

Blessed Sacrament Parish



2275 Diamond Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Phone: (616) 447 - 7554

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

Brenda Ormstad | Finance Manager | bormstad@bsacrament.net

Maureen Cromwell | Director of Religious Education | mcromwell@stalphonsusgr.org

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

Bulletin submissions: communication@stalphonsusgr.org

May 11, 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Easter



Catholic Services Appeal

We ask that you prayerfully consider giving a gift to this year's Catholic Service Appeal which help support ministries like Seminarian Education, Catholic Schools, Catholic Charities, Communication, Cultural Ministries and Catechesis. Visit GRdiocese.org/CSA to make a donation online or call the Finance office to give the gift of a stock, IRA, charitable distribution or Donor Advised Fund at 616-475-1253 or fill out a pledge card and return to the parish or by mail.



Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher appreciation week was this past week! All week All Saints Academy's Home and School Association celebrated and thanked the amazing teachers and staff that work at ASA. Take a moment to thank a teacher if you see one at mass today!

Phone: 616-447-2997
Website: asagr.org
Blog: asatoday.blogspot.com



Sunday, May 11 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 10:27-30

+Richard & +Dolores Powers

Tuesday, May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima

Mass at 8:30 a.m. | Jn 10:22-30

+Dave Wrona, +Art & Esther Choma

Wednesday, May 14 - St. Matthew

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 15:9-7

+Dolores Falicki

Sunday, May 18 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

+Jlm Liszewski

Parish Events

Tuesday, May 13

noon. Stitched with Love

7 p.m. Adult Choir

Wednesday, May 14

11:15 a.m. to noon. Confession

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adoration

Join Fr. Christopher for a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center

Searching for peace? On May 14, join Catholic Charities West Michigan as we embark on a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. Inspired by the life and example of Blessed Solanus Casey, the center serves as a place of pilgrimage, healing, reconciliation, and peace—a perfect opportunity to draw closer to God in this Jubilee Year. Celebrate Mass, tour the center, and more. Tickets are \$70, which includes your bus ride to and from the center along with lunch. For more information or to register, visit ccwestmi.org/jubilee-year. Questions? Please reach out to Sarah Stechschulte at sstechschulte@ccwestmi.org.



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@stalphonesgr.org

Congratulations to First Communion Students!



Our First Communion Students received their Sacrament on May 4. They spent this last year preparing and with the help and support of their catechist, parents and families, we welcome them to the Table of the Lord. May they continue to grow in their faith by the graces received through the Eucharist

Aila J., Emilia P., Finley W., Jack C., Luke G., Madison G., Henry G., Alexander M., Isa Z., Isaiah P., and Adeline S.

Card Ministry: Please remember in your prayers, parishioner Gladys Waranica. Gladys is unable to come to Mass. Cards to Gladys may be sent to 2000 Leonard St NE, 49505. Feel free to include a birthday greeting, she is celebrating her birthday this month.

Weekly Offertory

Offertory for May 4, 2025

Adult Envelopes: \$10,556

Automatic Envelopes: \$3,791

Youth: \$1

Loose Stewardship: \$505

Total Stewardship this week: \$814,853

YTD: \$527,625.84

Budget YTD: \$548,490.57

Last YTD: \$560,269.59

5% Tithe this week: \$742.65

Tithe YTD: \$26,381.29

Thank you for your generosity!

ROOTED IN CHRIST PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS

May 2025 | Update #2
GR North Deanery

As we continue this pastoral planning process, we return to our Scriptural theme (Col 2:6-7). Just as Saint Paul encourages the Colossians to remain steadfast in their journey with Christ, an effective pastoral plan should cultivate strong spiritual roots, foster ongoing formation and growth, and inspire a community filled with thanksgiving. Change can be difficult, but as Saint Paul challenged the early Church, we too, must be rooted in Christ to bear fruit for the kingdom.

What information is being used to make recommendations?

Recommendations are based on parish site visits, interviews with pastors, an assessment of criteria for vital parishes, and statistical information. Statistical information includes census data, community demographics, and sacramental and Mass count numbers provided by each parish.

How many priests will be available for ministry in the next decade?

Based on a survey from CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate), the number of priests available for active ministry in the diocese is projected to decrease by six in the next ten years. The average ordination rate of new priests has been steady over the past ten years at two ordinations per year. We do not have any priestly ordinations in 2025. Currently, seven priests over age 71 are assigned to parishes. They are eligible to retire at any time, which makes the immediate situation dire.

Scan the QR code below to view the full key findings report for the GR North Deanery



What do the community demographics for the GR North Deanery show for the next 5-10 years?

- The population is forecast to increase by about 6.5% over the next decade or approximately 13,000 new residents. Approximately 3,440 of the residents could be Catholic. Most of the growth will take place in the Rockford area and to the east of Grand Rapids.
- As part of these projections, the age 35-54 group and the age 65+ group are anticipated to increase more than other age groups. The age 65+ group is forecasted to more than double in size from 2010.
- About 26.9% of all residents (about 52,500 people) are Catholic, which is higher than the national average of 25.9%. Membership at parishes in the deanery is approximately 29,606 Catholics and is increasing. The parishes register about 56.3% of all self-identifying Catholics in the area, which is the highest percentage of all the deaneries in the diocese.
- Only 39.6% of all residents are involved in any religious community. This means that 60.4% of residents do not belong to any church. Some of these residents are self-identifying Catholics who have not joined any parish. 23.2% of all residents have no religious preference and are referred to as "nones."

What happens next?

Parish leaders continue to review and revise drafts. A final version of the plan will be presented to Bishop Walkowiak this summer.

Questions? Contact Pattie Reynolds, diocesan project coordinator, preynolds@grdiocese.org.



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