

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 18, 2025 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

Make Disciples

During this Easter Season we have been reading through the Acts of the Apostles. Filled with the Holy Spirit, the first disciples were on fire to spread faith in Jesus to anyone willing to listen and open their hearts. How can we renew such missionary hearts?

As we reflect upon this, the call to be on mission was a central theme during the pontificate of Pope Francis. Behind this was his reminder that at the heart of the gospel is the Great Commission to “go make disciples of all nations.” To make clear what the mission (proclaiming the gospel) as well as what it means to be a missionary disciple, Pope Francis warned against a “worldly Church that lives in itself, of itself, for itself.” In other words, the Church exists to evangelize, not to be a club where people merely gather for social interaction.

Unfortunately, many people may have reduced what Pope Francis meant in this call to missionary zeal as simply a mission to meeting human needs. It seems often we ourselves make the word “mission” synonymous merely with assisting the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable. While these are all good and important things — we should be very attentive to love of our neighbors — we cannot do these things while ignoring our primary focus and mission to preach the gospel. We must become like the apostles in Acts — so overwhelmed by our encounter with Jesus that we have to tell everyone who will listen. The history of the Church has always found the means to spread the gospel in various times and circumstance to a variety of cultures by employing specific strategies to those contexts (for example, Jesuit missionaries who brought Catholicism to North America in the 17th century). We live in a time in desperate need of the gospel, even if those same people are hostile towards Christianity. Let’s face it, that was the case for the first apostles and it did not deter them even to the point that they rejoiced over persecution.

As we discern and employ ways to evangelize particular to our time, we see the important groundwork laid by the predecessors to Pope Francis, particularly Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Both greatly emphasized evangelization and the new means and methods through which we would be called to do it (coined the New Evangelization by St. John Paul II).

Our call in all times and ages is to evangelize. In these times, we must move out of ourselves...mobilize as a Church. It begins in our own parish. We cannot sit and wait for people to come to us. Finally, this brings me to Pope Leo XIV. I have already emphasized a certain continuity in recent papacies. I believe our new pontiff will do the same to inspire mission to evangelize, as already indicated in the few times he has spoken. My early prediction is Pope Leo will be known as the “gentle pope,” exuding the fruit of gentleness in a particular way as he leads the Church in a continued renewal to go outside itself...to go and make disciples.

-Fr. Christopher

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences Coming Up!

Nurture your Sacrament of Marriage at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience! Upcoming experiences are being held June 16-18 (midweek) at Center for Ministry in Saginaw, Aug. 1-3 and Oct. 3-5 at Augustine Center in Petoskey, and Nov. 21-23 at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Detroit. Apply today at wwme.org or contact Amy & Joe Kopacz at 517-667-0433 for more info.

Sunday, May 18- Fifth Sunday Easter

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

+Jim Liszewski

Tuesday, May 20 -

Mass at 8:30 a.m. | Jn 14:27-31a

+Loraine Weber

Wednesday, May 21 -

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 15:1-8

+Mariae Firlit

Sunday, May 25 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 14:23-29

+Jane McQuillan, For the People

Parish Events

Monday, May 19

5:45 p.m. Ladies Bunco

Tuesday, May 20

1 p.m. Card Making Ministry

7 p.m. Adult Choir

Wednesday, May 21

11:15 to noon Confession

11 - 3 Adoration

Thursday, May 22

4:30 p.m. Euchre

Different channel for TV Mass on May 25

The regularly scheduled broadcast of televised Mass from the cathedral will be moved to Antenna TV on May 25 due to the Indianapolis 500 airing on FOX 17. Mass will still air at 10 a.m. and return to FOX 17 the following weekend. You can also watch Mass on the diocesan YouTube channel and website. Antenna TV Channel Finder: <https://antennatv.tv/channel-finder/>



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



Catholic Services Appeal

Our 2025 Goal is \$95,049
Current CSA Pledges as of May 11, 2025:
48 - \$15,495 Pledges at Blessed Sacrament
2 - \$0 Pledges
8 - \$11,160 On-line Pledges at Diocese
= 58 at \$26,655: 28% of Goal: \$68,394 remaining to reach goal



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

May crowning
This past Wednesday and
Thursday ASA staff and
students crowned Mary at the
Lower and Upper Campuses.



Euchre Night



Please join us for an evening of Euchre Thursday, May 22 at 4:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Blessed Sacrament. Snacks/hors d'oeuvres are welcome. RSVP to Marie LeMire at 616-260-4685.

Card Ministry: Please remember in your prayers, parishioner Ken & Mary Benson. They are unable to come to Mass. Cards to Ken & Mary may be sent to 2133 Diamond NE, 49505.

Weekly Offertory

Offertory for May 11, 2025

Adult Envelopes: \$4,404
Automatic Envelopes: \$1,036
Youth: \$1
Loose Stewardship: \$523
Total Stewardship this week: \$5,984

YTD: \$533,609.84
Budget YTD: \$560,679.25
Last YTD: \$596,971.74
5% Tithe this week: \$299.20
Tithe YTD: \$26,680.49
Thank you for your generosity!

— HAPPY — Retirement

Reception for Darrell Beckwith

Please join us after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on June 1 for a reception for Darrell Beckwith. Darrell is retiring after 6.5 years as the All Saints Academy and Blessed Sacrament Church Business Manager.

Save the Date!

Blessed Sacrament Garage
Sale: Friday June 20 & Saturday
June 21



Diocese of Grand Rapids is Hiring!

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about sharing the Catholic faith to fill positions in our Catholic schools, parishes, and at the diocese.

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