

the flame

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 16TH, 2022

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs
at Cana in Galilee and so revealed
his glory, and his disciples
began to believe in him.

John 2: 11



ST. BLASE CATHOLIC CHURCH
ignite your faith | fan the flame



Bulletin Cover by Riley

586.268.2244 | stblase.org | office@stblase.org
12151 E. 15 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

NEW Parishioners



Welcome to the St. Blase Community!

Michael and Janice Gutierrez

Anna Hobig

John and Nancy Busch

IN MEMORIAM



Beverly Szkudniewski

Mother of Sharon McKenzie

January 1, 1938 – January 2, 2022

NEWLY Baptized



Weston Gene White
Son of Laura & Travis White
Baptized on January 2, 2022
By Father Randy Phillips

PRAYER Requests



HOSPICE

Genoveffa Todaro

HOSPITAL

Claire Smith

EXTENDED CARE

June Dupuis
Kathleen Stephens
Barbara Ritter
Mary Cameron

Dorothy "Babe" Paolino
Edward Farquhar
Pauline Farquhar

AT HOME

Josephine Armstrong
Josie Bauman
Stephen Beresh
Robert Bergen
Kermith Billette
Linda Billette
Yvonne Bova
Renee Browning
Colette Carroll
Jerry Colzani
Sam Criscenti
Anna Curtis
Norbert J. Dara
Linda Diegel
Marilyn Filipp
Ethan Gehrke
Fran Gross
Phyllis Guzick
Rosalie House
Barbara Jarema
Robert Jarema
Ronald Johnson
Michael Kovak
Nancy Kramer
Josephine Kuhlman

Lorenzo Lia
Mary Ann Mann
Phyllis Marek
Lena Rose Marlow
Anna Masakowski
Agnes McGartland
Jennie Miller
Robert E. Newcomb
Patricia Nowicki
Julia Perna
Sharon Petkoski
Robert Priskey
Alberto Ramos
Helen Rocca
Sue Ruvolo
Sarah Serra
Shelly Smith
Kathleen Tiano
Brody Trombley
Sharon Turnas
Eleanor Williams
Joann Zelenak
Libby Zelenak
Pat Ziola

January 24th | Coffee, Tea, & Theology

February 13th | Wedding Jubilee

See page 6 for more information on all of our upcoming events.

OFFICE HOURS

Week of January 16th
Mon - Thurs: 9am-4pm
Friday: 9am-12pm
Saturday: 9am-4pm
Closed for lunch: 12-1
Sunday: 8:30am-12:30pm

MASS TIMES

Week of January 16th

Daily Mass: 9:30am
Monday, Tuesday, & Friday

Saturday: 4:00pm
*Saturday's weekend mass is
livestreamed

Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am

Confessions: Saturday at 3:00pm

2021 TAX CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

Please note: In an effort to save on the cost of printing, we do not print contribution statements unless you request one. To request a statement, please fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office or give us a call at 586.268.2244. Please print clearly. Statements will be available for pick up in the Parish Office.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ENVELOPE NUMBER _____

I would like my contribution statement emailed.

ON THE ROAD TO *Emmanuel*

We are back into the season of Ordinary Time. I love being in this “ordinary time” as it gives us a chance to take some time for ourselves and sit back from all the rush of the holiday season. I want to express my “thanks” for all those who shared their holiday greetings, gifts, and cards with me at Christmas Time. Know that it was greatly appreciated.

BIBLE STUDY – last Monday, January 10th we began our study of “*THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.*” This study will end on February 7th. If you have not signed up yet there are still some books left. Please register at the Parish Office.

Beginning February 21st thru April 4th, we will begin a study on “*THE PASSION AND RESURRECTION NARRATIVES.*” You must personally sign up in the Parish Office or call the Office to register. We need an accurate account so the materials for this study may be ordered.

Those who are in our RCIA process continue to study our faith as Catholics and share their stories. They are formally called our “catechumens and candidates,” and they are dismissed from our Sunday Liturgy to reflect more on the Word of God as it applies to their life. There are others who are baptized in our faith, who may have received their first communion and are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at our Easter Vigil. Because of their baptism in our faith, they stay for the rest of Mass, receive Communion, then come and join the rest of us for our session. Please keep them in your prayers throughout this process.

This weekend I will be away from the parish and on retreat with people from our parish and friends over the years to spend some time with Christ and reflect on his presence in our lives. Please keep us in prayer.

One of my favorite Gospel passages is The Wedding Feast of Cana. My wife and I were privileged to be at Cana and renew our marriage commitment to each other years ago. A “google search” on the term “delayed gratification” you will see some interesting articles linking the ability and discipline “*to save the best until last*” to every imaginable virtue and delight.

Financial planners will tell you that this discipline is the secret to accumulating enough wealth for retirement.

Fitness trainers will laud the choice for “pain now, pleasure later” as the secret ingredient to sustained health and wellness.

Those who learn early and practice consistently, the virtue and discipline of delayed gratification, are on the path to success and blessing in life, according to the experts.

We are constantly confronted with the temptation to fulfill *immediate gratification*, to reach for the *instant pleasure*, to buy or charge the *impulse purchase* whether we really need it or can even afford it. It is always easier to eat an extra donut on the couch than to sweat out an



exercise regimen at the gym. Giving in to the momentary and instant pleasure; that’s easy! What is difficult is staring down our grumbling hunger, or our desire for immediate pleasure, and saying “**No, not now, not yet.**”

With this in mind, let’s turn to this weekend’s Gospel lesson. St. John records the first miracle, or “*sign*” in the earthly ministry of Jesus. The setting is a wedding in the small village of Cana, near Nazareth where Jesus spent his younger years. Weddings were big deals in the first century, just like they are today, and it was not unusual for the wedding guest list to spill over to friends and family living in the nearby towns. So, this couple in Cana, and their parents, were probably friends to Mary and Joseph, hence the invitation to Mary and Jesus to attend the wedding celebration.

But we should keep in mind that weddings in the first century were usually spread over several days. There was the ceremony itself, but before and after the ceremony there were banquets and parties, joy and dancing, toasts, and blessings. If there was one (*continued on pg. 4...*)

thing they knew how to do well, it was to throw a wedding party.

In the life experience of the typical Israelite, there was no greater moment of unbridled joy and unlimited celebration than a wedding. No wonder the Bible so often compares the glory of heaven to a wedding feast. In fact, our first reading today from the prophet Isaiah, draws on the wedding analogy to picture God's love and commitment to His people. Hear it again, "*As a Bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall God rejoice in you.*"

And so, at this wedding in Cana, we would not be surprised to hear that the wine was running out. It may have been several days into the festivities at this point. Possibly, there had been one too many toasts, one too many parties, and now the **wine was gone** ---- but the **guests were not**. It was every wedding planner's nightmare.

Apparently, the wedding guests had started to notice and whisper about the shortage. When Mary brought this to the attention of her son, Jesus did not immediately jump to the rescue. His reply to Mary surprises us a bit, perhaps. "*Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.*"

Jesus is not refusing Mary's concern but is simply reminding her that his first loyalty is to his Heavenly Father. Only God could set his clock or sound his alarm. This obedience was the secret to his ability to delay gratification throughout his life, even to the point of laying down his own life.

So **even** when the urgent call to "**do something**" came, **even** from his beloved Mother, and **even** when it might help to avoid a *faux pafs* at this special moment at a wedding, Jesus' first thought was of his obedience to his God. Would that I could think so clearly in my own life when the "tyranny of the urgent" bombards me from day to day. What a difference it might make in my life if I could think clearly like this amid my daily turmoils.

But then, finally Jesus turned the water into wine. It was a miracle, no doubt, but John's Gospel calls it the first of many "signs" of Jesus. These signs from Jesus were **epiphanies** that manifested the hidden character of the Kingdom of God.

And so, when this miraculous wine was served, the head wine steward, unaware of Jesus' miracle, expressed his amazement as he blessed the bridegroom, thinking that this heavenly-tasting vintage had been saved for this final moment in the wedding by a wise and generous groom who "**saved the best for last.**"

In fact, it was not the groom who practiced delayed gratification, but Jesus. And this sign pointed to the character of God, who often saves His best gifts to us for last too. God so loves us that He sometimes delays the answer to our prayers, knowing that we are not ready. God so loves us that He may even deny our requests, given our tendency to seek immediate gratification, because He wants to give us something so much more than we can even imagine or ask for now. God saves the best of earthly and heavenly gifts for last and serves them

up with abundance. As some so often say, "**The best is yet to come!**"

Deacon Ed McLeod

MASS Intentions



SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 | Weekday

4:00 PM Joseph Leo
Robert Ludwig, 18 yr. anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 AM Grace Ruscito
Ray Staskowski, Birthday Remembrance
(1/13/2022)
Marilyn and Eddy Bieniewicz

11:00 AM Zenida Capulong, 4 yr. anniversary
Maria Villanos

MONDAY, JANUARY 17 | Weekday

9:30 AM Barbara Yurgelevic

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 | Weekday

9:30 AM Parishioners of St. Blase

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19 | Weekday NO MASS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20 | Saint Fabian; Saint Sebastian NO MASS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 | Saint Agnes

9:30 AM Parishioners of St. Blase

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 | Weekday

4:00 PM Carol Campbell
John Miller, Birthday Remembrance
(01/19/2022)
Deceased members of Giudici &
Verona Families

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 AM Dorothy Lutz
Marilyn and Eddy Bieniewicz
Giuseppe and Bianca Lepore and family
Antonio and Maria Lia and family
Lorenzo Lia, Special Intention

11:00 AM Anna Iannucci

CAT Tails



Marchioness: Hey, everyone wants to know what our Christmas was like. How was it?

Dixie: Hey yourself. I was just happy to make it to Christmas and into the New Year. My diagnosis did not make that seem likely. So, just to still be here made it a wonderful Christmas.

Fezziwig: It was my first Christmas not being stuck in a carrier or a cage. I was so excited...

Marchioness: Yes, we know you were. You not only opened your own presents but ones with Dixie's name and my name on them.

Fezziwig: Sorry, I was just so thrilled to see something under the tree for me. Heck, I was happy to see a tree, lights, and ornaments. It was the catnip in the gifts. I sniffed it in all the stockings and rushed into them without minding whose was whose.

Dixie: It is a good thing for us our human was present. He intervened and salvaged our gifts for us. But since I really don't play much anymore, I would be happy to share mine with both of you.

Fezziwig: Oh, that is very kind of you Dixie, very kind indeed. Still, I wouldn't feel right about taking your stuff.

Dixie: You are not taking it if I am bestowing it upon you. For the most part, I just sleep all day. However, I was carried downstairs to see the tree. It was nice, but the warm fuzzy, white rug under the sleigh was more inviting.

Marchioness: I have taken a nap or two under that sleigh since Christmas began.

Fezziwig: Me too.

Dixie: Oh, so that is what I smelled. Never mind, I have my own tree and decorations, even if the former almost did me in.

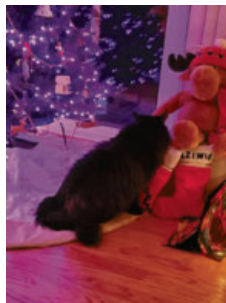
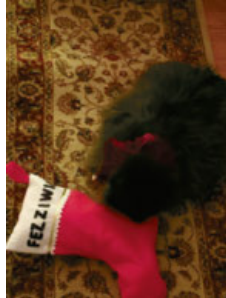
Marchioness: How so?

Dixie: I managed to become all tangled up in the electrical cord. Even to the point I couldn't move and it was getting tight around my throat.

Fezziwig: That's frightening.

Dixie: It was. Fortunately, this was later at night and you-know who was snuggled warm in his bed. He awoke with the commotion in the hall and found me in my unhappy state. I noticed, after that, the previous loose cord was wrapped tightly with twist ties.

Marchioness: Holidays do pose dangers to pets. Even so, this Christmas was far better than freezing outdoors,



foraging for whatever remnants I could find or hoping some human would be kind. My own place, warmth, and food...for what more could I hope?

Fezziwig: Maybe you should have thought of that before taking me to task over the Christmas stockings.

Dixie: Look, we all know Christmas is not about presents and trees, or even food and warmth, let alone our bruised or happy ego. It is about God so loving creation that God became one with humanity and one with all that is. Now if we can remember that beyond the Christmas Season...

Dixie, Fezziwig and Marchioness: Thanks to all who sent us gifts, thought of us in cards, and especially to our feline friends who sent greetings. God bless us, everyone.

Until next time,

Dixie † Cat, Fezziwig †. Cat,
& the Marchioness †. Cat



Wedding Jubilee Celebration

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH | 11AM MASS

Couples celebrating a special anniversary (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, etc) are invited to attend Mass on Sunday, February 13th at the 11 AM Mass for a special wedding jubilee celebration. There will be a special blessing for all anniversary couples during Mass. If you are celebrating a special anniversary, please fill out the form and drop it off in the parish office.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ANNIVERSARY (ex: 25 years) _____

Return this form to the parish office,
or call 586.268.2244

UPCOMING *events*



WINTER MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE

January 2nd - April 2nd

Donations Cards are available on the Information Counter in the Gathering Space for your convenience.

How it Works: "Simply" take a \$10 Donation card and bring it to any checkout at the Meijer store on Van Dyke and 16 Mile Road. The money that is donated will come directly back to St. Blase in the form of gift cards to help restock our pantry with the needed food items necessary to continue our mission of serving those in our community that need it most. The cards are also available inside the store at the check-out lanes.

Bonus Days Saturday, March 5, 2022 and Saturday, March 26, 2022 Meijer will generously match whatever amount we bring in during this Double Match Days!



Thursday, January 20th

FRIENDLY BLASERS

This group meets the first and third Thursday of the month in the Social Center. We get together to have lunch, chat, and sometimes play bingo. Our next meeting starts at 11:30 AM on January 20th.

We love seeing new faces, so if your Thursdays are free, we'd love to see you there!

COFFEE, TEA &

THEOLOGY

pg. 7

PLASTIC WITH A PURPOSE

February 7th, 2022 | 1:30 PM

WEDDING JUBILEE

February 13th, 2022

More details on pg. 5...



Starts February 21st

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY

Our Spring Little Rock topic is "The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus." Explore the gospel stories of the passion and resurrection of Jesus and embrace the cross and resurrection in your own life.

Please register for the class in the Parish Office. Book price to be determined. Little Rock meets Mondays at 10 AM and this session begins February 21st through April 4th, 2022. We hope you'll join!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: I AM HERE

God speaks to us through prayer.
February 21st, 2022

SAVE THE DATES!

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 2ND



LENT FISH FRY ASH WEDNESDAY & FRIDAYS IN LENT



HOLY THURSDAY | APR 14
GOOD FRIDAY | APR 15
EASTER VIGIL | APR 16
EASTER | APR 17



Macomb Food Program Cereal Drive

FEB 08

Please place donations in the gathering space bins

COFFEE, TEA & THEOLOGY



What do you want to know about the Catholic faith? Have you ever wondered why or how something is done? Now is your time to ask! Bring your questions to our next Adult Faith Formation session. We will have a panel discussion about Catholic teachings and other topics that the group wants to learn about.

OUR PANELISTS:



SPEAKER
**FR. RANDY
PHILLIPS**
Pastor



SPEAKER
**DR. MARY
DUMM**
Pastoral Associate



SPEAKER
**DEACON ED
MCLEOD**
Deacon, RCIA Coordinator



SPEAKER
**STEVE
PETRUNAK**
Director of Music Ministry



JANUARY 24, 2022



7:00 PM- 9:00 PM



SOCIAL CENTER

Last week was the Baptism of the Lord where the heavens opened and God announced Jesus to the people present, and this began Jesus' ministry.

Gospel Reflection

Jesus started gathering His disciples, and they all went to the wedding feast. As we enter ordinary time, we go from the waters of baptism to the water at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Weddings in Jesus' time were large events lasting for several days with many meals, much wine, which the host was responsible to provide. What they would do to cut costs, is they would serve the "good" wine first and once the guests were happily festive, they would serve the sub-par wine with the hope that no one would notice. In this Gospel telling of the wedding feast, they ran out of wine, which is a major embarrassment to the hosting family. We hear of Mary first as she goes to Jesus telling Him of what has happened. Jesus' response was "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." This may appear to be Jesus almost scolding Mary for coming to Him, but it is not. Jesus had unconditional love and respect for His mother.

His answer to Mary's request was that if He performed a miracle, it would be one of His first public miracles and their lives would forever change. He was unsure if it was time for this to happen. Out of love and respect for His mother, and yes the term "woman" at that time was of respect, He immediately agreed to help. No one is certain if Mary knew what Jesus would do, but she told the servers to follow His instructions. They filled six stone water jars, which are used for ceremonial (spiritual) washings, with water. These water jars were made from solid stone with the belief that the stone kept the water pure. Jesus could have filled the previous wine casks with water, but chose the pure stone jars. Once filled with water, He then changed them to wine, had the headwaiter taste for approval, who was unaware of what happened. The headwaiter pronounced that they have saved the best wine for last, which resulted in very happy guests and the hosts were spared embarrassment. This is believed to be the first of His public miracles.

What does all this mean? What is the symbolism? One theme of this week's reading is love. Love in the actual marriage ceremony, which Jesus was in attendance. Love in Mary going to her Son. Love in Jesus' response to His mother's request. Growing love from His disciples as they witnessed and began believing in Him. Jesus loved us so much, He died for us and His blood, present in the wine, would purify our souls and wash away our sins. So much happened within this miracle; reflect on these events taking in all the interactions. How do those events occur now within you? God is good!

FAITH FORMATION

corner

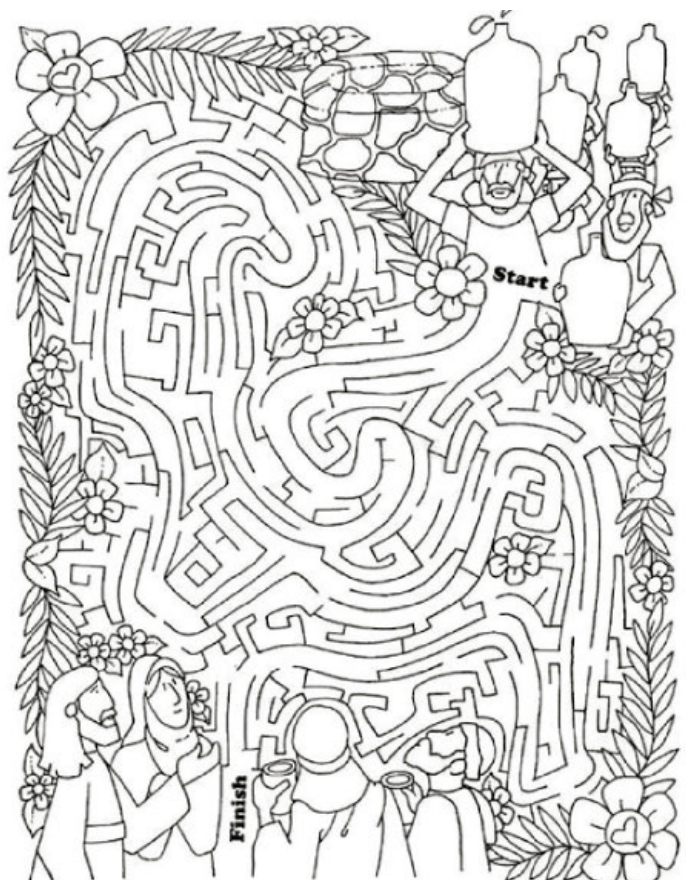


Time to Chat

If you were at the wedding at Cana, how do you think you would respond if you watched the interaction between Mary and Jesus?

When did you first start to believe in God, beyond someone else telling you that God exists? What inspired that belief?

What signs confirm the reality of God for you today?



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PARISH OFFICE

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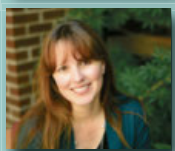
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Angelica Ramirez
Secretary



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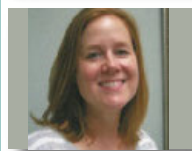


Alicia Bryson
Director of Youth Music Ministry
alicia.bryson@stblase.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



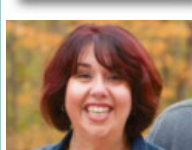
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Grades 7-8, & Confirmation
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P3 - K5 Early Childhood Coordinator
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Anthony Howell.....X227
1st Eucharist, and 1st Reconciliation



Christina Willson.....X227
1st Eucharist, and 1st Reconciliation
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BULLETIN SUBMISSION

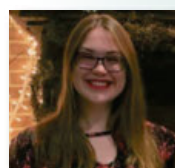
Mass Intentions and Prayer Requests

If you are interested in adding a mass intention or prayer request to the bulletin, please contact the parish office directly. The deadline for these requests is Sunday at 12:30pm, or at least 7 days before the Sunday of Publication.

Bulletin Announcements and Ads

Requests for new announcements, or edits to recurring announcements must be submitted **at least 7 days before the Sunday of publication**. To submit a request for a bulletin announcement, please contact Sarah.

Announcements may be edited or redesigned. Recurring announcements will be included for up to two weeks unless otherwise specified.

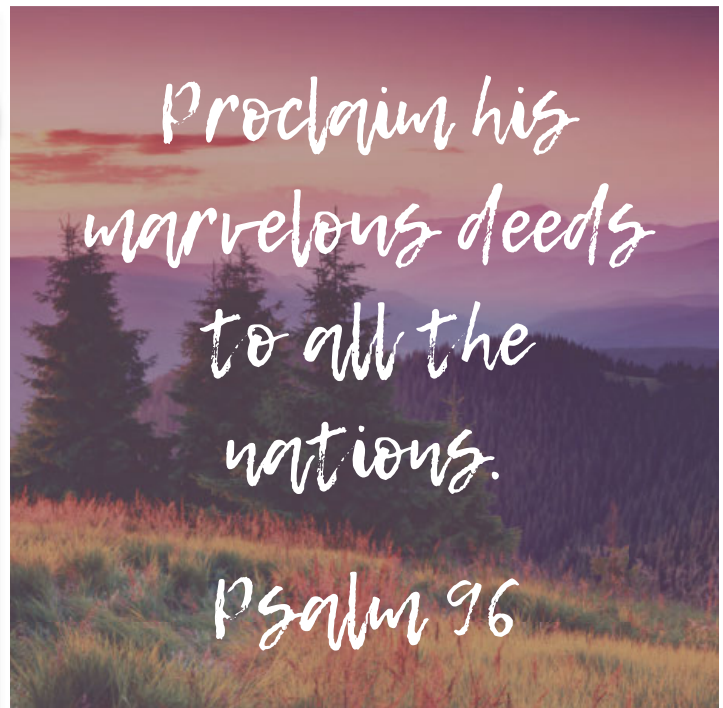


Sarah Richard.....X219
Media & Communications
sarah.richard@stblase.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME							
	Presider	Coordinator	Lector	Altar Servers	Greeters	Musicians	Sacristan
Sat. Jan 22 4pm	Father Randy	Carolyn Lubinski	Fran Badalamente Mary Anne Barczak	Volunteer	Rita Stepanchich Ceil Toepel Carolyn Agrusa	Jen Reaume Marcey Apers Chuck Apers Ria Perez	Jennifer Mathis
Sun. Jan 23 9am	Father Ken	Linda Morgan	Vivian Lozon Larry Jadach	Volunteer	Jim Lotito Rose Lotito	Remnant Music Ministry	Pat Malone
Sun. Jan 23 11am	Father Ken	Sue Perna	Judy Holmes Donovan Kelley	Volunteer	Emily Tchorz	Voices in Praise	Sarah Kane

CRISIS SUPPORT NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).....	877-337-0611
Compassion Pregnancy Center.....	586-783-9620
Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan.....	248-338-4250
Domestic Violence – Turning Point.....	586-463-6990
Drug Addiction Support, Clinton Twp.....	1-800-558-0175
Problem Gambling Hotline.....	1-800-270-7117
PoisonControlHotline.....	800-222-1222
Suicide Prevention Hotline (24 hours).....	586-307-9100 or 800-273-TALK(8255)
Employment Services.....	800-285-WORKS (9675)
Free Legal Advice by Phone.....	1-800-ATTORNEY
Grief Counseling.....	www.griefshare.org
Hospice Services.....	888-247-5701
Immigration Services.....	800-375-5283
Meals on Wheels (Macomb County).....	586-469-5228
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Macomb.....	586-254-1500
(Offers numerous support services including: Food Assistance Hotline, Gamblers Anonymous, Urgent Care for Mental Health Conditions, Counseling for Survivors of Sexual Assault, Anxiety/Depression Support Groups, & Refugee Assistance)	
Project Rachel (Post Abortion Counseling).....	888-722-4355
Interfaith Caregivers (assist with grocery shopping and other daily tasks).....	586-757-5551
Senior Services in Macomb County (Lawn mowing, snow removal, transportation, etc.).....	586-469-6999
Good Shepherd Coalition (for eviction assistance, disconnected utilities, and other resources, Open Mon-Thurs).....	586-307-8888
THAW (The Heat & Warmth Fund) (for utility bill assistance).....	1-800-866-8429
Pope Francis Center (for food and other support services).....	313-963-5134



STEWARDSHIP



Month of December

Budgeted Offertory:	\$163,247.00
Actual Offertory:	\$148,974.00
2021-2022 YTD Budget	\$444,638.00
2021-2022 YTD Actual	\$396,354.00
Christmas Budget	\$150,000.00
Christmas Actual	\$145,262.00

Annual Budget

2021-22 Offertory:	\$655,590.00
Christmas Offertory:	\$150,000.00
Total 2021-22 Budget	\$805,590.00

Catholic Services Appeal

Our Goal:	\$107,763.00
Total Pledged:	\$104,178.00
Total Number of Pledges:	429

Please consider donating to this year's CSA 2021. If we do not meet our target, we must pay the shortfall. Thank you.

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