

Blessed Sacrament Parish

2275 Diamond Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Phone: (616) 447 - 7554

bsacrament.net | church@bsacrament.net



Mass Times

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

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

June 1, 2025 | Ascension of the Lord

Journey of Discipleship

In continuing our reflection upon personal encounters with Jesus, I want to point our attention to the end goal – entering into discipleship, then growing in that discipleship. To be clear, we cannot truly be disciples without first a personal encounter with Jesus.

In one way this seems obvious, but it also has not been the common language in our Catholic faith for a number of years. Or, at the least, we haven't talked about it enough. Remember, too, just because I've had a life-changing encounter with Jesus, doesn't mean my faith is not at stake. It doesn't mean there is no way I will backtrack or even forget the encounter. The struggle of faith throughout all of scripture is one of memory—the memory of God working in my life.

Remember, Judas encountered Jesus and later rejected him. Peter encountered him, denied him, then came back to find a deeper encounter: "Peter, do you love me?" Likewise, this shows that it is not just a one-time event, but there will be many personal encounters with Jesus in our lifetime. There usually is an initial one that stands out as well as some other key moments later.

The past few popes have focused on this encounter, perhaps most profoundly when Pope Benedict XVI said: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." In other words, faith and the journey of discipleship begins with this encounter. Benedict goes on to say: "Christianity is not an intellectual system, a collection of dogmas, or a moralism. Christianity is an encounter, a love story; it is an event."

His words are expounding upon those of his predecessor, St. John Paul II who said: "It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness. He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you. He is the beauty to which you are so attracted." St. John Paul II, in fact, said the goal of learning anything in our faith is to grow in intimacy with Jesus. In Catechesis Tradendae he wrote: "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

Finally, Pope Francis said in his 2013 Holy Saturday homily: Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms." Whatever distance we have created in how we live our faith, let us close the gap to begin the journey of discipleship.

Peace,
Fr. Christopher Epplert

Sunday, June 1 - Ascension of the Lord

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Lk 24:46-53
+Thomas Bednarek, For the People

Tuesday, June 3

Mass at 8:30 a.m. | Jn 17: 1-11a
+Donald Hazelswart

Wednesday, June 4

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 17: 11b-19
+Michael DeWitt

Sunday, June 8 - Pentecost

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Jn 20:19-23
+Ken West

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday, June 1

11:30 a.m. Retirement Reception
for Darrell Beckwith

Wednesday, June 4

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

Friday, June 6

5 p.m. Young Family Faith Night

HOLY BAPTISM



We warmly welcome **Emma Kristine Pape** who was recently baptized in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We pray for God's continued blessings on her and her family.

Young Family Faith Night

Join us June 6 at 5 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church for Adoration. You are welcome to pray for the entire hour or drop in with your family. After join us for a hotdog and burger cookout. There is a playground and plenty of green space on the parish grounds so the kids will have plenty of room to run around! Please bring one of the following: Watermelon, pasta salad (gluten-free if possible), chips, potato salad, fruits and or veggies or juice boxes. **Please email Jacob at jacob@pmhomes.us to RSVP.**

2025-26 plan for Family Nights: Every other month from June until April. Stay tuned for details!

Catholic Services Appeal



Our 2025 Goal is \$95,049

Current CSA Pledges as of May 20:

107 pledges - \$32,480 + \$14,760 online pledges via diocese

TOTAL PLEDGED - \$47,240 (49.7% of goal)

\$47,809 remaining to reach goal



Phone: 616-447-2997

Website: asagr.org

Blog: asatoday.blogspot.com

The Profile of an ASA Graduate

When a student graduates from All Saints Academy, they have spent 9 or more years learning to live out our core values of Faith, Learning, Loving, & Serving. Students at ASA are continually called to be Christ in action and to share their faith by their actions and their words. Countless hours of community service are tallied each year, but more importantly, the ASA community strives to love and serve God in the daily routine of living, with respect, concern and care for each other. Students graduate from ASA with a solid foundation of Catholic values and academic excellence to thrive in high school and beyond! We look forward to celebrating the All Saints Academy Class of 2025 on June 2.

ALL ARE INVITED TO

CAMPFIRE CATECHISM

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



June 12 | 6:30 p.m.

St. Alphonsus Parish

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

Card Ministry: Please remember in your prayers parishioner Dave Homant. Dave is unable to come to Mass. Cards to Dave may be sent to 263 Shore Haven DR SE, Grand Rapids, 49546.

Weekly Offertory - May 25

Adult Envelopes: \$6,144

Automatic Envelopes: \$3,785

Youth: \$1

Loose Stewardship: \$226

Total Stewardship this week: \$10,156

YTD: \$568,256.42

Budget YTD: \$585,056.60

Last YTD: \$594,384.48

5% Tithe this week: \$507.80

Tithe YTD: \$28,412.82



Vacation Bible School

July 21-24, 2025 9 a.m. to noon

All Saints Academy in collaboration with Blessed Sacrament and St. Alphonsus will offer **Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments!** Vacation Bible School will be available for children who are 4 years old or entering grades K-5 in the upcoming school year.

Join the VBS Team: Adult and teen volunteers are welcome for many roles. Teens entering grades 6-12 in the upcoming school year are invited to serve on the music team, art team, and skit team. They may also serve as a Trail Guide or assist at the craft, games, snack or faith station. Join the fun!

**To register volunteer or questions
please contact Rebecca at
rebecca@stalphonsusgr.org
or (616) 821-4899**

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.

Questions? Marie at 616-260-4685



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