

Blessed Sacrament Parish



2275 Diamond Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505

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bsacrament.net | church@bsacrament.net

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mass Times

Sunday 10:30 a.m. | **Tuesday** 8:30 a.m. | **Wednesday** 10:30 a.m.

Confession Times

Wednesday 11:15 a.m. to noon

Parish Staff

Fr. Christopher Epplett | Canonical Administrator | cepplett@stalphonsusgr.org

Deacon John Falicki | jfalicki@stalphonsusgr.org

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Marie LeMire | Pastoral Care Coordinator | mlemire@bsacrament.net

April 6, 2025 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Insight on the Liturgy

Regarding the Mass, one question I have heard often is phrased something like: "Why are we going back to Latin...didn't we get rid of that?" In short, the Church never "got rid of" Latin.

It's a question that has been brought up during Lent because we are currently using some of the chants in Latin for the Mass setting. These are taken directly from the Roman Missal — the book used for all the prayers during Mass. In other words, the chants and tones in the missal are, in fact, the default and, thus, preferred to other musical and chant settings. In the missal, both Latin and English translations are provided for these Mass parts (i.e. Holy, Holy and Memorial Acclamation).

While the Second Vatican Council did result in use of the vernacular in the Mass, it did not forbid or completely "get rid of" Latin, nor was that ever the intention. However, this is the common understanding — some confusion is normal following a major Church council. In reality, the documents of Vatican II emphasize the primacy of the Latin language in the Roman (Latin) Catholic Church.

The document pertaining to liturgy from Vatican II is called "Sacrosanctum Concilium" or, in English, "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy." It stated: "the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites" (SC 36). Additionally, the document promotes Latin as the "mother tongue" of the Church, stating that "steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them" (SC 54). As an example, it's sort of like a family of Polish heritage using certain Polish words or phrases in the home.

Aside from Latin, the council document also states that "the church acknowledges Gregorian chant as specially suited to the Roman liturgy" (SC 116) — another reason the missal is full of chants (though I use them sparingly overall). Lastly, various instruments can be used during Mass, but the constitution says "the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument which adds a wonderful splendor to the church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man's mind to God and to higher things" (SC 120).

So that, in brief, is what the Second Vatican Council actually said about the Mass. Nothing is "coming back" — it was never meant to go away. My hope is that we can have greater clarity on this. The goal should be a balanced approach in which we can have a deep appreciation for our roots while allowing for a certain newness and growth.

When I mention growth, it is important that we keep in mind that things in the Church are never severed/starting from scratch. What is current is in light of what was before. Everything is, in fact, a continuation, with change interpreted correctly in light of the tradition. Within the Mass this means that where there seems to be ambiguity the best clarity comes from seeing what was previously practiced. Again, I hope this offers much clarity on Mass.

Peace,
Fr. Christopher

Sunday, April 6 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 9:1-41

+Esther Heemstra

Tuesday, April 8

Mass at 8:30 a.m. | Jn 8:21-30

+Tony Hehl

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Lk 23:1-49

+Art Choma, +Virginia Schmich

Parish Events

Tuesday, April 8

9:15 a.m. Bible Study

12 p.m. Stitched with Love

7 p.m. Adult Choir

Friday, April 11

6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross



Interested in Catholicism?

Are you searching for a deeper relationship with God? Fulfillment of your purpose in life? Are you attracted to the truth, beauty, and goodness you've experienced in the Catholic Church?

Interested in becoming Catholic? Contact cepplatt@stalphonsusgr.org

Discover resources to enhance your Lenten journey

Lent is a time of grace, renewal, and conversion. And in this Jubilee Year, these 40 days offer us a profound opportunity to reflect even more deeply. Find resources to enhance your Lenten journey at GRdiocese.org/lenten-resources/ and events at GRdiocese.org/events

Religious Education Update

We're well into Lent and for some of us that's not a comfortable feeling. Maybe we fell off track weeks ago or... never got fully started. What does Lent look for you this year? Don't be deterred by the calendar. There's always time to take a step into the desert or stand at the foot of Christ's cross. "Thank you for the voice of your love that keeps singing of the power in weakness, the wealth in simplicity, and the freedom and safety that is found in walking your humble, serving way. Amen" by John van de Laar

Religious Education families please remember we are off from classes until Thursday, April 24th. This recognizes Spring Break and also gives families the opportunity to participate in the Holy Thursday evening Mass. Take advantage of the extra time off to attend Triduum services.



St. Alphonsus Lenten Fish Fry

April 11

4:30 - 7 p.m.

224 Carrier St. NE, Grand Rapids

Menu

Baked or Fried Walleye
French Fries or Baked Potato
Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw,
Grilled Cheese, Beverages,
Dessert (Donation)

Prices

Adults: \$15
Seniors: \$13
Children 5-12: \$6
Children 5 and under: Free



Easter Morning Masses

7 a.m. - St. Alphonsus

9 a.m. - St. Alphonsus

10:30 a.m. - Blessed Sacrament

Stations of the Cross

*By your Holy Cross you have
redeemed the World*

Fridays in Lent

1 p.m. - St. Alphonsus

6:30 p.m. - Blessed Sacrament

Card Ministry: Please remember in your prayers, parishioner Gloria Colon. Gloria is unable to come to Mass here. Cards to Gloria may be sent to 1551 Franklin St. SE, Apt. 2028, East Grand Rapids, 49506.

Puzzles: Be sure to explore our latest collection of puzzles in the conference room across the stairs. New donations welcome and feel free to take any return when you're finished.

Weekly Offertory

Offertory for March 30 , 2025

Adult Envelopes: \$7,751

Automatic Envelopes: \$1,036

Youth: \$2

Loose Stewardship: \$165

Total Stewardship this week: \$8,954

YTD: \$470,421.44

Budget YTD: \$487,547.17

Last YTD: \$488,084.19

5% Tithe this week: \$447.70

Tithe YTD: \$23,521.07

Thank you for your generosity!



Triduum Schedule

Holy Thursday

6:30 p.m. - St. Alphonsus

7 p.m. - Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Confession - St. Alphonsus

1:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross - St. Alphonsus

1:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Blessed Sacrament

2 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy - St. Alphonsus

2:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy - Blessed Sacrament

Easter Vigil

9:15 p.m. - St. Alphonsus & Blessed Sacrament



Thursday 4/17 6pm



Friday 4/18 1:15pm



Monday 4/21 5:30pm

Catechesis of The Good Shepherd: Easter Triduum

Families with children of all ages are invited to experience the Easter Triduum with scriptural presentations, prayer, songs, and discussions designed specifically for young children.

Holy Thursday April 17,
6 pm
(immediately prior to the
6:30pm Mass)

The Cenacle This scriptural account of the Last Supper helps the children visualize Jesus's Passover meal with His disciples and the institution of the Eucharist with His words "Take and eat, this is my Body; take and drink, this is my Blood."

Good Friday April 18th,
1:15pm
City of Jerusalem Using a three-dimensional map of Jerusalem, we will walk with Jesus from the site of the Last Supper through the events of Good Friday. The children will get a sense of where these events took place within the city to help them visualize the events from Jesus's Passion, grounding these passages in a real, physical location.

Liturgy of Light Monday
April 21, 5:30 pm

This beautiful liturgy celebrates Jesus's Resurrection, proclaiming Him as "the Light of the World" (John 8:12), giving each of us His Light to share with others. The goal of this liturgy is to help your children enter fully into the life of the Church and the mystery of the Easter Vigil. The liturgy lasts approximately 40 minutes and includes the engraving and lighting of a mini-Paschal Candle and a procession with singing!



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