

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Fr. George Darling, Pastor

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday, Thursday: 8:30am

Wednesday: 10:30am

Weekend Mass:

Saturday: 4:30pm

Sunday: 9am & 11am



PARISH:

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Parish Grand Rapids

Religious Ed:

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Religious Education

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PARISHIONER MEMBERSHIP

New members are always welcome to our Parish. Parishioner status is maintained by registration in the parish, active participation in weekend liturgies and full participation in the parish stewardship program. All family members 18 years and older should be individually registered with the parish. Parish membership and participation is required of those desiring the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation and Matrimony.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 3:30 pm or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parish registration of six months is required. Preparation session required. Contact the parish office for details.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Contact the parish office a minimum of six months prior to the preferred wedding date. Marriage preparation sessions are required.

Advent

Fourth Sunday

2275 DIAMOND AVENUE NE
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49505
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FAX: (616) 447-7548

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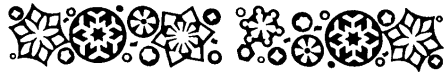
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MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat, Dec 17 4:30 pm	VIGIL: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Jim Schmidbauer; Wendelin Schmich
Sun, Dec 18 9:00 am 11:00 am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Jerry Korstange; Rosemary Banke Parish Family
Mon, Dec 19	ADVENT WEEKDAY **No Mass**
Tues, Dec 20 8:30 am	ADVENT WEEKDAY Fr. John Wisneski
Wed, Dec 21	ADVENT WEEKDAY **No Mass**
Thurs, Dec 22 8:30 am	ADVENT WEEKDAY Art Choma
Fri, Dec 23	ADVENT WEEKDAY **No Mass**
Sat, Dec 24 4:30 pm	VIGIL: CHRISTMAS Parish Family
Sun, Dec 25 10:00 am	CHRISTMAS Parish Family

**SACRED SCRIPTURE**

Readings for the Week of December 18, 2022	
Sunday	4th Sunday of Advent Is 7:10-14; ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
Monday	Jgs 13:27, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday	Is 7:10-14; ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday	1 Sam 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56
Friday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday	Christmas Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**PASTORAL TEAM**

Father George E. Darling, Pastor.....	father@bsacrament.net
Darrell Beckwith, Business Managerdbeckwith@bsacrament.net
Lori Borek, Parish Secretary.....	church@bsacrament.net
Jody DeGraw, Dir of Religious Educationjdegrow@bsacrament.net
Vicki Glynn, Religious Ed. Asstvglynn@bsacrament.net
Marie LeMire, Ministry to the Sick & Elderlymlemire@bsacrament.net
Michael Debri, Principal ASA.....	mdebri@asagr.org

BY GEORGE....

Next Sunday is Christmas. It only happens once in every five or six years that Christmas falls on a Sunday. When I was a young priest I remember one of the older priests saying that Christmas Day falling on a Sunday is every pastor's nightmare and every associate pastor's dream. The reason he said this is that the pastor and not the associate pastor worries about the amount of the Sunday collections and if Christmas falls on a Sunday then the fear is that the collection will be smaller as there will be one collection for both Sunday and Christmas, whereas the associate pastor would be the one that would get to preside at most of the Masses especially when Christmas falls on a Saturday or Monday and we have Masses back to back on the three days, so he is happy not to have the successive days of Masses and having to write up multiple homilies. I have never worried about either.

This year with Christmas falling on a Sunday the question is whether we would follow the weekend schedule for Mass times or the holiday schedule for Mass times. After discussion the decision for this year is to try something a little different from each. Last year we had scheduled two Masses on Christmas Eve -- one at 4:30 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m., and one Mass on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. The schedule for Christmas is always a guestimate of when people will come. Unlike on Sundays, on Christmas the Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. is the Mass to which the greatest number of people come. Whatever time we have scheduled a second Mass on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day those Masses have far fewer participants. The numbers for last year were at the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass we had 425 participants; at the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass we had less than 100 participants, and on Christmas at the 10:00 a.m. Mass we had 104 participants. Remember that the church building has seats for 600-650 people. If we combine the two Christmas Eve Masses from last year we would have a total of 525 people which means there would still be room for an additional 100-125 people. So what we have decided this year, given the numbers from last year, is that this year we will have just one Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. and one Mass on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. If you are one of those folks who have been talking about combining the Masses on Sundays so that the church would be "fuller" then you might wish to come to Christmas Eve Mass. If you are one who likes smaller crowds such that there is less noise, commotion, and distractions during Mass then you may wish to come to the Christmas Day Mass. For next year we will learn what the numbers tell us this year.

STEWARDSHIP - WEEK OF DECEMBER 10 & 11

Week 24/52	
Adult Envelopes (116 used)	\$8,754.00
Automatic Envelopes (38 used)	1,401.00
Youth	23.50
Loose Stewardship	182.00
Total Stewardship this week	\$10,360.50
YTD	\$297,902.90
Budget YTD	\$318,461.54
Last YTD	\$318,692.65
5% Tithe this week	\$518.03
YTD Tithe	\$14,895.15

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Tues Dec 20: 9:15am **Adult Bible Study**, MPR
 1:00pm **Card Making Ministry**, MPR
 5:30-6pm **Children's Choir rehearsal**, MPR
 6-6:30pm **Honor Choir rehearsal**, MPR
 6:45pm **Adult Choir rehearsal**, MPR

LECTORS NEEDED

We are in need of new lectors to read the readings at Mass. Requirements to be a lector are to be a fully-initiated Catholic (i.e., celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and in good standing in the Church, and able to read in such a way that people in the pews can understand what was read. This is a good opportunity for high school students to get service hours should they need them. For more information, or if you are willing to help in this ministry, please contact Lori in the Parish Office at 616-447-755 or email at church@bsacrament.net. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD MINISTERS

We are currently holding Children's Liturgy during the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses. In order for our ministers to serve once a month, we are still looking for three more volunteers for 11:00am and one more for 9:00am. Please contact Vicki Glynn in the Religious Education office via email at vglynn@gsacrament.net.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be no adoration on December 21st or 28th. It will start up again on Tuesday, January 4th from 9am - 1pm in the Church.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT ST. JUDE

You are invited! Come ring in the New Year at St. Jude Parish on Saturday, December 31st from 7pm to 12:30am. There will be dinner, dancing, drinks, raffles, and a champagne toast at midnight. The cost is \$50 per person/\$100 per couple. Our party will be benefiting a great cause, the Help Pregnancy Aid Center, a local non-profit organization that provides life-giving support to women before, during and after pregnancy. Learn more at <https://helppregnancy.org/>. Please send questions to stjudenyeparty@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

AQUINAS COLLEGE IS HIRING

Aquinas College is looking to add qualified employees to its community. In addition to a comprehensive benefits package, employees and their dependents are eligible for free tuition after one year of full-time employment. Click on CAREERS at the bottom of the aquinas.edu homepage to see job listings.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS HOMEBOUND PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers our parishioner Joyce Lewis. Cards may be sent to 2279 Chesapeake Dr NE, 49505. Let Joyce know you are a parishioner and that you are thinking of her.

2233 Diamond Ave./447-2997
 4 Mile Rd./363-7725
 Michael Debri, Principal
 All Saints Academy
www.asagr.org

CALLING ALL CRAFT DONATIONS

If you have any craft items you would like to get rid of, consider donating them to All Saints Academy! Craft items in good condition, such as paper, stickers, pop-sicles sticks, yarn, etc., would be greatly used in our early childhood programs. They can be dropped off at the school office at the Lower Campus. The Lower Campus Office is open 9am - 2am December 19 - 22 & 27 - 29. Normal hours of 7:30am - 4pm will return on January 3.

ASA BLOG UPDATES

If you haven't already, check out our November & December blog posts at asatoday.blogspot.com! Our November posts included details about the Social Emotional Health grant, All Saints Day, Eaglefest, the 2022 Eagle Award winner, and Advent. Our December posts focus on third graders learning cursive and Kindergarten's number corner.

Fourth Sunday

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

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