

# ST. CHRISTOPHER

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



*July 25, 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., &

Fri., - 8am

Thur., - 7pm

***17th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

1000 MICHIGAN AVE, MARYSVILLE, MI  
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***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. July 25 is the Feast Day of Saint Christopher (martyr), our parish's namesake, under whom our parish experiences his special patronage. In the past we typically have celebrated this solemnity on the Sunday nearest July 25, but this this year, the Feast of Saint Christopher falls on this very Sunday and is celebrated as a Solemnity in our parish church. In celebration of our Patronal Saint's Feast Day, we are having a Feast Day Potluck in the social hall. Come one, come all, and celebrate our parish family's community with food and fellowship. Of course, bring a dish to pass, as is how these potluck things work. Perhaps we will even meet new members of our "extended family" from our other parishes in the Blue Water Vicariate Family 3. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Making a return to Saint Christopher's Parish is *Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)* "2.0," which is now called *Welcome* (an evangelization program brought to us from *Dynamic Catholic*, Matthew Kelly's organization). Before my arrival as your Pastor, Saint Christopher Parish held several retreats for the sake of evangelization, which led to the further establishment and continuation of the Small Church Communities within our parish (and the only place in our Archdiocese) that strengthened many people in their faith and increased their zeal. For several years, we have discussed another round of "Chirp Retreats," as they've commonly been referred to, and now it has finally come to fruition due to a couple of very dedicated parishioners which have previously served on our parish's Leadership Team. They have gathered men and women to form retreat teams who have been working to plan retreats for the Autumn in hopes of reenergizing our parish. A past retreatant and member of the men's retreat team says, "If you miss that 'Spirit on Fire' feeling you had when you did the weekend previously, or if you know someone who would benefit from attending the weekend, please spread the word! Many of us and our fellow Small Church Community members were transformed by that weekend experience and would be great people to invite others to this experience or attend themselves." There will be a men's retreat and a women's retreat. The men's retreat is scheduled for October 9-10, 2021; and the women's retreat is scheduled for November 6-7, 2021.

***Reminder:*** August 30<sup>th</sup> is the third "family gathering," which will be the Installation Mass for the Family-Pastors of Saint Christopher, Holy Trinity and Saint Edward under the Pastor-Moderator of Saint Mary's in Port Huron in the presence of his Excellency, Bishop Robert J. Fisher, Regional Moderator of the Northeast Region, formally, canonically and officially to the Blue Water Vicariate Family 3. A meal will follow this Mass of Installation with the location of Holy Trinity (Saint Stephen's site).

***Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this Weekend's Readings to Ponder.*** "From the beginning, this one Church has been marked by a great *diversity* which comes from both the variety of God's gifts and the diversity of those who receive them. Within the unity of the People of God, a multiplicity of peoples and cultures is gathered together. Among the Church's members, there are different gifts, offices, conditions, and ways of life. 'Holding a rightful place in the communion of the Church there are also particular Churches that retain their own traditions.' The great richness of such diversity is not opposed to the Church's unity. Yet sin and the burden of its consequences constantly threaten the gift of unity. And so the Apostle has to exhort Christians to 'maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 814*).

*Peace,*  
*Fr. James*

## WEEKLY PRAYER

### Sunday, July 25

8:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting  
 12:00 pm Potluck Picnic  
 5:30 pm Mass

### Monday, July 26

9:00 am Mass  
 †Gerald Huber  
 by Marjorie Parmann

### Tuesday, July 27

9:00 am Mass  
 †Robert Rutkofske  
 by Billie Bush

### Wednesday, July 28

7:00 pm Small Church Community 12&16

### Thursday, July 29

9:00 am Mass  
 Isabella Grace Edwards (Birthday)  
 by Suzy & Chris DeVeny  
 5:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

### Friday, July 30

9:00 am Mass  
 †Florence Siopes (1 year)  
 by the Slowski family

### Saturday, July 31

3:00 pm Confessions

### Sunday, August 1

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

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 25, 2021

**Sunday:** 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Eph 4:1-6/  
 Jn 6:1-15

**Monday:** Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [1a]/Mt 13:31-35

**Tuesday:** Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [8a]/Mt 13:36-43

**Wednesday:** Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9 [cf. 9c]/Mt 13:44-46

**Thursday:** Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11 [2]/Jn 11:19-27  
 or Lk 10:38-42

**Friday:** Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab [2a]/  
 Mt 13:54-58

**Saturday:** Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 [4]/Mt 14:1-12

**Next Sunday:** Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/  
 Jn 6:24-35

## St. Christopher Catholic Church



## POTLUCK Picnic

Bring a dish to share!  
 Sunday July 25th @ 12pm

FAITH ~ FOOD ~ FELLOWSHIP ~ FUN

Hot Dogs will be provided

## Prayer REQUESTS

Frank Behn  
 Mary Bixler  
 Elizabeth Bolton  
 Linda Bowman  
 Marilyn Bromberger  
 Christine Cairns  
 William Cairns  
 Marilyn Cruickshank  
 Mary Deising

Denise Gawronski  
 James Giachino  
 Karen Goodmen  
 Sharon Goulet  
 Nancy Hubbard  
 James Jagger  
 Linda King  
 Sondra Kota  
 Alan Langolf  
 Barbara Letzgun  
 Edward Letzgun  
 Kim McConnell Kalvert

Mark Meier  
 Iris Miguel  
 Mike Murphy  
 Natalie Lech Parent  
 Greg Porrett  
 Chuck Roehl  
 Dorothy Shafran  
 Heather Stadler  
 Michael J. Ward  
 Robert Wawrzyniak  
 Sara Wawrzyniak

# 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*

## Celebrating Saint Christopher

A few weeks ago, I wrote about family trees and how the saints are an important part of our faith family trees. This Sunday (July 25th), we get to celebrate someone that is part of the family tree of all our parishioners, and that would be Saint Christopher, the patron saint of our parish. We are celebrating his feast day with a potluck gathering from 12-5 pm. Like most family gatherings, there will be games, food, laughter, and, of course, stories. So, I thought this was the perfect week to share some information about Saint Christopher for those who may be unfamiliar with him.

“Saint Christopher is one of the most popular Catholic Christian heroes of the Faith. He is a saint, indeed listed as a martyr. He may have also been named Reprobos. He apparently died under the Roman Emperor Decius, in 251 AD. Most Catholics refer to him as Saint Christopher anyway, and his medals and the popular devotions to him are among the most common in Catholic piety.

Other than his listing as a martyr, there are no primary sources referring to Saint Christopher, only stories and traditions which have been passed down.

According to these accounts, Saint Christopher was extremely tall, and by some accounts he was even a giant! He was surely a man of significant physical stature. But, more importantly, he was a spiritual giant and a sure model and inspiration for the Christian faithful.

Christopher decided one day that he wanted to serve the greatest king he could. He presented himself before his local ruler and entered service, until he noticed the king cross himself at the mention of the devil, revealing that the king believed the Devil to have more power.

Saint Christopher then decided to serve the Devil. During his search, he encountered a band of thieves, whose leader referred to himself as the Devil. But when this leader avoided a Christian cross out of fear, Saint Christopher learned there was someone even more powerful than the Devil.

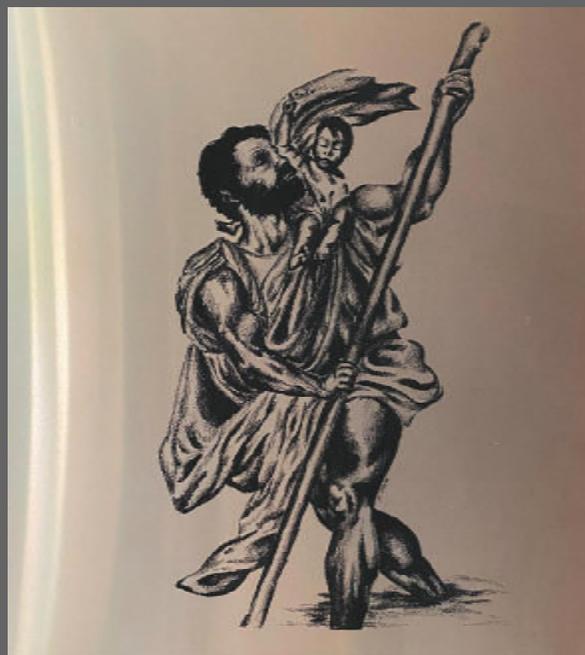
Saint Christopher found a hermit who taught him all about Christ, the King of Kings. The hermit suggested that he spend his life in prayer and fasting, a thing which Saint Christopher, a large and probably often hungry man found difficult, he objected. The hermit suggested he then find something else that would please Christ. Saint Christopher

offered to work at a nearby river and help travelers across. The fording was dangerous and many with less strength people had drowned. The hermit advised Saint Christopher this would please Christ.

One day, a child approached Saint Christopher by the river and asked to be helped across. Saint Christopher obliged. However, as he entered midstream, the river rose, and the child's weight grew and became extremely heavy. It was only by great exertion that Saint Christopher safely delivered the child to the other side.

When Saint Christopher asked the child why he was so heavy, the child explained that He was the Christ and when Saint Christopher carried Him, he also carried the weight of

*(Continued on page 5)*



O Glorious Saint Christopher you have inherited a beautiful name, Christ-bearer, as a result of the wonderful legend that while carrying people across a raging stream you also carried the Child Jesus. Teach us to be true Christ-bearers to those who do not know Him. Protect all of us that travel both near and far and petition Jesus to be with us always. Amen.

(Continued from page 4)

the whole world on his shoulders. The child then vanished.

Other legends state that Saint Christopher traveled after this experience and evangelized thousands of people. Eventually, he was arrested and beheaded.

The name "Christopher" means Christ-bearer and may allude to the legend of the man carrying the Christ Child across the river. Saint Christopher also did not become popularized in the Church until the 7th century, about three centuries after his supposed death. We know of his popularity because around the 7th century, churches and monasteries began to be named after him.

Saint Christopher is the patron saint of travelers and of children. Because he is not officially recognized by the Church, he has no date of beatification or canonization. Despite these technicalities, it is widely thought that he was real and that he continues to intercede on behalf of Christians today."



Please make time to join other parishioners at the potluck picnic as we celebrate our parish family!

Blessings,

Kristi Socha

Director of Religious Education

\*Source: [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=36](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=36)



## Last Call for Easy Volunteer Training!

**This Saturday, July 31 is the last day to take a shortened online version of an important training for all volunteers.**

Here's the details.

All adults age 18 and older who help/volunteer in a parish setting must complete a safe environments training prior to helping. This includes children's ministry, religious education, youth ministry as well as liturgical ministries such as lectors, extraordinary ministers of holy communion (EMHC), hospitality ministers, music ministers, altar servers, coffee & donuts, and more. Basically, anything within the parish that you may run into youth under the age of 18.

This training helps to educate adults to recognize situations we should encourage as well as those we should avoid when interacting with minors (those under the age of 18). Some of this is common sense, but I remember having my eyes opened to a new understanding when I went through the training myself.

Another benefit aside from knowing how to handle or avoid certain situations is to recognize red flags with other adults and minors to help protect them. For example, if I see that a parent is going to drive to an event, I want to ensure I have at least 2-3 teens (minors) riding with them as opposed to only 1 teen. This is to protect the parent as well as the teen from an awkward situation or creating an unsafe environment. It is my Christian duty to help protect

those around me and especially those who are entrusted to my care.

**Protecting God's Children** is the name of this safe environments training that hundreds of parishioners from St. Christopher (and thousands from around the archdiocese) have attended. Most of them drove to an in-person workshop on a specific day that lasted 3 hours. There is a certain inconvenience about this, however effective the in-person training may be. This year, however, they have offered an online version that is only 45-minutes long! Super easy!

I'd like to encourage all adults age 18 and older who have yet to attend this training to take advantage of this shortened version (45 minutes is so easy compared to 3 hours!) before it returns to in-person after the end of July. **You only need to attend this training once** and it clears you to help/volunteer/chaperone with anything within a Catholic parish.

Just go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and click on **"First Time Registrant"** and follow the prompts for the Archdiocese of Detroit and St. Christopher Parish drop down menus. If you need any assistance in this process, please feel free to call Shelley Senyk at 810-364-4100 ext 201 during normal business hours.

Even if you don't currently volunteer, but may want to in the future, this is a great time to complete this training. I hope you take advantage of this easy volunteer training opportunity that helps create safe environments for our children and our parish.



Joyfully in Christ,  
Suzy DeVeny

Youth Minister

1000michiganave@gmail.com

364-4100 ext. 204



## Sacred Music Ministry

### Musical Musings

Today our parish has the great joy of celebrating its patron saint, Saint Christopher. In the East, Saint Christopher's Feast is celebrated on May 9<sup>th</sup>. In the West, his Feast is celebrated on July 25<sup>th</sup>, and is shared with the Feast of Saint James, the Apostle. In the ancient form of the Mass, there are prayers in honor of Saint James, with commemorative prayers in honor of Saint Christopher. In the new form of the Mass, the prayers are in honor of one or the other of the two saints. Since Saint Christopher is the patron of our parish, the celebration is in his honor.



The antiphons for today's Mass are taken from what is called the Commons of Saints. The Common of Saints contains prescribed texts used for feasts and memorials that are common to a particular category of saints, for example apostles or martyrs. Within the Common of Saints, one can find texts for antiphons that can be prayed for minor celebrations of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or apostles, or martyrs, etc. So, today, being a celebration in honor of Saint Christopher, we will sing the antiphons from the Common of Martyrs. If the celebration were in honor of Saint James, the antiphons would be those for apostles (even though he was also a martyr.)

Propers are the parts of the Mass that change with the feasts, and are proper to each particular feast (hence the name propers.) The Ordinary of the Mass refers to the parts of the Mass that are prayed at every Sunday Mass, i.e., the Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Holy, Amen, Lamb of God. The *Mass of Unity*, the Ordinary that we sing here at Saint Christopher is dedicated to Saint Christopher and to Saint James. It was on the eve Saint Christopher's Feast in the East (May 9) that I was inspired to compose this Mass. When happily I discovered that Saint Christopher and Saint James shared a Feast day (July 25) in the Western Church, I knew I must dedicate that Mass to them both. But what to call the Mass setting? Without thinking about it too much, I realized that both Saint Christopher and Saint James have been venerated for centuries in both the East and the West. As I have for many years had a desire and a prayer for unity between the Eastern and Western Churches, as well as a desire and a prayer for unity among all those who love Christ and His Church, I decided to call the new Mass setting *Mass of Unity*.

By the gracious permission of Father James, we introduced this Mass at our parish in the autumn of 2018. It is an honor to sing this Mass with all of you on Sundays, and especially on this great Feast of our Patron Saint Christopher, to whom it is dedicated.

May God bless us all, through the intercession of this great saint, Saint Christopher. Happy Feast Day!

*Deidre Collins*

Director of Sacred Music



The altar sacristans are in need of another pair of hands, or two, to help in our ministry here at St. Christopher's. We care for the linens used at Mass, washing, and ironing are involved, along with caring for the candles on the altar. The schedule is flexible; you only serve about once every 4-5 weeks. If anyone is interested, please call the parish office (810) 364-4100.

*July 25, 2021*

**Weekend Liturgy for August 1, 2021**

Day /Time	Sunday 8:00 am	Sunday 11:00 am	Sunday 5:30 pm
Mass Intentions	†Gerald & Mary Lou Malinowski by their family †Judy Grupido by the Severini family †Gerald Huber by Mike & Lind King	†Mary E. O'Brien by the O'Brien family †Jacob & Tessie Senyk by the Senyk family †Paul & Gertrude Nofs by their daughter	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	Tracey Rumsey Kim Kozlowski	Jenine Ulrich Pat Berry
Hospitality Ministers	Dan & Luz O'Brien	Pam Binsfeld Terry & Evenly Carl	Bruce & Marianne Rinke Paul Urben
EMHC *Mass Sacristan	Sarah Voight John Szczygiel Mary Brown*	Fely Nurenberg Teri Landschoot Dori Krohn*	Elizabeth Moore Sherry Kobe Mike King*
Altar Server	Sophia Senyk Charlie O'Brien Vincent Schwehofer	Nick Hong Kyle Beecherl	Konner Wattle Griffin Badley Luke Badley

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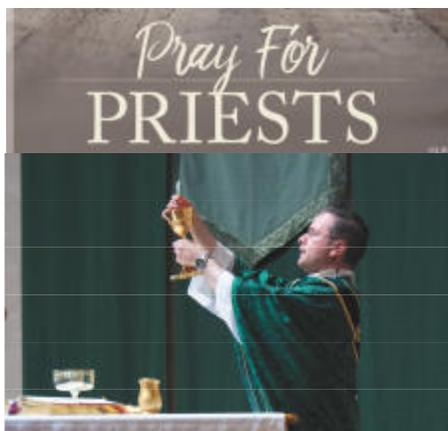
For more information on Interview times and Opportunities in the local Parish Communities please contact, Don M. Wesley FICF, General Agent, at 888-393-7539

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Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of Father James. Through him, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help Father James to be strong in his vocation. Set his soul on fire with love for your people. Grant him the wisdom, understanding and strength he needs to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire him with the vision of your Kingdom. Give Father James the words he needs to spread the Gospel. Allow him to experience joy in his ministry. Help him to become an instrument of Your Divine Grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.



**July 18, 2021**

Loose .....\$ 308.00  
 Envelopes .....\$ 5,665.00  
 Online..... \$ 350.00  
**Total Collection \$ 6,323.00**

**Parishioner Summary**

Registered Families.....705  
 Envelopes Received.....95  
 Contributing Families.....13%



**2021 Goal \$65,062**

Total Pledges..\$44,165.00  
**Contributions Received**  
 \$29,832.31

**Families Supporting CSA - 96**

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- MK1 EJ Anglebrandt, U.S.C.G.
- Major Clayton Cruickshank, U.S.A.F.
- Lt. Mark Cruickshank, U.S.A.F.
- CPL Nicolas Deland, U.S. Marines
- A1C Marshall Eckert, U.S.A.F.
- SPC Jordan Garijo, U.S. Army
- Pvt. Nathaniel Nelson Hofh, MI N'tl Grd
- Sgt Joe Kilbourne, U.S. Army
- Cpl Michael Knowles, U.S. Army
- Sgt Mario Nowicki, U.S. Army
- PO2 David Patchel, U.S. Navy
- Capt Chelsea Patino, U.S.A.F.
- Capt Taque Patino, U.S.A.F.
- CPT Lt Eric Reder, U.S. Army
- C4 Jacob Redlawski, U.S.A.F.
- LCpl John Russ, U.S. Marines
- Sgt Curtis Senyk, U.S. Marines
- CPL Randy Washburn, U.S. Marines

**Greg Badley**  
Parish Member



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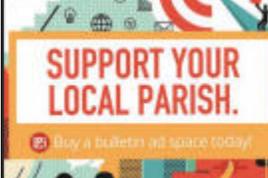
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