

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Offering Transformational Encounters with Jesus

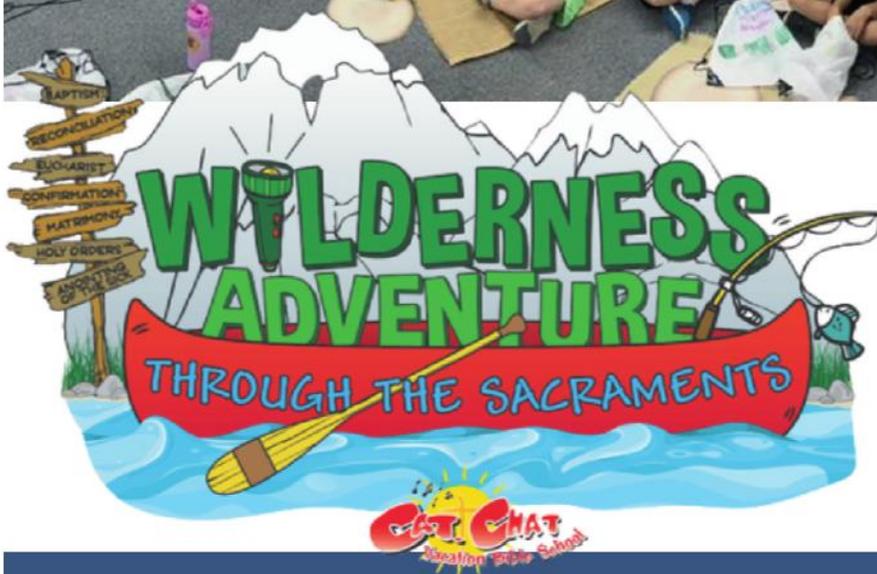
2275 Diamond Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505

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

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

Fr. Christopher Epplett | Pastor | cepplett@stalphonsusgr.org

Bulletin submissions: communication@stalphonsusgr.org



We had an adventure with the Sacraments at VBS! Thank you to all who volunteered and participated to make it a great time!

July 27, 2025 | Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor Installation Mass

Father Christopher will be formally installed at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on August 17th. Bishop Walkowiak will be at Blessed Sacrament for this special occasion. There will be a small reception after Mass. Contact Marie LeMire at 616-260-4685 if you would like to help with the reception.

Christian Service Update

GOD'S KITCHEN: Serving more than 77,000 hot meals in 2024 to those in need in West Michigan, God's Kitchen has been struggling to restock protein amid rising food costs. The most desperate need is ground beef. Donations can be made 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday at 303 Division Ave S, Grand Rapids. Questions? Contact Jeff Hoyh at (616) 454-4110 or jhoyh@ccwestmi.org

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM: We are excited to announce our collaboration with Catholic Charities of West Michigan for our back-to-school initiative! Catholic Charities is collecting school supplies as they prepare for their Back-to-School event! Supplies can be purchased then dropped off in the labeled blue bins in the narthex, in the parish office, or sent directly to CCWM through the Amazon wish list: <https://a.co/7iNWDg4>. The last weekend to drop off donations is the weekend of August 2-3.

CSA Update

Total Pledged: \$62,445

Total Paid: \$40,430

Goal: \$95,049

Goal Balance: \$54,619

Percentage of Goal Met: 65%

Thank you for your generosity.



Parish Schedule

Sunday, July 27 – Seventeenth Sunday in OT

10:30 a.m. **Mass** | Lk 11:1-13
+Harold and +Sally Soules

Monday, July 28

5:45 p.m. **Ladies Bunco**

Tuesday, July 29

- Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus

18:30 a.m. **Mass** | JN 11:19-27
+Mary Kirvan

Thursday, July 31 – St. Ignatius of Loyola

4:30 p.m. **Euchre**
7 p.m. **Revive Ladies Basketball**

Sunday, August 3 – Eighteenth Sunday in OT

10:30 a.m. **Mass** | Lk 12:13-21
Freddy DeVries, +David Dodge, Parish Family

Altar Server Training

New and current altar servers are invited to a training on Wednesday, August 6 for both parishes (and for serving at ASA school Masses). The training will be held at St. Alphonsus 3:30-4:15 p.m. Parents are welcome to stay and pray in the church during the training. Altar serving is open to all those entering fourth grade this fall through high school seniors. If you cannot make this training, we will offer another option later this summer. Whether you attend regularly at St. Alphonsus or Blessed Sacrament, you can be scheduled to altar serve at either location. Contact Fr. Christopher with any questions: cepplett@stalphonsusgr.org.

Card Ministry

Please remember in your prayers parishioner Kathy Reynolds. Feel free to include a birthday wish as she is celebrating her birthday this month. Cards to Kathy may be sent to 2500 Sinclair NE, Grand Rapids, 49505.



Phone: 616-447-2997

Website: asagr.org

Blog: asatoday.blogspot.com

Back to school is just around the corner!

ASA is excited to welcome three new teachers to join our ASA faith and educational community for the 25-26 school year! Mrs. Kelly Simpson will be teaching Kindergarten and comes to us eager to enter into Catholic education. Mrs. Cindy Girodat is excited to enter into her new role at ASA as a 2nd grade teacher. The students will recognize Mrs. Girodat who began as a substitute teacher this past school year. She enjoyed the time she spent with ASA students in her substitute teaching role and is excited to now join us as a homeroom teacher. Ms. Aubrey Clark is joining the Upper Campus team as our newest fourth grade teacher. She is eager to join in our mission of forming saints to serve all. Look for an upcoming blog post which will formally introduce our newest staff members to our ASA community! Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Girodat, and Ms. Clark to ASA! As we welcome in our new teachers, we also want to thank Ms. Baese, Mrs. Connette, Mrs. Groh, and Ms. Ojenu who are onto new adventures. They have each made lasting, positive impacts on school for which we are greatly appreciative. Our prayers are with them as they are onto new adventures!

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Is it possible to give God more credit than he deserves? Think about it for a minute.

The definitive answer is “no.” It is not possible. God deserves all the credit. We deserve none. We are merely cooperators in what God is doing. Everything is pure gift. And yet we like to take credit.

God is incredibly powerful. Still, we have a tendency to limit his power. Specifically, we often forget the power of the Holy Spirit when we ought to be relying upon it. Powerful things are in store for us when we trust the Holy Spirit. Who leads and guides the Church? Ultimately, it is not the pope – it is the Holy Spirit.

Just as the Holy Spirit is the leader of the Church, so is he the leader in our parishes. That is, when we let the Holy Spirit lead. Otherwise, we limit ourselves to seeing the Church and a parish as a business, or man-made social organization of like-minded people. That’s far from the truth. The Church is supernatural, instituted by God himself: “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18a).

We should believe the words of Jesus: “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name – he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you” (John 14:26). Time and again Jesus speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit, who he left us to lead and guide the Church. As such, the pope is not elected as in human terms. At the conclave, the Cardinals gather to pray and ask the Holy Spirit which man among them is to become the next pope. Further, I am not “elected” and “appointed” elected to be the pastor of these parishes. I was appointed by the bishop, who spends a great deal of time praying and discerning as well as conferring a board as to who the Holy Spirit wants to send to lead.

Therefore, when people ask who is in charge of these parishes the answer is the pastor, but only insofar as he is attentive to the Holy Spirit who informs him. To me, this is very exciting because it means the most powerful Holy Spirit has amazing things in store to transform lives and hearts in and through carrying out the parish vision. Yes, it can seem burdensome, but that’s why I fully submit to the Lord daily in prayer and work tirelessly in discernment to stay in tune with what it is he is showing and asking. Overall, I find this to be exciting because the Holy Spirit is incredibly creative. I invite you to join in this excitement and enter into prayerfulness with an openness and trust in the Holy Spirit!

The Church is hierarchical. This structure works well because of the power of the Holy Spirit. Living in a nation built on democracy, this is not always an easy reality for us to accept and understand. Really what it comes down to is trust in the most-powerful Holy Spirit and submission to how Jesus instituted his Church as well as his promise to remain with us through the Church: “the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18b).

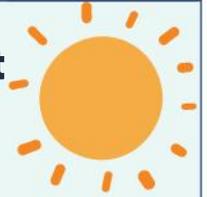
Peace,
Fr. Christopher

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who made VBS such a success this past week. We had 70 students join us for a Wilderness Adventure! Thank you to our 24 teen volunteers as well who spent their time helping to lead students. Thank you to Rebecca for coordinating VBS. Her hardwork and dedication helped us see a record number of children attend and teen and adult volunteers! What a tremendous blessing to offer this encounter experience for all involved.

The Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your donation from the Deacon George Justice Fund. Over the past 34 years, Equest has touched the lives of thousands of individuals with a wide range of physical, mental, social, and emotional disabilities. Funds donated will be used for our rider scholarship funds, Equest Horses for Heroes Veterans program, and providing services on a daily basis. We would like to extend an invitation for you to come out and see firsthand what a difference your gift is making! Thank you again, the impact made is incredible!

August Family Night



Date: August 1, 2025

Where: St. Alphonsus Parish.

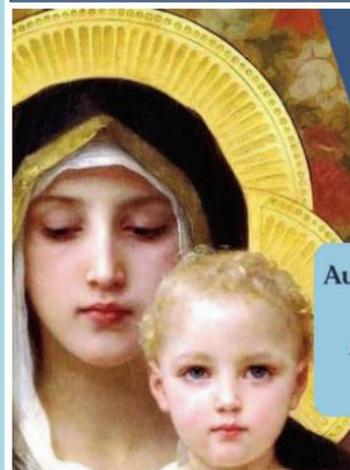
Time: Mass will begin at 5:30 p.m. there is the possibility that there will be confession offered an hour prior to Mass beginning.

Meal: Pulled Pork Sandwiches.

Side Dish Needs: Salads, Fruits (Watermelon), Chips, and Deserts.



RSVP to jacob@pmhomes.us by July 28



The Solemnity of
The Blessed Virgin Mary

August 14 - 6:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
- Blessed Sacrament

August 15 - 12:15 p.m. Mass
- St. Alphonsus

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