

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Offering Transformational Encounters with Jesus

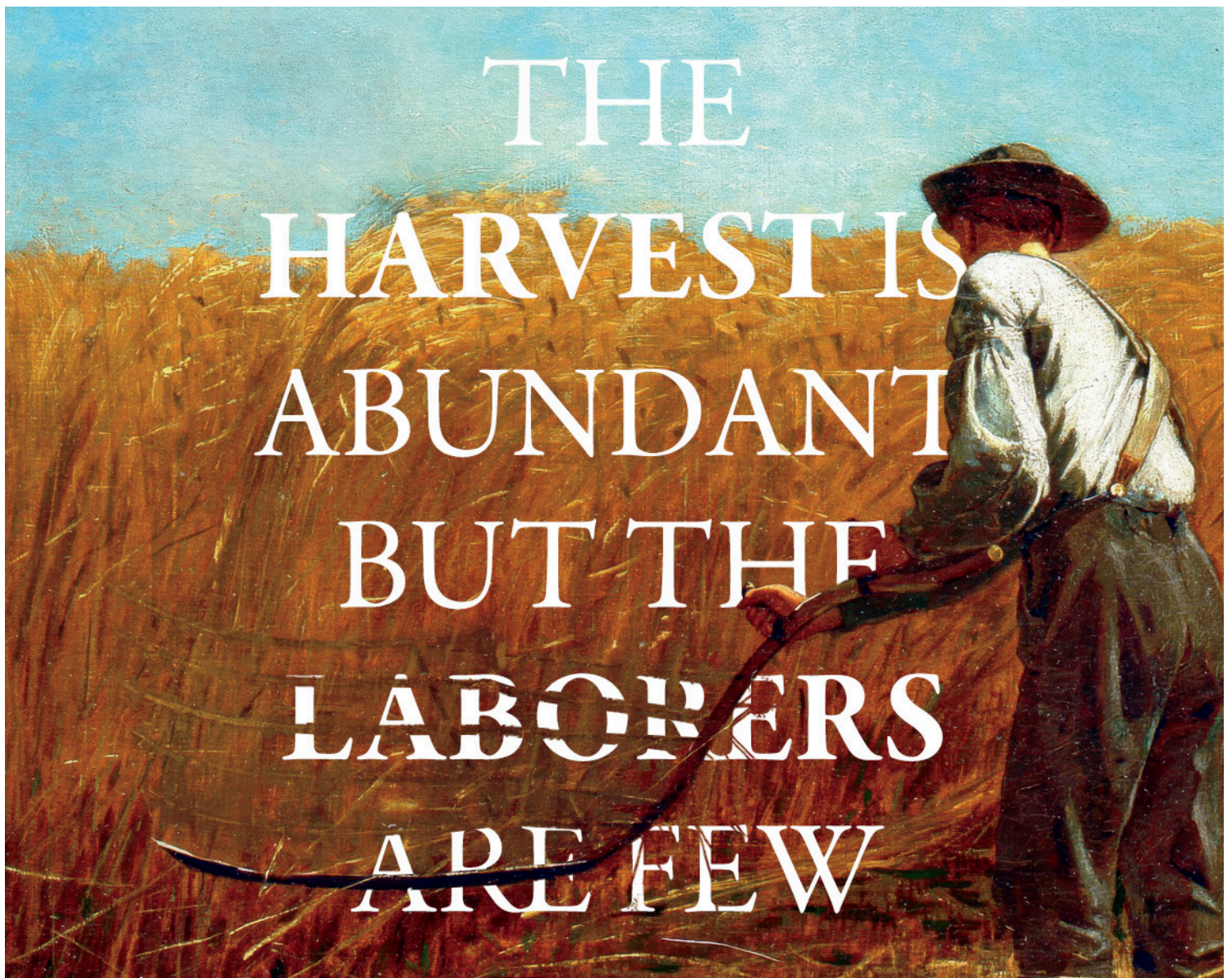
2275 Diamond Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Phone: (616) 447 - 7554 | bsacrament.net | church@bsacrament.net

Mass Times: Sunday 10:30 a.m. | Tuesday 8:30 a.m.

Fr. Christopher Epplett | Canonical Administrator | cepplett@stalphonsusgr.org

Bulletin submissions: communication@stalphonsusgr.org



July 6, 2025 | Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Parish Schedule

Sunday, July 6 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 a.m. **Mass** | Lk 10:1-12,17-20
+David Dodge

Tuesday, July 8

8:30 a.m. **Mass** | Mt 9:32-38
+Ken West
6:30 p.m. **Knights of Columbus Meeting**

Thursday, July 10

7:00 p.m. **Revive Ladies Basketball**

Friday, July 11 – Memorial of St. Benedict

Sunday, July 13 – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 a.m. **Mass** | Lk 10:25-37
+Tony Hehl Jr.

Garage Sale Update

Praise the Lord we had workers and plenty of donations for the garage sale. For those who were able to work in the Family Center, donate items, put a sign in your yard or in a high traffic area, deliver and/or pick up donations, put up/take down tables, cook lunch, bake treats, set-up/clean-up Saturday, pray for us, and all of the many little and big things that were needed to make the sale possible, we are so very, very grateful! The profit for your generosity of time, talent and treasures was just over \$6,900.

Card Ministry

Please remember in your prayers parishioner Maureen Meade. Feel free to include a birthday wish as she is celebrating her birthday this month. Cards to Maureen may be sent to 1039 Evelyn NE, Grand Rapids, 49505.



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!

We Pray for You

Our staff and students pray that members of our founding parishes and all members of the Catholic church had a safe, happy and healthy Fourth of July.

Apostolic Mission: Vision and Leadership

Prior to last summer, I led a parish vision meeting at St. Alphonsus. As we will now operate as an official cluster between St. Alphonsus and Blessed Sacrament, the vision is one that can unite both parishes. Led by one Pastor, we can be united in one pastoral plan with a clear and singular vision.

During last year's vision meeting, I reiterated our vision and the three pillars by which we follow it along with some key initiatives/areas of focus. Our vision is to "offer transformational encounters with Jesus," carried out in the stages of Encounter, Enrich, and Engage. The tactics, strategies, programs, and events through which this becomes a reality is part of the ongoing discernment. Two things are important to the work undertaken in this vision:

1. Our goal cannot be to simply maintain things as they are, which means we must shift from maintenance to mission. The Great Commission is the mission we undertake in this vision of offering encounters with Jesus. The life-changing news of the gospel requires us to go out, not stay inward and maintain our parishes as social clubs of mere membership. We must go out and make disciples!
2. We no longer live in Christendom (Christianity having a significant influence on culture). This means how we carry out this mission and operate as parishes requires a significant shift toward an Apostolic zeal.

Over this past year, I have continued to work with our staff to build upon the foundations of this vision, which has also included merging staff between both parishes and hiring new people. At this stage in the implementation, some of the staff has rotated out for a variety of reasons and new members have joined. The next stage is forming the staff to become a team. We are getting closer and closer as the right people are coming on board as employees. This should result in better operational health, more clear and consistent communication, and healthy modeling to parishioners on how to carry out and engage in the vision. I apologize for anyone in leadership who may have contributed to confusion or influenced a lack of clarity or confidence in the direction of the parish. I pledge to work diligently to continue to build a cohesive team and to help form them in the vision of the parish and team values as we move forward.

Throughout all of this, my hope is to help everyone have a better understanding of how I will continue to operate as a leader. While the priest can often be viewed as someone who merely celebrates Mass, dispenses sacraments, and handles spiritual matters, his role as the Pastor also means he is the primary leader of the parish. The governance of the priesthood cannot be disregarded – administrative tasks are necessary and vital to the healthiness of the parish. And this has to come by way of leadership from the Pastor. We are not doing one thing on Sunday and another thing during the week. Sunday is connected to how we operate every day of the week. Everything flows from our worship and back to our worship.

My promise to you is to be a man of intense prayer and discernment. The interior life is integral to pastoral work. The leadership model is to pray, share what the Lord is showing me, get to work, then continually bring it back to prayer as we build upon the vision. The work requires me to form and lead a healthy team of employees to help implement the vision and share it in a way that inspires parishioners to get involved. As always, your feedback, especially positive reinforcement, is welcomed.

On that note, this process includes much consultation along the way. This is also a vital role of the staff team. In addition, I am constantly employing the mentorship of other priests as well as expert lay workers. Consultation with the finance councils, pastoral council, leadership team, and parishioners are also key. Right now, admittedly, we are still in the process of implementing functional operational health, which means there have been and will continue to be some growing pains. What I am asking of you, the parishioners, is patience and prayers – giving the benefit of the doubt and disengaging from gossip and the rumor mill. To that last point, I strongly encourage you to directly speak to me for clarity along the way – a short email, quick phone call, or meeting over coffee to chat or in my office – instead of making presumptions or engaging in passthrough communication and triangulation. If something hasn't been communicated well on our end, please ask clarifying questions instead of making presumptions or jumping to negative conclusions.

Ultimately, this is the Lord's work, which means it relies upon God's grace. Human work is limited to natural results. Prayer allows this to be the Lord's work, opening us to supernatural graces that can have a supernatural impact. Get ready to be overwhelmed by how the Holy Spirit will work in powerful ways!

Peace,
Fr. Christopher

Weekly Offertory - June 29

Adult Envelopes: \$4,963
Automatic Envelopes: \$3,785
Youth:
Loose Stewardship: \$784
Total Stewardship this week: \$9,532

YTD: \$608,706.20
Budget YTD: \$646,000
Last YTD: \$641,501.01
5% Tithe this week: \$476.60
Tithe YTD: \$30,435.31

July 6, 2025 | Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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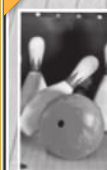


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