

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 25, 2025 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

Faith is a Relationship

The vision I have set forth for the parishes is to “offer every person transformational encounters with Jesus.” This past Sunday, the homily was a reminder that our encounter with Jesus is meant to have a personal dimension. While we as Catholics are often good with the communal dimensions of faith, we cannot neglect our personal, lived relationship with our Lord Jesus.

An interchangeable term with “transformational” is “life-changing.” Both words are useful to discern how I have encountered Jesus in a personal way. I believe there is an initial encounter we have with Jesus that alters our life forever. It’s sort of like the first disciples meeting Jesus on the seashore or like St. Paul being knocked to the ground and hearing the Lord ask why he is persecuting him. Subsequently, we have many other encounters that transform us and lead us deeper into our relationship with God.

The challenging part is we do not talk about this very much. And, if this is not part of your own faith experience, then faith becomes cold and usually results in a more transactional relationship with God. But God is not a vending machine. And our faith does not teach us that we earn God’s favor, nor our salvation by being nice and doing good. That’s actually a heresy. Yet, we have a tendency to think this way and easily fall into this trap.

In reality our faith is a relationship, which is covenantal. This is why I’ve been highlighting the imagery of our relationship as spousal. The first covenant was marriage. Marriage is all about love. We say God is love. Our relationship with God mirrors the love of God: faithful, free, total, and fruitful. And, as I said this past Sunday, it is expressed most fully on the Cross, which shows us love is sacrificial and is self-gift.

However, if we have made our relationship with Jesus nothing more than showing up to Mass each Sunday, but we never pray, we have no warmth or intimacy with God, then faith becomes empty and there is no true expression of love. The personal dimension of faith is essential to having faith at all. In fact, the beginning of living faith is this personal encounter with Jesus in which we accept him into our hearts. From this flows the fruit of the heart to evangelize and, secondarily, the desire to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy in serving others. To be clear, first and foremost, love of neighbor is sharing Jesus with others by evangelizing them about the saving work of Jesus Christ.

-Fr. Christopher Epplert

G.I.F.T.E.D. Group

Do you know of an adult with special needs who is interested in deepening their faith? Our G.I.F.T.E.D. Group (Growing in Faith Together Everyday) might be just the perfect fit. We meet in St. Alphonsus Parish lounge the first and third Sunday during the school year (monthly during the summer) from noon to 1 p.m. We pray together, read the weekly gospel, discuss how it applies to us, and engage in an activity. We sing and share so much laughter together that we’re clearly given a glimpse of God’s kingdom every time we gather. Questions: faithformation@stalphonsusgr.org

Sunday, May 25 - Sixth

Sunday of Easter

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

+Jane McQuillan, For the People

Tuesday, May 27

Mass at 8:30 a.m. | Jn 16:5-11

+Richard Prince

Wednesday, May 28

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 16:12-17

+David Dodge

Sunday, June 1 - Ascension of the Lord

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Lk 24:46-53

+Thomas Bednarek

PARISH EVENTS

Tuesday, May 27

noon. Stitched with Love

7 p.m. Adult Choir

Wednesday, May 21

11:15 to noon Confession

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

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 Fr. Christopher
cepplert@stalphonsusgr.org

Catholic Services Appeal



Our 2025 Goal is \$95,049

Current CSA Pledges as of May 20:

94 pledges - \$29,880 + \$11,160 online pledges via diocese

TOTAL PLEDGED - \$41,040 (43.2% of goal)

\$54,009 remaining to reach goal



Phone: 616-447-2997

Website: asagr.org

Blog: asatoday.blogspot.com

Please Pray for Us! We ask all parishioners of our founding parishes to pray for the faculty and staff at ASA as we strive to form saints to serve all. We also ask that you keep our students in your prayers, as well, as they grow in Christ. Through Christ all things are possible!

Join us for Mass! ASA students in grades K-8 attend Mass each week and you are invited to join! Lower Campus students (K-2) 10:30 a.m. Mass Wednesdays at Blessed Sacrament...Upper Campus students (grades 3-8) 8:30 a.m. Thursdays at St. Jude. Our final school Masses of the school year are June 4 and 5.

ALL ARE INVITED TO

CAMPFIRE CATECHISM

An evening of Q&A with Fr. Christopher answering questions on our Catholic faith.

Bring a lawn chair and a beverage and join us for a bonfire outside at the circle drive outside the rectory.

June 12 | 6:30 p.m.

St. Alphonsus Parish

Card Ministry: Please remember in your prayers parishioner Frank Dusendang. Frank is unable to come to Mass. Feel free to include a note as he is celebrating his birthday this month. Cards to Frank may be sent to 834 Purchase DR NE, 49525.

Weekly Offertory - May 18

Adult Envelopes: \$15,888

Automatic Envelopes: \$3,026

Youth: \$1

Loose Stewardship: \$818

Total Stewardship this week: \$19,733

YTD: \$554,237.84

Budget YTD: \$572,867.92

Last YTD: \$581,602.24

5% Tithe this week: \$986.65

Tithe YTD: \$27,711.89



Save the date for Vacation Bible School!

July 21-24, 2025

Come join us for a Wilderness Adventure! VBS will be offered for kids who will be 4 years old or entering grades K-5 in the next school year. Teen volunteers are welcome for many roles. More information to come.

GARAGE SALE



Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m. to noon

Help needed to move racks and supplies from the garage to the Family Center. Donations accepted during that time.

**Monday - Thursday, June 16 - 19
8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Donations accepted and help is greatly needed to sort, hang, unload and display donations.

Friday, June 20, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Help is greatly appreciated during the sale.

Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Help is greatly appreciated during the sale and at 3 p.m. for clean-up.

Contact Marie LeMire at 616-260-4685 with questions.



May 25, 2025 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

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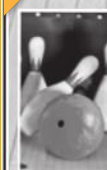


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