

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2025

LORD! Help me
To carry my cross
this day

Christ the King Catholic Church

1811 Seymour Ave. • Flint, MI 48503

www.christthekingparishflint.org

© Diocese

Mission Statement

Christ the King Roman Catholic Church is a faith community founded in the African American culture to answer God's "Call" to be a guiding light and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through our gifts and talents, we strive to evangelize and minister to our entire multi-ethnic community.

Phone (810) 233-0402
Fax (810) 963-2182
Email ChristtheKingFlint@gmail.com

If you have an emergency after the office is closed, please call (810)235-1812 and someone will return your call.

Please call the office to make appointments for sacraments, funerals, parish registration, marriage preparation (9 months in advance), jail visits, house blessings, homebound ministry, and for information about the Church.

Scripture Readings

For the Week of September 7, 2025

Sunday—Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

Monday—Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Tuesday—Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday—Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday—Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17



Office Hours—By Appointment

Tuesday—Wednesday 10:00am-2:00 pm

Administrator Fr. Tom Firestone

Office Manager Stephanie Murphy

Sunday Mass 9:00 am

Confession after Mass Wednesday

Daily Mass Wednesday 11:00 am

The deadline for bulletin submission is 10:00am on Tuesdays. Email parish events to the office.

Mass Intentions & Candle Remembrance

Sunday, September 7, 2025

9:00 am Deceased members of the Dolehanty family

Req. by the Frankie Dolehanty

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

11:00 am Áine Murphy

Req. by the Murphy family

Sunday, September 14, 2025

9:00 am Atanga family

Req. by Dr. Bernadette Atanga

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

11:00 am Deceased members of the Atanga family

Req. by Dr. Bernadette Atanga

The Mass Intention book is open for 2026. Please stop by the office to have your intention noted.

Stewardship

Your Gifts to God & Parish

August 24, 2025

Offertory..... \$1849

Funeral Repast \$121

Total \$1970

Please Pray For:

Renae Banks-Rowser
Christopher Boehm
Preston Boehm
Ollie Brown
Annalynn C.

Alex Chan
Lorene Ferguson
James Harrison
Aurelia LaValley
Sue Martinus
Thaddeus McCain
Johnnie Metcalfe

Curtis Mitchell
Anita Myles
Wanda Nichols
Nina Poole
John Prince
Roberta Rouse
Joe Rowler

Thomas Rowser
Ruth Schmitter
Carolyn Schannon
Mama Sol
Barbara Staton
Velma Stewart
Camille Turner

Savanna Vaughn
Troy Vaughn
Darlene Verdun
Loretta Washburn
Nancy White

Free to Love

Tom Schmidt

St. Paul must have understood today's Gospel very well. Like Jesus, he knew what being a disciple would cost. It landed him in prison. Yet he seems to have no regrets; he accepts that imprisonment as part of his discipleship. Also like Jesus, he is not afraid to ask others to take that discipleship seriously. And he is not ashamed to ask a favor: Would Philemon accept his runaway slave, Onesimus, back into his home? Not just as a slave, but as a member of his family. He shamelessly calls himself a prisoner for Christ five times in the short letter (three times in our reading). If that didn't tug Philemon's heartstrings, Paul also calls himself an old man.

In the Gospel, Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship. Paul takes that a step further; he reminds us to accept that cost freely. He could have ordered his friend to free the slave. Paul was an apostle, a leader in the early church. Instead of giving an order, he called on Philemon to respond freely to his request. Perhaps we can learn from that example.

Like Paul, when Jesus commands us to love one another, he leaves us free to accept that challenge. Remember, he always says, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Jesus was never compelled to cure anyone or forgive their sins. No one ordered him to feed the hungry with loaves and fishes or raise Lazarus from the dead. Yet how often do we go to church because we were told we have to? Do we volunteer for the picnic only because the pastor twists our arm? Or do we love Jesus so much that we volunteer to help without being asked? Do we love Jesus enough to invite others to follow him?

We can live life just doing what we have to. Or when Jesus offers us a new motive—love for God because God loves us—we can choose to follow him freely. In John's Gospel, there is no Agony in the Garden. He shows us that Jesus chose to obey his Father and willingly took up the cross. Let us ask the Spirit to fill us with the freedom to love.

First Annual Outdoor Mass & Cookout

September 21, 9:00am-2:00pm • 1832 Seymour Avenue

Please join us and the Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary Father Dukette Unit 90 for an outdoor Mass and cookout under the tent. This is a time to rediscover God's presence in nature, evangelize, and build lasting memories with CTK Parish family and friends. Bring a chair and any games, and donations toward food are welcomed and appreciated. For questions or more information contact: Robin L. Johnson 810.814.7399 or Wendall Johnson 810.814.3414.

St. Luke Catholic School Alumni

September 28, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00.

We are hosting a Pay It Forward Fundraiser and Tour of the "old" St. Luke School Building on Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00. This event includes a tour of the building, reminiscing, barbecue and updating all in attendance of the Mission of the St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center (new name of the "old" St. Luke School). We are proud to tell you that the building is well used and is in the process of being updated. It has been a source of education and assistance in the north end of Flint for twenty-three years.

Come and share your memories of attending St. Luke School and see what is happening today. Tickets for the event are \$25.00. We invite you to meet other students from St. Luke School and support your place of education.

Anniversary Mass

September 27, 2025 4:30pm at St Thomas Aquinas

You're invited! Join Bishop Boyea on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in East Lansing for a special evening celebrating marriage.

Married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries or a significant year in their marriage are warmly invited to attend with their guests.

Bishop Boyea will celebrate Mass at 4:30 p.m. A cake and punch reception will follow in the school gym. Registration is required by September 21st. Please see Stephanie in the office to get your invitation with instructions on how to RSVP.