

July 12, 2020

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Welcoming John Stockwell"

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ! I pray this bulletin finds you well and with a heart full of the Holy Spirit's love!

This week brothers and sisters, I'd like to introduce Mr. John Stockwell to you as Corpus Christi's newest staff member. John will be joining us as our Digital Media Evangelization Manager. John's position is designed to give Corpus Christi a powerful digital evangelization presence both locally and beyond.

John hails from Toledo and has a Bachelor degree from the University of Toledo and a Master in Theology degree. He is currently finishing up a Master in Pastoral Studies at Sacred Heart. He worked as a news reporter and anchor for WJR for years and is a recipient of the Edward R. Murrow award.

John's previous digital evangelization work has generated 800 videos on YouTube with over 2 million views worldwide, and his work has helped to bring a lot of people into the Catholic faith. He is enthusiastic for the (continued on special insert inside)



Sunday Reflection

Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place (continued on page 3)



- **Christian Service** Page 3 Reflections from Curtis Simpson Jr
- **Building Your Domestic Church** Page 4 Each family is unique, but there are some things parents can do to help till the soil in their domestic church
- **Focus On The Good** Page 5 Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but that we see the abundance of good things all around us
- Annual Novena to Ste. Anne Fr. John Mackenzie will be the homilist at a Mass honoring African culture on Sat Jul 18, the 2nd day of the annual novena - see inside

Corpus Christi Directory

Rev. Patrick Gonveau. Administrator

313-537-5770

Parish Office Hours:

All parish buildings remain closed through Mon Sep 7.

Weekend Masses: Sat 4 pm, Sun 9 am & 12 noon

Daily/ Holy Day Masses: See page 6

Parish Address: 19800 Pembroke Ave, Detroit MI 48219-2145 Phone: (313) 537-5770 Fax: (313) 537-5773

E-mail: corpuschristidetroit@comcast.net www.corpuschristi-detroit.org Website:

Activities Center 19910 Evergreen Rd

Outreach Center 16000 Pembroke Ave (313) 272-0990

School Building 19900 Evergreen Rd

Bookkeeper.....(313) 537-5770

Mrs. Shanita Brown sbcorpuschristi@yahoo.com Business Management Consultant(313) 537-5770

Mrs. Catherine Long clong123@gmail.com

Christian Service Director.....(313) 272-0990

Mr. Curtis Simpson Jr curtis_simpson_jr@yahoo.com **Digital Media Evangelization Coordinator......**(313) 537-5770

Mr. John Stockwell john.stockwell@mac.com

Director of Operations.....(313) 537-5770

Ms. Carolyn Wilson cmwilson2288@gmail.com

Faith Formation Director(313) 537-5770

Sr. Therese Mac Kinnon tmdc3@yahoo.com

Maintenance Assistant..... (313) 537-5770

Mr. Brandon Patton

Maintenance Coordinator.....(313) 537-5770

gregory_spight@yahoo.com Mr. Grea Spiaht

Ministers of Music(313) 537-5770

Ms. Michelle Baines 3riversmichelle@gmail.com Ms. Fannie Larkins wheats1314@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant.....(313) 537-5770

Mrs. Miriam Hudson corpuschristimiriam@comcast.net

Pastoral Associate(313) 537-5770

Rev. Mr. Paul Mueller dcnpaulmueller@gmail.com

Pastoral Minister(313) 272-0990

Ms. Mary Davis m.davis52@att.net

Youth Minister.....(313) 306-0004

caritas@disciples.com Mrs. Marilyn Webb

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Aaron Poyer (734) 718-0150 deaconaaronpoyer@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. Mark Springer (248) 921-1567 deaconmarkspringer@gmail.com

Parish Council President

Ms. Christeena Livingston-Long (734) 512-9570 christeena04@gmail.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturdays 1 - 3 pm; by appointment (call 313-537-5770); and during penance services.

Sick Calls: Please call 313-537-5770 to place someone on our sick list and/or to request the Sacrament of Anointing.

Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office for more information.

Weddings: Please call the Parish Office 6 months before wedding.

Bulletin Copy: Please contact Miriam Hudson by phone or email.



Monday, July 13

8:30 am MASS

9:00 am NWDYC Virtual Summer Camp

12:15 pm MASS

6:00 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting-z

Tuesday, July 14

8:30 am MASS

10:00 am Pastoral Staff Mtg-z

6:00 pm MASS

7:00 pm Evangelization Committee Meeting-z

Wednesday, July 15

Thursday, July 16

8:30 am MASS

3:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

6:00 pm MASS

Friday, July 17

8:30 am MASS

12:15 pm MASS

12 - 2 pm NWDYC Virtual Summer Camp

Food Distribution (pkg lot)

4:30 pm Funeral Mass

Saturday, July 18

1:00 pm CONFESSIONS

4:00 pm MASS

Sunday, July 19

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am MASS

12:00 pm MASS

Please Pray for Those with Covid-19:

Darlene Conway sister in law of Shelly Bradford

Claudette Twyman, sister in law of Shelly Bradford

Elizabeth Moore, in-law of Elaina Moore

Rev. Dana Porter Ashton, niece of Joan Burch

Michelle Talley, cousin of Karen Cook

Dee Hunt, friend of MiShawn Earl

Curtis Simpson Jr, parish member

Detroit Center for the Works of Mercy



Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan's new Center for the Works of Mercy will be opening soon in Detroit. This new center will expand CCSEM's reach and allow community members to receive services for multiple needs in one location.

Catholic Charities, which serves as the charitable service arm of the Archdiocese of Detroit, is purchasing a building at 8642 Woodward Ave., north of New Center.

"We are working to create a center in Detroit where Catholics in the archdiocese can serve in performing works of mercy as they are called by the Lord," Paul Propson, CEO of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, told Detroit Catholic. "This will be for organizations that want to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, give drink to the thirsty and visit the imprisoned."

Propson said the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the need to bring social services together in the city, with so many people losing employment, getting sick and needing a place to turn.

"From a service standpoint, it's more important than ever to bring resources into the city," Propson said. "We know people will need us, and we want to be there to meet that need."

More information available at:

https://detroitcatholic.com/news/daniel-meloy/catholic-charities -to-expand-city-services-with-new-detroit-center-for-the-works-of-mercy)

Sunday Reflection (continued from page 1)

place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try. ©LPi

Young Adult News

F-TA Young Adults

Sun, Jul 12 | 6-7:30pm | Online

— A great opportunity to connect with a bilingual young adult group and enjoy speaker Fr. Patrick Gonyeau! Feel free to tune in with a snack or drink of your choice while we're together. We want to keep in touch regardless of the circumstances. For more information please feel free to message Joanna Barrientos at (248) 971-4197. She can send you how to connect to the meeting on Zoom.

Lectio Divina for Young Adults

Fri, Jul 24 | 6:30pm | Zoom

— Join young adults every other Friday to pray lectio divina together on Zoom! Hosted by the Archdiocese of Detroit Hispanic Ministry.

Resources for Today's Anti-Racist Catholic

Visit <u>bustedhalo.com</u> for resources to help American Catholics be actively anti-racist, cope with the complex emotions of tense times, and work and pray for peace and unity.



■ Take Time To Chat

Gather as a family and have someone read today's Gospel about The Parable of the Sower (MT 13:1-23 OR MT 13:1-9. Take time to discuss this good news and close with the family prayer.

What does a plant need to grow? What do

you need to grow in faith?

- Have you ever planted seeds? What happened?
- Retell this parable in your words. Take turns and be creative.





■ Building Your Domestic Church

The home is the rich soil where the seed of God's love is planted, nourished and grows. How can you make your home a place of rich soil? Each family is unique, but these are <u>some things parents can do</u> to help till the soil in their domestic Church:

Protect your children in prayer, regularly and publicly — taking time to pray for and with your children is crucial

Protect your children physically — be vigilant about their environment (from babyproofing, safe transportation to television, social media, online)

Thoughtfully choose your words and actions — this can help open the lines of communication and model for your children how to interact with others

Accompany them — walking with your children through their life experiences helps address the needs they have and provides the opportunity to point to God working in their lives

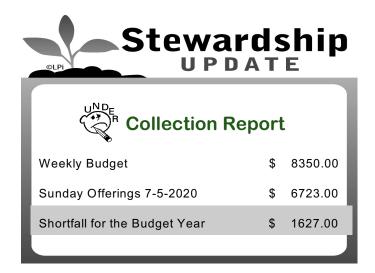
Nourish your faith life — find a small group community or connect with your parish to make sure that you as a parent are experiencing care, concern and love

See entire article at: https://www.unleashthegospel.org/2020/07/building-yourdomestic-church-from-birth-to-adulthood/

■ Everyday Stewardship

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, "Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil." I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things.

As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who live their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they *(continued on page 5)*



Everyday Stewardship (continued from page 4)

seek evil, but it is as if they "see no good, hear no good, and speak no good." Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.— Tracy Earl Welliver





Scriptures for the Week

Readings for the Week of July 12, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Rom 8:18-23

Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Mt 10:34—11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Mt 11:25-27 Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Mt 11:28-30 Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Mt 12:14-21

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16-19/Rom 8:26-27 Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Questions of the Week

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah assured the captive Israelites exiled in Babylon that God's word is reliable and purposeful. Does this bring you comfort or distress?

Second Reading

Paul speaks of a spiritual connection and yearning for freedom (redemption) shared between us and creation itself. What do you think a redeemed creation looks like?

Gospel Reading

Why do you think Jesus explains the parable of the sower to his disciples but not to the crowds?

Please Pray For Our Deceased Loved Ones

Russell Simpson

uncle of Curtis Simpson Jr

Richard LaCor

cousin of Kim Stephenson





Please Pray For Those In The Military:

Caija Campbell (Army), Anthony Carson (Army), Thomas Dixon (Navy), Anthony Ford (Army), Nick Goodrich (Army), Anthony Hollins, Jr (Army), Jonah LaTour, Jon LaTour, John Maurer (Air Force), Robbie Mayes (Marines), Christopher Maniere (National Guard), and Lance Walker II (Army).



Mass Intentions July 13 - 19

Monday	8:30 am 12:15 pm	For An Increase In Vocations For Our Corpus Christi Neighborhood
Tuesday	8:30 am 6:00 pm	For Our Homebound Members For An End To The Covid-19 Pandemic
Wednesday		No Mass or Communion Service
Thursday	8:30 am 6:00 pm	For Those Who Are Caregivers For An End To Racism
Friday	8:30 am 12:15 pm	For Those In Nursing Homes & Rehab Centers For The Families of Parishes Process
Saturday	4:00 pm	For Our Deceased Relatives and Friends
Sunday	9:00 am 12:00 pm	For the People Of Corpus Christi Parish For Our Deceased Relatives and Friends

Please call the parish office (313-537-5770) to add or remove a name from our prayer lists.

Please Pray For Our Sick Members:

Tony Baines
Ken Banka
Doris Billion
Paul Billion
Marcelle Blackmon
Alelia Busby
Faye C-Johnson
Jefferie Cook Sr
Karen Cook
Terrie C-Henderson
Sheri Dargin
Cid Davis
Kevin DeMatas
David Derouselle Sr
Curtis Dickerson

Renita Fletcher
Roy Ford
Dionne Garner
Gary Greening
Virginia Harkey
Clint Harris
Irma Horton
Gloria James
Lynn James
John Johnson
Roswitha Jordan
Fannie Larkins
Myrna Leonard
Marilyn Lewandowski
Nancy Loper

Kathy Montgomery Pierce Mueller Shirley Myles Yve Nemeth Sharon Ortman Helen Parkman Vernard Plain Thelma Polley Sally Rimbert Joy Robinson Elyse Ryder Michael Sands Pauline Simpson Donna Storie Colletta Sykes

Charlotte Turner
Adele Waddell
Kathy Wilson
Homebound:
Etta Bagley
Jackie Bodenhorn
Evelyn Brantley
Beverley B-Johnson
Angeline Butler
Michelle Cagle
Joseph Cagle Sr
Clairmina Danjou
Vivian Dorsey
Margaret Gassoway

Brendia Thomas

Sr Rachelle Harper Ruth Hill Ronald Hills Sr Stephanie Holub Mary C. Hustoles Edward Hustoles Marie Leonard Sharon Lewis Bob Lindsay Clemencia Massey Beverly Miller Beatrice Neail Margaret Nielsen Shirley Oldenburg

Ella Goldsmith

John Onwudinjo
Sue Padalino
Evangeline Pruett
Milford Raines
Hulda Reed
Juanita Robinson
Leatrice Robinson
Isiah Searls
Joseph Shelton
Mary Pat Shelton
Bernice Slaughter
Irene Williford
Joyce Wilson
Audrey Zielinski

Please Pray For Our Relatives and Friends:

Susan Absher Jim Agnello **Duncan Alfes** Cynthia Archer-Gift Sue Bates Marie Beard Joan Beckley-Fletcher Edward Bejesky Kenneth Black Malcom Boudreaux Bryan Bowman Bria Brown Ron Brown James Bryant **Ernest Cabule** Michael Derrick Cade Jenny Churchill Scott Clinton Leah Closson Perry Conway Nancy Copeland Ronald Crane **Betty Cross** Chuck Davis Natacha Desir Shannon Dodd

Jerry Douglas

Chris Downing Elizabeth Downing Lloyd Earl Memphis Edison Virginia Etherly Stephen Farkus Phillip Faucher Barbara Ford Kyle Foster Jerry & Patricia Franks Mavis Frazer Barbara Gav Nestelyn Gay Elwood Gneckow Becky Goodrich Shawn Gore Marlene Grant Morty Green Alfonzo Harris Millie Harris Sharon Harris Lisa Harston-LeDoux Bob & Jane Hazen Donna Hebel Summer Henry Carol Holm

Sullivan Horton

Jean Houck Jeranne Jackson Robert Jarey Aliyaa John Arnim Johnson Fred Johnson FI Caleb Jones Dorie Kaiser Bill Kelley Shirley Kenny Joe Kieffer Kristin Kinazett Katie Lutzo Kissell Erin Knight Fred Kolp Emilia Kullman Marta Lagos Antoinette Litzinger Anthony Lorenger Shannon Lorenger Harold Lowe William Mapp Michael Mathis Scott McDonald Anthony McNeal Michael McNeece

John/Mary Jo Meakin

Ashley Melonson Jerry Mercier Jr Robert Miller Jr Darwin Mills Florence Mills Willard Mitchell James Molloy Karen Momper Elizabeth Moore Shirley V Moore Glinda Moorer Verita Morris Mike Mueller Jovce Mulhall Mignon Murray Sara Nell-Wallace Margaret Nelson **Ernestine Nimmons** Charles Nutt Charlotte, Donna, John & Tyler O'Neill Patty Page Celena Parker Willie Parker Jr Paula Parham Cyndi Pask James Pefley

Alicia Penman thel Person Marquon Perry Matt Phillips Reginald Phillips Anthony Plain Frin Plain David Remo Sandra Reynolds Michael Rice Matthew Rich Viola Richburge Dorothy Roberson Crystal Roberts Eugene Rohde Alfredo Rojas Patrick Ryder Frank Salem Sherry Samuel **Ethel Mae Sanders** Larry Schneider Helen Schroeder Mildred Scott Alice Sheehan Larry Shelton Lenny Simmons

Curtis Simpson Sr

Donald Sims Sr **Emily Smale** Kathy Smith Tyrone Smith Beverly Sneed Tom/Dorothy Sobota Nicholas Stephens Rochelle Stewart Trevor Sullivan Kevin Sweeney Frances Sykes Patt Taylor-Braxton Rick Thompson Carolyn Thrash Gerry Tremonti Amy Turner Eleanor Ursulan Robert Vanden Berg Al Victors Alicia Walker Kelley Walker Lance Walker **Brady Wesley** Ruth Wilson Barbara Woods **Doris Woody**

Kyle Yanke

A Word From The Heart (continued from page 1) mission of the Church (Mt 28:20) and is blessed with a deep kindness and great sense of humor.

John has been married for 22 years, and he and his wife Michelle have a son who is a senior in high school. John loves God, people, and has a huge heart for sharing Jesus and for service. He is most at home in a multi-cultural setting, has visited Corpus Christi and is quite excited to help share the sacred treasure of this uniquely joyful vibrant city Church with both the local community and beyond through his God-given gifts.

May the Good Lord continue to pour out his blessings on all of us, and may we overflow/radiate the blessing of his presence to all! Love and blessings,

- Fr. Patrick

Holy Homework



This week let's make sure to give Jesus a solid 20 minutes of "covenant time" each day where we simply enjoy his presence, read the word, pour out our troubles, pray for an

end to the Coronavirus, and intercede for others, especially for blessings on all afflicted with the virus, for all who care for them, and for all who are seeking to come up with a vaccine.

Worry ends when FAITH IN GOD
—Begins—

From



Detroit Catholic

Black parishes hold onto faith amidst virus, shutdown and an uncertain future

DETROIT —From the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak in Michigan, it became clear the virus was particularly devastating to the African-American community.

From limited access to health care and poorer living conditions to greater dependence on service jobs where remote work and social distancing aren't possible, the impact of COVID-19 has not been equitable — and once more, the African-American community is suffering the most.

The virus' impact has reverberated in majority-Black Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit, particularly in the city itself, which has seen the most virus cases anywhere in the state.

Curtis Simpson said Corpus Christi parishioners have continued contributing to the parish since the shutdown, a necessity as the neighborhood looks to the community to provide social services in a time of need.

"In an unfortunate sense, the pandemic is bringing Jesus to families that wouldn't (encounter him) if the pandemic didn't happen," Curtis Simpson said. "It's a blessing, and obviously a curse as well, but a blessing to be able to reach out to people by picking up their prescriptions or groceries or a gas card. We're serving families we probably would have never met."

Through it all, the Black Catholic community continues to have faith and show its solidarity, Vickie Figueroa said. And that can be example for the whole Church.

"What gives me hope is the adaptability of the Black Catholic community," Figueroa said. "There is just this willingness to enter into a new way of faith, prayer and worship, a willingness to reach across parish lines and boundaries. Black people will always find a way to keep our faith in Jesus Christ strong. No matter how many barriers we will climb, we'll find a way to reach Christ."

See entire article at:

https://detroitcatholic.com/news/daniel-meloy/black-parishes-hold-onto-faith-amidst-virus-shutdown-and-an-uncertain-future

WEEKLY UPDATE

- Mass Schedule: Weekend 4 pm on Saturday, and
 am and 12 pm on Sunday. Weekdays 8:30 am and 12:15 pm Mondays and Fridays; 8:30 am and 6 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- To allow for proper safety precautions, please make a reservation by 12 noon on the Saturday prior to the <u>weekend</u> Mass you plan to attend. We are currently limited to 75 people per weekend Mass. The Sign Up Genius link is available at 12 noon Monday at <u>www.corpuschristi-detroit.org</u>. If you do not have computer or internet access you may call the parish office at 313-537-5770 to RSVP.
- There is no pressure on you to return to Mass; we support you doing what is best for your health. Sunday Mass will continue to be livestreamed; a direct link to the Mass is available at the parish website: www.corpuschristi-detroit.org. Sunday offerings may be mailed to the parish office at 19800 Pembroke Ave, Detroit MI 48219-2145) or you may give online at www.corpuschristi-detroit.org.
- The parish offices and meeting rooms will be closed through Labor Day. Parish staff are working from home. You may continue to contact the parish staff through phone calls to 313-537-5770 or through their emails.
- Please be sure to leave a message on the parish office answering machine to let us know about illness, hospitalization, a death, or to request prayer or the Sacrament of the Sick. The parish office answering machine is checked regularly. Fr. Patrick will be notified of urgent requests as soon as possible. All calls will be returned. Please be sure to leave both your full name and phone number and to speak clearly and slowly when leaving a message.
- ●The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturdays from 1 to 3 pm in the covered walkway between the school building and the Activities Center. This will keep us from having to disinfect the church prior to the 4:00 pm Mass.

Theology of the New Evangelization

A free course from Sacred Heart Major Seminary's Institute for Lay Ministry will begin Monday, July 6. Join the faculty of SHMS on a journey exploring the foundational teachings and principles of the New Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship. This FREE non-credit course is being offered online using CANVAS, SHMS's learning management system. When you sign up you will receive a username and password for accessing the class, which consists of six modules which can be completed at your own pace. Each class includes a lecture video, reading material, online discussion forum, and personal assessment quiz. Learn more and sign up at shms.edu/ne.

Strong Faith - Vital Connections



Aired on Jul 9, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
Episode 2 | Topic: Reaching Out To The African
American Community: The Gifts We Bring
Please click the link below to listen to the webinar:
https://aod.zoom.us/j/95906669022
or watch at https://www.facebook.com/groups
/1550688355226759/



Catholic Biblical School of MI

Get ready to unleash the Gospel with joy! Catholic Biblical School of Michigan will host its new classes in September. CBSM brings the Scriptures to life with an in-depth study of the entire Bible led by seminary-level professors. Through donations, CBSM is accessible to all with 100% of requests for financial aid granted. Learn more about their in-depth study of the entire Bible. For more information, call 586-438-3085 or email info@cbsmich.org.

Lay Down Your Burdens

- Have you been able to process your stress from the COVID crisis?
- Do you need some time to get away from all your responsibilities?
- Are you eager to feel hope again?

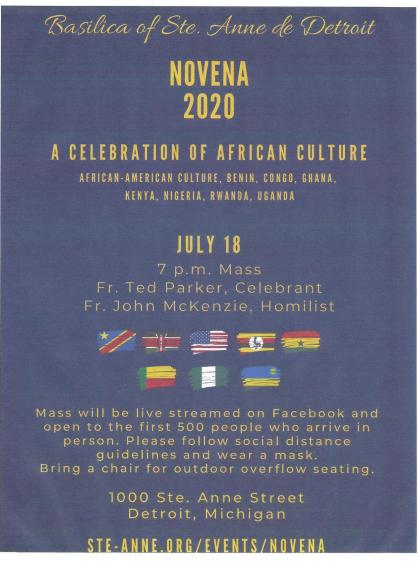
Capuchin Retreat Center is offering "Lay Down Your Burdens," a morning of healing for healthcare workers, on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

Presented from the Franciscan perspective, Fr. Tom Nguyen and Chaplain Bridget Theodoroff (hospital chaplain) will facilitate a morning of reflection and releasing your burdens.

All are welcome. Those from a different faith tradition and those who don't have one are invited.

The morning will be held at Capuchin Retreat Center, located at 62460 Mt. Vernon, Washington Township, and will include discussions, reflection, and fellowship, and will be held outside as long as weather permits. Please bring a mask or face covering.

Cost is \$25 per person. To reserve your spot or for more information, call 248-651-4826 or send an email to info@capretreat.org.







Why do Catholics baptize babies?

For adults who want to be baptized, the celebration only takes place after a long, guided, and thoughtful process through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is also true for many Protestant Christians, who are baptized later in life, often after a personal, transforming religious experience. So, it seems fair to ask why our Catholic tradition includes infant baptism. After all, if we make adults who want to become Catholic wait months and even years as they grow in their understanding of Christ and his teachings, why should babies — who "do nothing" — be baptized?

Our custom of infant baptism dates back to the earliest days of the Church, when St. Paul baptized entire households, including, we presume, children (see Acts 16:15, 33; 18:8). That had become common practice by the second century. When Christianity was legalized 200 years later, infant baptism became the normal practice throughout the Church.

We recognize that in Baptism, we are given the grace to overcome original sin — the human tendency to choose ourselves and our own wills over God — and to become members of the Church. This is the gift we give to infants in Baptism.

In its essence, the baptism of infants also reminds us adult Christians that the gift of salvation and membership in the Church (i.e., the Body of Christ) is God's initiative. It is freely offered to us, regardless of where we might be in life's journey. Salvation isn't something we earn. Instead, we see that Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong process of growing into the kind of disciples that Jesus wants us to be. ©LPi

