The background of the poster features a warm, golden-yellow sun with rays emanating from the top right. In the foreground, there are several vibrant red and orange cosmos flowers on thin green stems. The overall mood is bright and celebratory.

World Day of Prayer
for the **Care**
of **Creation**

*Praised be my Lord God with all creatures;
and especially our brother the sun,
which brings us the day, and the light;
fair is he, and shining with a very great splendor:
O Lord, he signifies you to us!*

~ St. Francis's Canticle of the Sun

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

5376 State Street • Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 799-2460 • www.stasaginaw.org

Welcome Visitors & Friends

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or have visited before, We Welcome You! If you are looking for a church home in this community, we invite you to consider St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Contact the Parish Office for more information on becoming a member.

Father Rick's Reflections . . .

Jesus often has an encounter with opponents. Today's gospel is no different. Mark describes the opponents as "the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem." Keep in mind, Jerusalem was the center of formal opposition to Jesus by those who were fearful of the loss of personal power, overly concerned with the externals of religious appearance, or devoted to critical inquiry into minor deviations from the established way of doing things religious while ignoring more serious matters. In one sense, every religious group, in the present as well as the past, has those who "come from Jerusalem" – self-appointed custodians of the orthodox faith. Traditions are necessary for the identity of any group, both secular and religious (think of sports teams). Eugene LaVerdiere writes: "Traditions are tenacious and important, but they are not absolute, and their value can be questioned. Traditions spring from a particular history. They nourish a community's ideals, and they in turn are nourished by those ideals. When a life context that inspired a set of traditions dies or is drastically altered, traditions it once sustained become lifeless and meaningless. That doesn't mean they are immediately abandoned." (The Beginning of the Gospel)

The life context of the early Markan church was being drastically altered by the numbers of Gentiles who were entering into the Christian community. Tension inevitably arose between these new converts and the Christians whose faith had been nourished in the rich soil of Judaism. Many of the latter felt that the traditions they held dear, and that were reconcilable with following Jesus, had been carelessly trampled down or

uprooted by the Gentile Christians to whom such traditions mean little or nothing.

On the other hand, the Gentile Christians felt coerced by what, to them, were meaningless laws and rituals. To reconcile both groups in baptismal freedom and love was an ongoing challenge for community leaders. The "tradition of the elders," was not an attempt to bury the commands of God under suffocating trivia, but rather to aerate the whole of Jewish life with mindfulness of the people's identity and responsibilities as God's people. For the sake of non-Jewish readers, Mark enumerates some of the traditional rituals of washing that are observed. Jesus responds to the Pharisees' challenge about the behavior of his disciples with a quote from the prophet Isaiah, addressing them as "hypocrites." Out of strong Jewish prophetic tradition of self-criticism, Isaiah spoke of religious practices that were on the lips but not in the heart as superficial and external playacting at true religion. The Pharisees had fallen into the same religious trap of absolutizing their own human traditions of outward observance, not the commands of God. What should be washed is not so much about pots and pans and hands, but their own hearts. External rituals have value only insofar as they encourage or express the dedication of our hearts. Before we eat as a eucharistic community, are our hearts clean?

Jesus tells his disciples that what truly defies a person does not come from without, from the food we take into our bodies; what defiles a person is the moral impurity and ethical evil that is first savored in the heart, not in the mouth. Jesus then enumerates a catalogue of vices, all of which are either directly proscribed in the Ten Commandments or indirectly related to them. Etty Hilesun,

a young Jewish Dutch woman living in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, and soon to die in Auschwitz at the age of 29 wrote in her diary: "Every atom of hate we add to this world makes it more inhospitable ... and every act of loving perfects it." (Etty: A Diary 1941-1943)

This weekend, I am celebrating the wedding of Susan Kean-Smith and Steven Falkenberg at the Cross in the Woods in Indian River. Susan is a recent registered member of our parish community. Fr Kevin is leading the charge for the weekend. Not to worry, I'll be back Monday evening.

This coming weekend we celebrate the *unofficial* end of summer with Labor Day. It will also be the last weekend of only one Mass on Sunday. The weekend of September 11/12, we will return to our *winter* schedule of Saturday @ 4:00 pm and Sunday @ 8:30 am and 11:00 am. Please make note of the change.

School has started for NCCE, and Saginaw City and Township schools are soon to follow. That means that lots of kids are out and about early and late so please be careful. Have a blessed week.

Fr. Rick



In Our Parish

Tuesday, August 31
8:30 AM Mass

Wednesday, September 1
8:30 AM Mass

Thursday, September 2
8:30 AM Mass

Friday, September 3
8:30 AM First Friday

Saturday, September 4
4:00 PM Mass

Sunday, September 5
9:30 AM Mass

Lectors

September 4
4:00 PM Estelle Przybylski

September 5
9:30 AM Mary Morse

SUNDAY MASS

Resumes September 11/12

Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM
Sunday 11:00 AM



Susan Kean-Smith and Steven Falkenberg were united in marriage on August 28 at The Cross in the Woods Church, Indian River, MI.

May their life be blessed in holy union with Christ and with one another.



Scripture Readings

For the Week of August 29, 2021

Sunday	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Monday	1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday	Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10, 11; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday	Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11
Friday	Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday	Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8; Lk 6:1-5
Sunday	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

We welcome into the faith community through the waters of baptism **Jane Vera**, daughter of Nicholas & Natascha (Williams) Rivette.

May God bless her and her family as she becomes a Disciple of Christ.



Prayers

Please pray for all who have been commended to our prayer that they will respond to God's healing will, especially:

Aaron
Ruth Adams
Al V.
Anna
Jean B.
Cooper
Darlene
David B.
Dennis
Jim & Pat D.
Erin
James
Todd J.
Sr. Mary Elizabeth
Troy Ostrowski
Deb K.
Bonnie L. & Family
Rod M.
Monica
D.N.
Patricia
Jean Q.
Cathy R.
Rosalind
Don S.
Larry S.
Nancy V. & Family
T.C.
M.H.
Fr. Charles D. -
Diocese of Gaylord
T. Novak & family

And those who are homebound and in assisted/nursing facilities.

We are happy to list names of those who request prayers for one month. The list will be purged again on August 30. Please remember to contact the office 799-2460 ext. 1 when a loved one's name no longer needs inclusion on the prayer list.

Special News

Thank You • Mission COOP

Dear Father Rick and the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas,

I want to thank you and your parish for accepting the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales as part of the Mission Cooperative Plan for the summer of 2021.

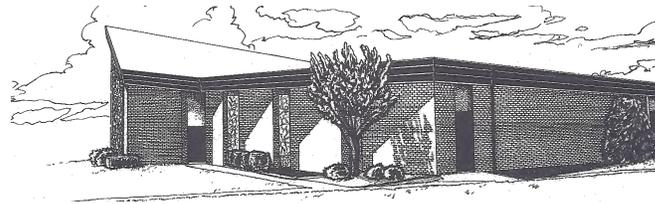
Because of your kindness and generosity, our missionaries from South America, South Africa, Benin and India will receive much-needed assistance and support in their work of spreading the Gospel.

Our missionaries serve some of the poorest people in the world as parish priests, educators and in numerous social services. We are most grateful for you opening your community to our congregation and we pray that our efforts here in the U.S. and around the world will continue to bear great fruit.

Many thank for you kind and hospitality and thoughtfulness. Be assured of the continued prayers of all the Oblates for you and your ministry.

Blessings and peace to your parish community.

Sincerely,
Rev. Joseph Morrissery, OSFS
Foreign Mission Procurator



In and Around Our Parish

Lending Library • Church Lower Level

Starting in September the Lending Library and monthly Book Cart will resume. Please visit the newly organized Lending Library shelves and pick up a book, enjoy and return at your convenience. At this time, we are not accepting new donations of books.

Food Program Outreach • East Side Soup Kitchen • September 4 & 5

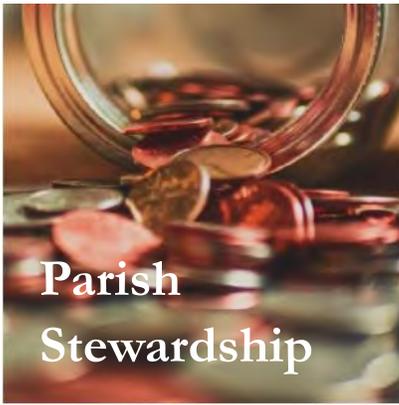
The food collection for **August 7/8** will be for the **EAST SIDE SOUP KITCHEN**. Thank you for your continuing support. ESSK is in need of the following items: #10 cans of Corn, Green Beans, Carrots, and Peas, Peaches, Pears, and Fruit Cocktail; Applesauce, Pork & Beans; Juice/Kool-Aid Pouches, Small Bottled Water, Yams/Sweet Potatoes, Pudding & Fruit Cups any kind of Packaged Cookies and Cooking Spray

Monetary donations can be sent directly to 940 E. Genesee, Saginaw, MI 48607, checks payable East Side Soup Kitchen.

Return of Liturgical Practices 07-18-21

Individuals may light their own votive candles at the Sacred Heart statue or Blessed Mother statue.

Dismissing those who wish to bring communion to a loved one and are an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Please see Fr. Rick or Fr. Kevin before Mass for more information.



Parish Stewardship

In today's first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God's faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, "We also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." May we, too, be mindful of God's gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

August 21 & 22, 2021

Envelopes.....	\$5,805.00
Loose.....	\$578.00
Electronic (ACH).....	\$648.00
Mission Appeal	\$275.00
Priest's Retirement	\$50.00
Total.....	\$7,356.00

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.

Sponsor of the Week

Delta Door Sales

To view the full ad see the back of the bulletin. Be sure to patronize all of our businesses as their generosity allows us to provide the bulletin to you at no cost to the Parish.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

5376 State Street
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 799-2460
www.stasaginaw.org

Welcome to Our Parish

If you are a visitor to St. Thomas Aquinas, we want you to know how welcome you are. If you wish to become a member of our parish, please call the parish office.

Parishioner Info: If you are moving, changing phone numbers or need to update family status, kindly notify the parish office.

Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Richard Bokinskie
rickb@stasaginaw.org

Parochial Vicar Fr. Kevin Wojciechowski
kevinw@stasaginaw.org

Pastoral Associate Sr. Ann deGuise, OSF
annd@stasaginaw.org

Parish Secretary Dawn Drago
dawnd@stasaginaw.org

Bookkeeper Pat Messing
patm@stasaginaw.org

Director of Music Deborah Kraklow
debk@stasaginaw.org

Baptism & Funeral Coordinator & RCIA Director Karen Bartels
starcia@stasaginaw.org

Eucharistic Liturgies

Saturday.....	4:00 PM
Sunday	9:30 AM
<i>(June • July • August)</i>	
Tuesday - Thursday.....	8:30 AM
First Friday	8:30 AM
<i>(In the event of a funeral on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or First Friday, morning Mass will be cancelled.)</i>	

Sacrament of Reconciliation

2nd & 4th Saturday 9:00-10:00 AM
(Or by Appointment)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

Anyone seeking information about the Catholic Faith should contact the parish office for more information. Sessions meet from September through Spring.

Baptisms

Baptisms will be scheduled after the required Baptism Preparation Class. Parents are required to be practicing Catholics and attending Mass regularly. Call the parish office to register.

Marriage

Individuals must be registered in the parish at least six months before scheduling a wedding. A wedding date can only be set after meeting with the parish priest.

Care of the Sick • Pastoral Visits

Please notify the parish office when seriously ill at home, in the hospital or a nursing/assisted facility. Also, If you or a loved one has had a hospital stay and are recovering at a rehab facility or moving into an assisted living facility and wish a pastoral visit.

Watch Mass On-line

<https://stasaginaw.org/live-streamed-recorded-masses>

Recorded Mass for Sunday

Nouvel Catholic Central Schools

www.NouvelCatholic.org

Administrative Offices 989.399.2222
High School 989.791.4330
Elementary 989.792.2361

catholicmatch[®]
Michigan
CatholicMatch.com/goMI

Your Church is closer than you think...
Visit **DISCOVERMASS.com**
Mass Times
Bulletins • Directions
Local Businesses

D & L RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
(Formerly "Dan Van... The Roofing Man")
44 years local business experience with: Seamless Gutters, Custom Siding & Trim Work, Gutter Protection/Ice Control Systems, Chimney Flashing, Roof Troubleshooting & Repair
FREE ESTIMATES - call anytime 989-529-3020

myParish
The App for Catholic Life Every Day
www.myParishApp.com

MORLEY TRAVEL
A DIVISION OF MORLEY COMPANIES, INC.
The Place To Go When You're Going Places[®]
989-791-2565 morleytravel.com
One Morley Plaza • 2811 Schust Rd.
8:30-5:30pm Mon-Fri

COUPON
FAST EDDIE'S CAR WASH OIL CHANGE
\$1.00 OFF ANY WASH PACKAGE
Excludes Express Wash
WITH THIS COUPON \$5.00 OFF ANY COMPLETE OIL CHANGE AND LUBE AT FAST EDDIE'S
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER Expires 1/31/22 VALID AT ALL LOCATIONS T-5

Readings for the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

The book of Deuteronomy contains a lengthy farewell speech of Moses as the people prepared to enter the Promised Land. Moses makes it clear that they are expected to remain faithful to the Lord after they have settled in their new land.

Second Reading: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Today and for the next four Sundays, we will read passages from the letter of James. Two points will be helpful background to today's passage. First: In the Jewish law, the first fruits of the harvest are given to God. This expresses the truth that the whole harvest ultimately belongs to God. Second: In the Old Testament, widows and orphans were classic examples of poor and defenseless people.

Gospel Reflection: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-22

Jesus does not reject the ceremonial rituals, laws or traditions. He puts them in the place they are meant to be in God's plan, within the framework of true religion. True religion is on one's heart. The heart must be filled with the word of God. That word must take root deep within, and from that inner place, if God's word is truly heeded, it guides and inspires one's every thought, word, and deed. The heart of true Christian religion is love for God and love for neighbor. It is the good that one does, the love and compassion that "come out" of a person that is exalted by God.

For your reflection: How do I let the following of rituals and externals replace or overshadow the heart of true religion?

Family Perspective-by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus warns "what comes from within can defile" a person. Families need to worry about "outside influences" but also about "inside influences." The values our children carry for a life time are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That's the good news! That can also be the bad news!

Stewardship Reflections

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." James 1:22

It's easy to understand the definition of stewardship – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it! How do your actions reflect God's word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?



Individual Rite of Penance

9:00 AM

Second and Fourth Saturdays
of the month
August 28

Following COVID-19 guidelines:
masks worn at all times and social
distancing.

A reconciliation room is setup in
the church narthex, with one priest
available to celebrate the
sacrament.

While waiting to celebrate the
sacrament, you may either wait in
your vehicles or stand outside
practicing social distancing.





“Be doers of
the word and not
hearers only.”

James 1:22

Getty Images/Brand X Pictures

August 29, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8 | Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 | Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As I began reading the Gospel for today, I initially thought, “Here we go - those hypocritical Pharisees are at it again! They are always questioning Jesus, always judging others, and always looking for ways to make themselves look ‘holier’ than everyone else.” Uh oh; then I realized that I was feeling pretty smug as I judged the Pharisees! Sadly, it can be easy for me to fall into a “Pharisee attitude,” thinking I “walk blamelessly and do justice” when really I am just deluding myself. While Jesus uses this encounter to point out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, he also calls the crowd to a greater understanding of the source of evil in their lives, “From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts.” Maybe I need to hear these words, too, and examine my own thoughts and actions before judging others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

St. James provides an answer to combating the evil we discover in our hearts: “Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.” The Word, Jesus, came to us and has given us the way to free ourselves from the evil within. Our relationship with him is the key. We know we are to “be doers of the word and not hearers only.” We have the Holy Spirit to help us stay close to him and access his saving power that transforms our hearts to reflect his goodness and truth. It requires us to humbly assess and own the things we need to change; and to turn to him for guidance so that we may have nothing within us — no evil thoughts, greed, malice, envy or arrogance (etc.) — to defile us. Only then are we most free in Christ — truly free to “care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

PRAY The Daily Examen, created by St. Ignatius of Loyola, is an ideal way for growing closer to Jesus and seeking his guidance. Suggested for the day’s end, this prayerful reflection helps you recognize God’s presence in the day’s events, assess your thoughts and behavior, ask for his help in growing in goodness, and discern his plans for you.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIAL

Health & Safety of Nancy & Tom Groll & Slasinski Families
Learman – Koratich Families
In Loving Memory of Robert Chaklos
Edward & Virginia Hoewe Family
L&D Pesta & Bruzewski Families
Chuck & Gerry Flattery & Family
Rozek & Holihan Families
Meyer & Streng Families

L&D Stan Dorywalski Family
Raymond Klonowski
M. James Robinson Family
L&D Leo Eigner Family
Bob & Vi Bloniarczyk
Garske & Riha Families
Finan-Lupcke Families
Melvin VanOchten

The Webster Family
Al Luplow Family
Lois Zehnder
LaVern Fox
Blair R. Loessel
Daniel P. Sauvie
Mary A. Sauvie
Basil N. Sauvie

Woodrow J.J. Sauvie
Dale A. Krueger
Rose Martino
Floyd Maday Family
James & Kathy Gunther
Sitarski Family
Chris Gunther Family
Doyle Family

Lemmer Family
Midcalf Family
Henry Meyer Family
Hill Family
Miller Family
Tim Janetsky Family
Susan Webber

Serving Students Pre-K through grade 12
Founded in faith with excellence in academics, athletics and the arts!
Shadow Days • Campus Tours • Financial Aid & Scholarship Opportunities Available
NouvelCatholic.org

THE PRINT SHOP
5645 State Street • Suite B
Saginaw, Michigan 48603
989-793-9427
www.printshopsaginaw.com

AIDA B. PONCE, M.D.
PEDIATRICS
144 N FROST • SAGINAW **989-790-7665**
If no answer please call **989-583-9877**

JIM REDMOND'S SERVICE
6025 STATE ST. 793-5801
COMPLETE CAR REPAIR • SINCE 1938
JIM REDMOND PAT REDMOND

The Cure for the Common Lawn.
LAWN DOCTOR
Lawn Installation • Power Seeding
Weed Control • Lawn Fertilization
Core Aeration • Tree & Shrub Care
Grub & Insect Control
Call For A Free Evaluation
Email: group371@lawndocor.com Mark Wolinski
www.lawndocor.com **989.652.8750**

4480 Mackinaw Rd. • **793-9700**
409 Adams St., 201 N Miller Rd.
5700 Dixie Hwy., Also Merrill
W. L. CASE & COMPANY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

REMER
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
Commercial - Industrial - Residential
5565 STATE ST. • 792-8738

Snow Funeral Home
Ronald Snow, Jr. Parishioner
Paul Metevia
Brandon Hurren
snowfuneralhome.net
3775 N Center Rd. • **791-4515**

Delta DOOR SALES
GARAGE DOORS & OPERATORS
Sales, Installations & Repairs
- Since 1939 -
2835 UNIVERSAL DR. 793-2942

Caring for the Saginaw Community since 1888
CATHOLIC **Deisler**
BURIAL & CREMATION SOCIETY
Trust In The Lord With All Your Heart
Phone 989-799-1151 | www.deislerfuneralhome.com

GB Gary's Auto Body
Bumping • Painting and Collision
Parishioners Lifetime Warranty on Paintwork • **FREE LOANER**
516 CLEVELAND STATE CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS **752-8811**

jolt **989.799.8744**
CREDIT UNION joltcu.com

BEEF O'BRADY'S
GOOD FOOD, GOOD SPORTS
OUTDOOR SEATING AVAILABLE
4880 Gratiot • 249-0800

McDONALD AUTO GROUP
Experience the McDonald Difference
www.mcdonaldauto.com
GMC CHRYSLER KIA
Jeep
McDonald Family - Parishioners

John K. Bartnik, M.D.
Specialist in Cancer & Blood Disorders
989-791-2330 Parishioner

BEYER ROOFING
Family owned & operated since 1953
Duro-last Single Ply Roof Systems
Commercial • Industrial
989-754-7741
6241 Sherman • Saginaw

Michigan Truck Spring Of Saginaw
Complete Parts and Service for Light, Medium, Heavy Duty Trucks, Buses and RVs including:
Springs • Brakes • Suspension • Drive Train
Fifth Wheels • Drive Shafts • PTO Shafts • Electrical
Visit www.truckspring.com for complete info.
Open: Mon. - Fri. till Midnight • Sat. 8 am till 1 pm
3649 Wolf Rd. • Saginaw
1-800-358-4751 Parts and Service Since 1976

WHTQ 1250 AM/WMAX 1440 AM
EWTN Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

DURO-LAST
THE WORLD'S BEST ROOF.
800-248-0280
duro-last.com

Kable LANDSCAPING
989-695-5222
www.kablelandscaping.com

REPARATION | CONFIDENCE | SUCCESS
WHITE ORTHODONTICS
SAGINAW'S #1
INVISALIGN DOCTOR
FREE CONSULTS WHITE-ORTHO.COM

SB SPENCE BROTHERS
Ann Arbor
Traverse City
Saginaw
"Building Trust Since 1893" spencebrothers.com

R. F. KOESTER INC.
Building Design
General Contractor
Residential
Commercial
3830 N FORDNEY RD.
989-695-4794
www.RFKoester.com

SELF SERVE
PLUMBER & Home Center
Your Hometown Home Improvement Store
OPEN 7 DAYS
790-1575
1517 S WHEELER ST.

Grow Your Business in the St. Thomas Community!
Call Deb Myers to find out more.
800-783-1623

SPENCER A. SKORUPSKI, CFSP
Owner and Practicing Catholic
SKORUPSKI
easing sorrow • celebrating life
Plan Ahead. Plan Well.
Burials • Cremations • Life Celebrations
Advance Planning
Bay County ~ 821 N. Pine Rd.
(Between Ridge & Center)
Saginaw County ~ 1550 Midland Rd.
(Between State & Gratiot)
(989) 893-7334 www.skorupskis.com

THIEL ELECTRIC
NECA
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL
989.792.1188

DIOCESAN For Advertising Information CALL 1-800-783-1623

Online at Diocesan.com/Business

VISA
MasterCard
Discover
1258