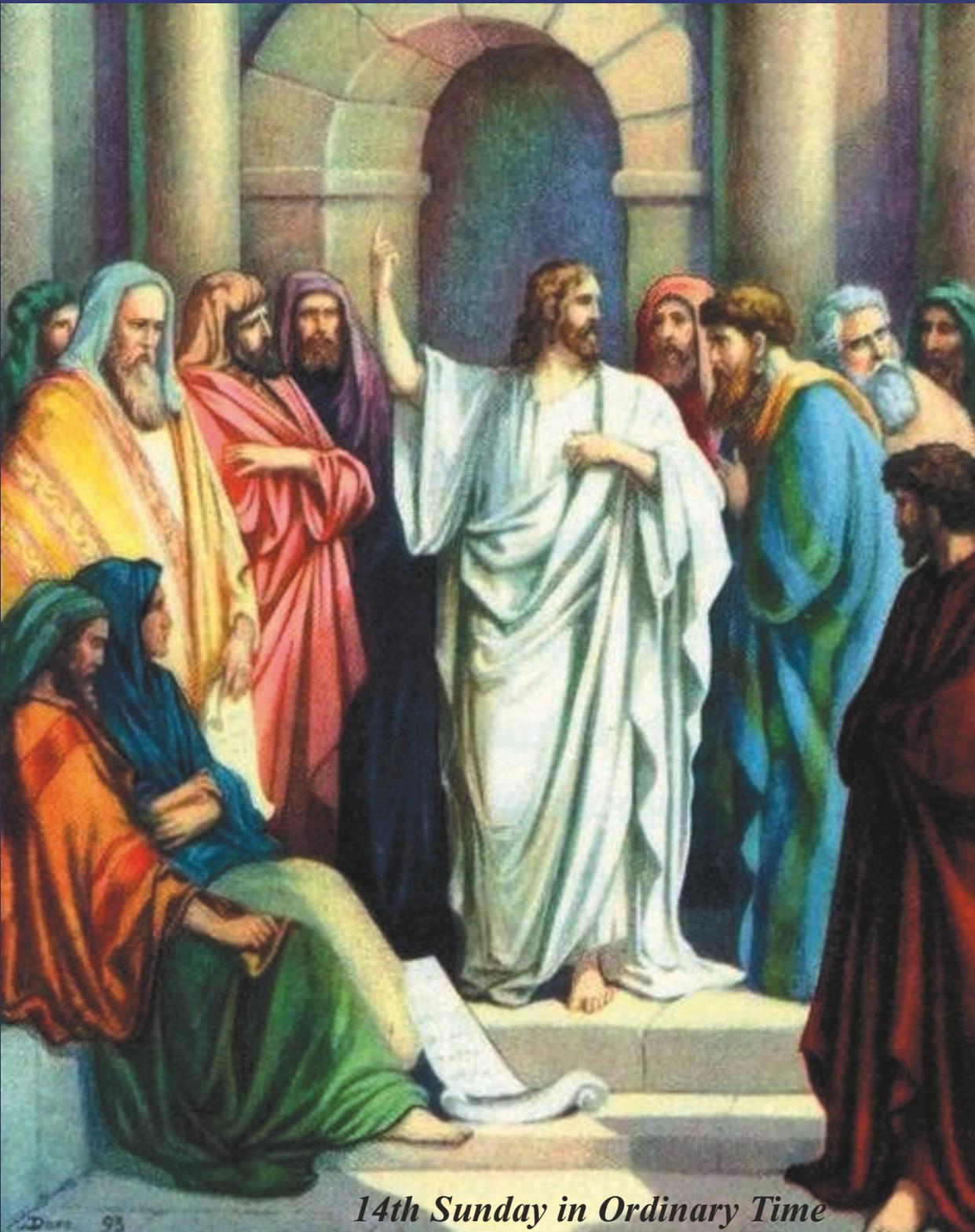


# ST. CHRISTOPHER

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



*14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*July 4, 2021*



St. Christopher

### WEEKEND MASS

SUNDAY

8:00 am , 11:00 am

5:30 pm

### WEEKDAY MASS

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY, FRIDAY

9:00 am

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday

3:00 pm - 4:00pm

or by appointment

### ADORATION WITH CONFESSIONS

Third Thursday of

Every Month at

7:00 pm

### WEEKDAY MASS

#### St. Mary, St. Clair

Mon., Tues., Wed, Fri., - 9am  
Thurs., - 6:30 pm

#### St. Stephen, Port Huron

Tues., Wed., Fri., - 8:30am

#### St. Mary, Port Huron

Wed., Thur., Friday 8:15am

Tues., - 7pm

#### St. Edward, Lakeport

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., &

Fri., Sat. - 8am

Thur., - 7pm

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810-364-4100 WWW.STCHRISMI.ORG



***Pope Francis' Mission Statement: To Become a Band of Joyful Missionary Disciples.***  
***Archdiocese of Detroit's Mission Statement: To Unleash the Gospel.***  
***Saint Christopher's Parish Mission Statement: Transform Lives in Jesus Christ Through the Power and Freedom of the Gospel.***  
***Parish Vision Statement: Foster a Personal Encounter with Jesus.***

***Pastor's Ponderings.*** Greetings and the Father's Blessing be upon you, my dear spiritual children. Once again, I simply wish to remind everyone about our new financial strategy for the year with regard to the Catholic Services Appeal and Christmas 2021 financial contributions. Instead of contributing well over and above the CSA Target, which we have been doing for the past five years now, we will be focusing on placing larger contributions on Christmas 2021. Therefore, let us plan to meet or exceed only slightly the CSA Target while directing major contributions to this year's Christmas Collection for December 2021. For now, I am asking that we all monitor the CSA Report in our Parish Bulletin, slow the contributions to the CSA, and hold off major contributions to the CSA so that they may be made to the Christmas Collection for 2021.

Why would we change our financial strategy? To save money for our parish and decrease our CSA Target. Fiscal Years 2018-19 and 2019-20 were successful at decreasing our annual "Offertory + Christmas Collection" keeping it under \$500,000 since we were sending most of our parish's contributions to the "CSA Overage." Fiscal Year 2020-21 "Offertory + Christmas Collection" will also end under \$500,000 meaning a tier level decrease from 13% to 12% of "Offertory + Christmas Collection" that determines our CSA Target. Our target for next year should decrease by approximately \$8,889. While the idea is to bring in more money in general, due to the way the CSA tier system is set up and the decrease in cash flow these last three years, we are able to capitalize on a "negative" and turn it into a "positive." Thank you to all of our generous supporters of our parish!

***Reminder:*** The Third and final Family of Parishes Family Gathering to be held on August 30<sup>th</sup> is currently in its planning stages. Likely, this gathering will be at Saint Mary's in Port Huron. The basic plan is for a concelebrated Mass with the four priests *in solidum* and some type of meal afterward. If someone wants to help, then please contact Cindi Dortman at Saint Mary's, Port Huron, 810-982-7906, extension 103. Thank you.

***Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this Weekend's Readings to Ponder.*** "God is infinitely good and all His works are good. Yet no one can escape the experience of suffering or the evils in nature which seem to be linked to the limitations proper to creatures: and above all to the question of moral evil. Where does evil come from? "I sought whence evil comes and there was no solution," said St. Augustine, and his own painful quest would only be resolved by his conversion to the living God. For "the mystery of lawlessness" is clarified only in the light of the "mystery of our religion." The revelation of divine love in Christ manifested at the same time the extent of evil and the superabundance of grace. We must therefore approach the question of the origin of evil by fixing the eyes of our faith on him who alone is its conqueror" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 385*).

*Happy Fourth of July!*  
*Fr. James*



# Weekly Schedule

## Sunday, July 4

8:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Children's Church/  
 Babysitting  
 5:30 pm Mass

## Monday, July 5

Office Closed  
 9:00 am No Mass

## Tuesday, July 6

9:00 am No Mass

## Wednesday, July 7

4:30 pm Small Church Community 3  
 7:00 pm Small Church Community 4  
 9:00 am No Mass  
 5:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

## Friday, July 9

9:00 am No Mass

## Saturday, July 10

3:00 pm Confessions

## Sunday, July 11

8:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Children's Church/  
 Babysitting  
 5:30 pm Mass

**SEE YOU AT MASS**

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 4, 2021

- Sunday** Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 [2cd]/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a
- Monday** Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15 ab [cf. 2b]/Mt 9:18-26
- Tuesday** Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and 15 [15a]/Mt 9:32-38
- Wednesday** Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19 [22]/Mt 10:1-7
- Thursday** Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 10:7-15
- Friday** Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Mt 10:16-23
- Saturday** Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7 [cf. Ps 69:33]/Mt 10:24-33
- Next Sunday** Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13

## Prayer REQUESTS

- |                     |                  |                       |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Frank Behn          |                  | Kim McConnell Kalvert |
| Mary Bixler         |                  | Mark Meier            |
| Elizabeth Bolton    | Karen Goodmen    | Iris Miguel           |
| Linda Bowman        | Sharon Goulet    | Mike Murphy           |
| Marilyn Bromberger  | Martine Harrison | Natalie Lech Parent   |
| Christine Cairns    | Nancy Hubbard    | Greg Porrett          |
| William Cairns      | James Jagger     | Chuck Roehl           |
| Marilyn Cruickshank | Linda King       | Dorothy Shafran       |
| Mary Deising        | Sondra Kota      | Heather Stadler       |
| Steven DeMeulenaere | Alan Langolf     | Michael J. Ward       |
| Denise Gawronski    | Barbara Letzgun  | Robert Wawrzyniak     |
| James Giachino      | Edward Letzgun   | Sara Wawrzyniak       |



**Hearing Assistance** is available for those who have Bluetooth connective hearing aids. First, download the App "Audio Everywhere" to your smart phone — the free App is available at Google Play Store or the App Store for the Apple iPhone. Audio Everywhere is available to use during Mass when our sound system is in use. To use Audio Everywhere you will need to go to your phone settings and choose the Wi-Fi named Listen-ADA. You will need a password to connect to Listen-ADA. Please contact the Parish Office for the password. Thank you.

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**St. Mary's Port Huron**

# TIMOTHY

## OFFICE

*“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”*  
1 Timothy 4:12



Kristi—Director of Religious Education

## Let (True) Freedom Ring!

Fireworks. Picnics. Parades. This weekend we, as Americans, celebrate our freedom from Great Britain, and the festivities can be seen all around us. Freedom is a word that can conjure up all kinds of images ranging from the faces of our military personnel who died in order to keep us free, to the voices of those who insist, “It’s a free country, and no one can tell me what to do!” The secular definition of freedom has been debated endlessly through the years, and I imagine it will continue to be for as long as there are people here to debate. Yet, our faith offers us a different view of freedom which is worth examining a bit closer.

First, God has given us free will. In many situations we do have the power to choose; however, along with that freedom comes responsibility. Father Mike Schmitz said, **“I am free to make my own choices, but I am NOT free to choose the consequences of those choices.”** Some of the consequences that result from our choices are positive while others are negative, but they ALL have an impact on ourselves, others, or the physical world around us. It’s true that we have the freedom to choose sin or virtue, but we are also responsible for the results of that choice. Free will is a powerful gift.

Second, our faith teaches us that our freedom is not based upon external circumstances but rather on our internal beliefs. Take a moment to think about what you believe. Do you believe that you are the beloved, unique child of God the Father? Do you believe that Jesus is your Savior? Do you believe in the power of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church? Do you believe that God wants you to be truly happy and that by making choices based on His teachings you will live in that happiness? If you are able to answer “yes” to these questions, you may already understand that even when you feel trapped by your job, your finances, your health, or your obligations (external circumstances), you can still experience the power and peace of true freedom in Christ. (internal beliefs) We can see this in the joyful writings of the Apostle Paul while he was in prison. Although he was in shackles, his physical freedom taken away, in his letter to the Philippians, he used the Greek words for joy and rejoicing sixteen times in only 104 verses. He had every reason to grumble about his freedom being taken away, but he didn’t! True freedom is found in a relationship with God.

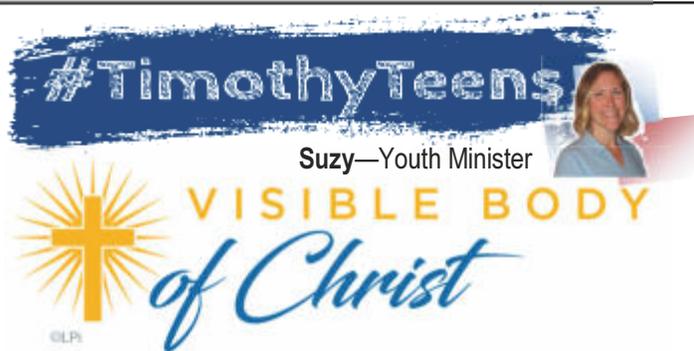
We are given so many ways to deepen that relationship with God and experience His freedom whether it be through prayer, Scripture, and the Sacraments. Speaking of the Sacraments, I can remember Father James referring to the confessional as the “Freedom Box” rather than the “Penalty Box.” That comment has stayed with me because through my years as a Director of Religious Education, I’ve had people express to me that they don’t want someone telling them they “have” to go to Reconciliation; they want the freedom to choose. Yet, the irony is that Jesus established this Sacrament to **give us freedom** from our sin that we carry with us, **not take freedom away!** The grace we receive restores our relationship with Him and others. Yet again, we can see the difference between viewing freedom with secular eyes rather than eyes of faith.

A reporter once asked Pope Saint John Paul II, “What do you do with your free time?” and he replied, **“All my time is free.”** Here is a man who carried great burdens and responsibilities, one of the busiest men on the planet, yet he was able to recognize that as beloved Child of God, he truly did have the best kind of freedom; the kind that frees us from the passions, power, pleasure or people-pleasing behavior that can enslave us. May we try to emulate our Holy Father’s example and remember that we find the truest, most eternal freedom, in God and His Church.

Blessings,  
Kristi Socha  
Director of Religious Education



July 4, 2021



Last week was one of the longest of my life. We experienced the sudden passing of a dear loved one due to injuries sustained from a tragic accident. The grief and sorrow that resulted were at times unbearable.

And yet.

God gave our family the grace to get through a tremendously difficult week. The prayers and support of the community were amazingly overwhelming. People calling, texting, mailing and showing up at our door. Sisters in Christ willing to drop whatever they were doing to offer their help. Friends and family gathering from near and far to give their heartfelt condolences and share in our grief. All of these gestures are appreciated more than they may ever know.

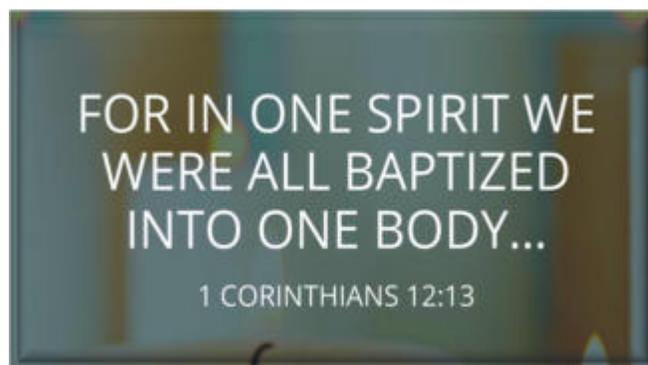
And yet.

The most powerful moment of my week happened while standing in the procession line at the church as the funeral Mass began. With where I was standing, I couldn't see inside the church until the line began moving forward processing behind the casket during the opening hymn. The church came to life with voices singing the words of "Be Not Afraid." With tears in my eyes, I could still see the church was filled to capacity. Pew after pew held faithful brothers and sisters who not only experienced the same "Good Friday" we had at the loss of our loved one, but they wanted to experience the "Resurrection Sunday" of the funeral Mass that reminds us that Jesus has conquered death and as baptized Christians who belong to Christ, we have nothing to fear. What a blessing to be swept up in the collective singing and shared sorrow with the visible Body of Christ here on earth. And of course, the communion of saints and hosts of angels in heaven were present as well, but just not visible to me. The reality of our

connectedness not only with those I could see, but also the faithful who have gone before us was palpable. In my sorrow, God gave me a glimpse of heaven. Of joy and incredible love. I thank God for this gift. And I thank each of you for your prayers and support. Let us continue to make the Kingdom of God present here to everyone we meet. As the Lord Jesus teaches us in the Gospels, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

Joyfully in Christ,

Suzy DeVeny



## Pot Luck Picnic



**Sunday, July 11, 2021, 1 - 6pm**  
**Marysville Park Pavilion #2**



The St. Clair County Right to Life is sponsoring a Pot Luck Picnic with *Games* for the kids, *Ultimate Frisby Tournament* for the teens, *Softball Game* and much more! There will be a "Best Dish Contest" with 1st, 2nd & 3rd place with cash prizes. Plan to attend and show off your cooking and baking skills. SCCRTL will provide tableware and beverages. Please let us know how many from your family will attend and what dish you plan on bringing. It's summer, let's celebrate with *Food, Faith and Fellowship!*

**For more information call**  
**Julie Redlawski at (810)329-2711**



## Sacred Music Ministry

### Musical Musings

Last week, June 21 – June 25, I had the pleasure and privilege of attending a week-long course of studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. The course was an intensive study (7 hours per day, plus homework assignments each day) in the *Ward Method: Music Instruction for Catholic Schools*. The method of teaching was developed by Mrs. Justine Ward in the early 1900s. Mrs. Ward was a convert to the Catholic Faith. In 1904 she began to develop a method for teaching music to children. In 1913 the first edition of her method was published. In 1920 she met the Benedictine Dom Andre Mocquereau, who was known for his work in interpreting rhythm in chant from ancient manuscripts. Justine Ward learned his method of interpretation directly from him, and brought his principles of rhythmic interpretation into her method. Throughout the 1920s she incorporated these principles into the rhythmic portions of her teaching method.

Wishing to contribute to the great movement of reforming liturgical music that began during the pontificate of Pope Pius X, Justine Ward worked tirelessly to introduce children not only to singing the music of the Church, but did so with their emotional and spiritual formation in mind.

In the preface to the teacher's handbook, we read:

Indeed, if music is to help in character formation, if it is to contribute to the integration of the child's intellect with his emotional nature and lift his soul into a spiritual world of truth and beauty, then special attention must be given to the quality of music selected for study and performance. In order to maintain a high quality of music in this series of books and, at the same time, to include music suited to the technical and emotional grasp of children at each level of their development, the music repertoire for the *Ward Method* was selected from the best folk traditions of many countries, the works of classical and modern composers, and from the rich store of the Church's liturgical melodies.

Musical principles, finally, have been simplified in order that regular classroom teachers can learn to teach this great art of music to their children.

Thus, ALL MAY SING, not merely a talented few, for music belongs to all of God's children.

Although from the late 1960s to the turn of the millennium there was a lull in the movement to reform liturgical choral music, this movement is currently enjoying a huge revival. Now that things are returning somewhat to normal in our parishes, it is my hope in the near future to re-form the children's choir and offer music lessons in *Ward Method*. I look forward to working with any children whose parents are interested in having their children learn to sing using this beautiful method.

*Deidre Collins*

Director of Sacred Music



Weekend Liturgy for July 11, 2021			
Day /Time	Sunday 8:00 am	Sunday 11:00 am	Sunday 5:30 pm
Mass Intentions	†Sam Serra by his family †Cory "CJ" Kuhr by Ray †Sister Elaine Mackey by Edward & Barbara Letzgs	†Sandy McMullen by the Severini family (Special Intention) Nick Hong Kayla Beecherl by Suzy & Chris DeVeny †Jennifer Pavlov Askew by Barb & Bill Heinen	Blue Water Vicariate Family 3 of Parishes' Registered Parishioners and Territorial Souls
Celebrant	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady
Lector	Carrine Sylvia Kathy Simons	Traci Rumsey Kim Kozlowski	Jenine Ulrich Pat Berry
Hospitality Ministers	Dan & Luz O'Brien	Pams Binsfeld Terry & Evelyn Carl	Paul Urben Bruce & Marianne Rinke
EMHC *Mass Sacristan	Sarah Voight John Szczygiel Rob Slis*	Fely Nurenberg Terri Landschoot Cori Krohn*	Elizabeth Moore Sherry Kobe Mike King*
Altar Server	Sophia Senyk Graysen Stadler Vincent Schwehofer	Kelsey Ureel Leah Ureel Nick Hong	Konner Wattle



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**Lt. Mark Cruickshank, U.S.A.F.**  
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**A1C Marshall Eckert, U.S.A.F.**  
**SPC Jordan Garijo, U.S. Army**  
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**LCpl John Russ, U.S. Marines**  
**Sgt Curtis Senyk, U.S. Marines**  
**CPL Randy Washburn, U.S. Marines**

**PARISH SUPPORT**

**June 27, 2021**

Loose .....\$ 530.00  
 Envelopes .....\$. 6,387.00  
 Online.....\$ 115.00  
**Total Collection \$ 7032.00**

**Parishioner Summary**  
 Registered Families.....705  
 Envelopes Received.....124  
 Contributing Families.....17%

**THANK YOU**  
*for your generosity*

**2021 Goal \$65,062**

Total Pledges..\$39,975.00  
**Contributions Received**  
 \$24,906.54

**Families Supporting CSA - 86**  
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 Archdiocese of Detroit - CSA*



Protecting God's Children, is currently available in a 45 minute module online through July 31, 2021. All adult volunteers are required to take this training. For more information on how to sign-up visit [www.virtusonline.org/](http://www.virtusonline.org/) or call the Parish office.

**Adopt-A-Garden**

St. Christopher's has many beautiful gardens, all of them in need of some tender loving care. Please consider adopting a small space around a tree or a more adventurous space around the church offices or rectory.

There is no need for meetings; adopt your space and tend to it as needed, on your own time, when it is convenient for you. All of the gardens are well established; they just need a few weeds pulled or the shrub trimmed. Maybe plant a few annuals for extra color for the summer. Your family or church group may like a spot to sit and ponder,

maybe even conger up some friendly competition?

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[evelyncarl@msn.com](mailto:evelyncarl@msn.com)



**Greg Badley**  
Parish Member



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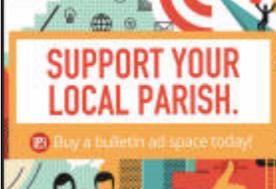
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