



Blessed Sacrament Parish

Offering Transformational Encounters with Jesus

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.

Parish Staff

Fr. Christopher Epplett | Canonical Administrator | cepplott@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 22, 2025 | Corpus Christi

Let the Little Ones come to Me

I've received apologies on numerous occasions for loud children during Mass. These well meaning gestures are usually something like, "Father, I am so sorry about those distracting children. It must be difficult for you to keep focus up there." Typically, my response is that I didn't even notice. It's true.

Maybe it's a grace from God or my love of hearing children in their element, but I am sincere in saying it does not bother me and I am not distracted by young children screaming or making loud noises or running around during Mass. I am not writing this to condone their behavior, but to confirm the reality that parenting is tough (especially during Mass) and kids will be kids at times. I also realize we need to give a lot of grace to young families who may be struggling with multiple little ones during Mass.

Of course, every one parents a little differently. And children are different today than there were 15, 25, or more years ago. Also, we cannot judge certain behaviors, as a child may have developmental disabilities of which we are unaware. Ultimately, having some disruption of children during Mass is actually a sign of healthiness in the parish. It means we, as a Church, are raising up new little ones in the faith so that we can hand on to them what we ourselves have received.

For those distracted by the children, the crying and fidgeting can be a legitimate distraction. However, it is part of being church. Thus, we must learn how to deal with this reality properly and healthily. Embracing it is necessary toward being a hospitable parish. By the way, I intentionally use the word "hospitable" because the word "welcoming" has been often overused in our parish vocabulary and does not quite encompass what we should be striving for as we invite people into our buildings. More on that later.

As we continue to grow our parishes, my hope is more young families will get involved and become active members of these communities. This may mean more and more noise and distraction, but this ought to be seen as a great good and a sign of health and growth. Sacrifice is part of growing. Instead of judging or staying in negative spirits about it, I invite all of us to see the positive signs it brings. Consider offering in kind ways to show places where overly-disruptive children may be taken (the cry room at Blessed Sacrament and back/narthex of the Church at St. Alphonsus).

You may also want to offer to help a struggling parent with his or her children. Most parishioners are parents and/or have the skills to help with difficult children and situations. Remember, we are a family, so we should offer to support each other as members of that family.

Peace,
Fr. Christopher

Mass & Gospel Reading

Sunday, June 22- Corpus Christi

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Lk 9:11b-17
+Mary Kandra, For the People

Tuesday, June 24 - Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Mass at 8:30 a.m. | Lk 1:5-17
+Camilla Stonefeld

Sunday, June 29 - St. Peter & Paul Apostles

Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Mt 16:13-19
+Deacon George & +Virginia LeMire

PARISH EVENTS

Monday, June 23

5:45 p.m. Ladies Bunco

Thursday, June 26

7 p.m. Revive Basketball

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 at cepplett@stalphonsusgr.org

Prayer for Vocations



O God, hear our prayer and let our cry come to You. Bless the Diocese of Grand Rapids with many vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. Give Your sons and daughters the confidence to accept Your call, and the love to follow always in the footsteps of Your beloved Son with courage and dedication to Your will.

Amen



Altar Server Training

We are seeking to train new altar servers to serve at the weekend Masses. Those entering fourth grade or higher are eligible to learn how to serve in this important role. To express interest, parents can email Fr. Christopher, including the best days/times for training, cepplett@stalphonsusgr.org. Please also include child's age, grade, parish(es), and any other relevant information. Training will occur later this summer



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

Become a sponsor!

Would you like to give the gift of Catholic Education? Many of our parish families struggle to afford Catholic school tuition. Some decide they simply can't afford it, even though they want to provide their children with the blessings that such an education provides. You can help! All Saints Academy's Tuition Angel program makes it possible for you to donate to ASA, and direct your donation to help a youngster learn and grow in God's word. Make a real difference in the life of a child! Please call 616-447-2997, or go to our webpage to learn how you can make a difference today and for years.

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.

July 9 | 6:30 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Parish

Card Ministry: Please remember in your prayers parishioner Virgil & Margaret Baker. They are both celebrating their birthdays this month. Cards can be sent to 2431 Forest Hill Ave SE, Apt 3202, Grand Rapids, 49546.

Weekly Offertory - June 15

Adult Envelopes: \$10,535.02
Automatic Envelopes: \$3,026
Youth: \$1

Loose Stewardship: \$323

Total Stewardship this week: \$13,873

YTD: \$599,174.20

Budget YTD: \$621,622.64

Last YTD: \$630,114.98

5% Tithe this week: \$694.25

Tithe YTD: \$29,958.71



Vacation Bible School

July 21-24 | 9 a.m. to noon

All Saints Academy in collaboration with Blessed Sacrament and St Alphonsus parishes 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, art, or skit teams. We also need Trail Guides and assistants at the craft, games, snack or faith station. Join the fun!



Please donate to support the Wilderness Adventure Vacation Bible School this summer. We need various supplies and appreciate your help. Check the VBS Donation area after Masses or contact Rebecca at rebecca@stalphonsusgr.org or (616) 821- 4899 for details. Thank you!

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

Revive Basketball Group for Women

Thursday Nights from 7 - 8 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Family Gym



Calling all women basketball players of all skill levels. Revive women's basketball group is always looking for women to join the fun! Join them year round. It is occasionally cancelled so please call or text Brittany Renne at 616-901-3107 or Mary Pereira at 616-240-7896 if you are interested. you can expect to get your heart rate up, have a great game of basketball and enjoy plenty of laughs! We hope to see you there.

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