in the South Lobby.

Thanks to your generosity and support we will be able to continue offering exceptional Catholic education to our students.

Please scan the QR code for more information. We hope to see you on May 31!



## Women's Service Guild Meet 'n Greet

Our next meeting will be at St. Basil on Thursday, May 29. We will gather at the grotto at noon to pray and leave flowers to honor our Blessed Mother. Please bring a small bouquet of flowers if your garden is in bloom; vases will be provided. Then we will enjoy lunch in the Upper Level room.

## Can You Help?

### **Food Pantry**

Please take non-perishable food items to First Congregational Church, 651 Phoenix Street. They are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. till noon.

### **Personal Care Pantry/Baby Care**

First Assembly of God, 06500 Blue Star Hwy.  
Wednesdays 10:00 – 1:00

### **We Care In the Name of Christ**

Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday thru Thursday  
Closed Fridays 269-637-4342



## Calling All Graduates!

We invite you to come to the 9:30 a.m. Mass on June 1, in your caps and gowns, to be part of our liturgy. You will process in with our priest, and you may wish to bring up the gifts at Offertory. You will receive a special blessing at the end of Mass. Please contact the parish office to let us know if you will be here on your special day! 269-637-2404

## That Man Is You

Saturday mornings, 7:30  
Upper Level Meeting Room  
All men are invited! Contact Deacon John for more information: jlohrstorfer@yahoo.com



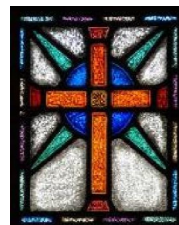
"Love and charity, are service, helping others, serving others. There are many people who spend their lives in this way, in the service of others... When you forget yourself and think of others, this is love!"

*†Pope Francis*

## Movie Night Resumes May 18

5:00 p.m. Upper Level Meeting Room

Popcorn provided! All are welcome.



## Stained Glass Booklets

These booklets explain each stained glass window of our church, along with the Bible reference.

Pick one up at the parish office for a donation of \$5.

## Church Replicas

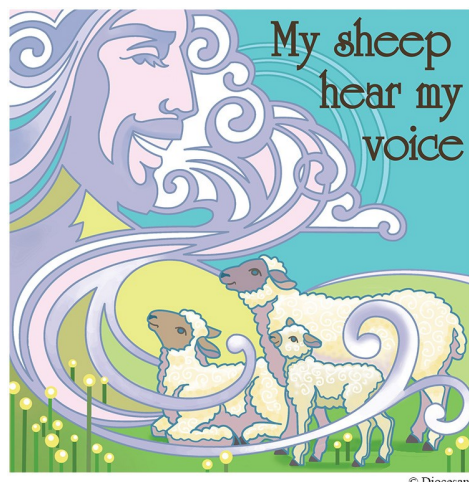
Also available at the office are the beautiful wooden replicas of our church, \$25 donation.





## Mission Statement

Called by Baptism, nourished by the Eucharist, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to live the Good News of Christ through Worship, Evangelization, Service, Spiritual Formation, and Stewardship.



*We are His people,  
the sheep of His flock.*

This week's bulletin sponsor

### Future Construction

The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors of our bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

## St. Basil Catholic Church Directory

513 Monroe Blvd. South Haven, MI 49090

Parish Office .....269-637-2404

Fax .....269-637-8374

School Office .....269-637-3529

[www.SaintBasilCatholicChurch.org](http://www.SaintBasilCatholicChurch.org)

### Parish Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday ..... 9:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday ..... 10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Friday ..... 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

### Mass Schedule

Saturday ..... 5:00 p.m.,  
7:00 p.m. (en Español)

Sunday ..... 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

& Friday ..... 9:00 a.m.

No Mass on Thursday

**Confessions Saturday 4:00-4:30 p.m.**

- So that we all may be fully present at Mass, please silence your cell phones.
- We ask that you be considerate of others if you are coughing or sick by refraining from the handshake of peace. This is thoughtful consideration for the rest of the parish community.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Friday .....after morning Mass,  
with Benediction at 12:00

## Parish Staff

**Pastor** .....Fr. Evelio Ramirez

**Parochial Vicar** .....Fr. Jacob Sundararaju

**Deacon** .....Deacon John Lohrstorfer

**Deacon** .....Deacon Jeronimo Mendez

**Retired Deacon** .....Deacon Bill VanDrill

**Pastoral Associate** .....Tom Eggleston

**Office Manager** .....Andrea Aleman

**Music/Liturgy Coordinator, Organist, and**

**Bulletin Editor** .....Cecilia Wondergem

**Maintenance Manager** .....Jake Filbrandt

**Religious Ed. Coordinator..** Tania Villegas

**Coordinator of OCIA** ...Geraldyn Monacelli

**Parish Pastoral Associate for Hispanic**

**Ministry** .....Sister Karen Zea Patiño

**Pastoral Associate for the**

**Collaborative** .....Rick Hardy

## Low-Gluten Hosts

We offer low-gluten hosts at ALL Masses, both weekend and daily. They are available at the front of church (and also in the back on weekends). Simply ask the Eucharistic minister.

## Mass In Our Collaborative

**St. Peter, Douglas, MI**

**Saturday** 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday** 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

**Mon., Tues. Thurs., Fri.** 8:30 a.m.

**San Felipe, Fennville, MI**

**Thursday** 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday** 12:30 p.m.