

ST. CHRISTOPHER

CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 8, 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

19th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one
may eat it and not die." - Jn 6:50

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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. If anyone were to ask you why you are Catholic, then the answer is supposed to be "because of the Holy Eucharist," or some answer that has to do with the Holy Eucharist. So, "why be Catholic?" "Because of the Eucharist." The Eucharist is the sign of God's love for us and God's abiding presence in our midst; the point from which everything comes, and everything returns because the Eucharist is Jesus Himself (everything in our Catholic Church begins and ends with Jesus). The Eucharist has also been referred to as a sign and reality of communion due to the aspect of a meal; and as "thanksgiving" because of the meaning of the Greek word *Eucharistia* from which the word derives. But the Eucharist is much, much more than just a sign, right? Absolutely! The Eucharist is a reality – the reality of the living, breathing, beating heart of Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity and the Son of God, the Almighty Who is Love.

Oftentimes, the Eucharist is misunderstood, or simply misbelieved. Perhaps it is due to how signs are read that contributes to this statistic that "only 20% of Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist." Even the Gospel of John, chapter 6, indicates how signs can be mistaken or poorly perceived. Non-believers of the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist have many misperceptions of the Eucharist's meaning and reality. While the sign of the Eucharist may very well be drawing people toward the faith, many still misunderstand – much like the feeding of the 5,000 men with the loaves and their confusion about missing the meaning of that sign (*Jn 6:2-15 and 24-35*). People must come to an understanding of what the Catholic Religion teaches regarding belief concerning the central action of our faith – the Holy Eucharist and the Mass itself. The Eucharist may appear to some as "magical;" but it is not magic. On the other hand, it may appear to be simply a group celebration. The meaning of the reality is so important because this reality is truly our "lifeblood" – we cannot live without it. Anyone who truly believes in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist at least understands "this is food for my spiritual life or soul that feeds my spirit." If anyone wishes to live, then one must be fed – natural food for the physical body's life and spiritual food for the soul's life.

Reminder: Three weeks from tomorrow, August 30th, is the Mass of Installation 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 of the Archdiocese of Detroit, formally, canonically and officially to the Blue Water Vicariate Family 3. A meal will follow this Mass of Installation. The location where the Mass and meal are to occur will be at Holy Trinity (Saint Stephen's site).

What does this mean? If you recall back in 2016 when I was formally installed as "Pastor" from being an "Administrator" after my first year here, then this would be very similar. Since I have been appointed for another six-year term, then I will need "re-installed" as the Archdiocese of Detroit has changed my formal position and title from Pastor to "Family-Pastor" with the dawn of "Families of Parishes." This title change is actually a slight demotion as many see it, but the good news is that I get to stay put for the time being. If you are available, then please make plans to join us! To those from our parish assisting the Mass and meal, thank you so very much for representing our Parish Family in our extended family of the Blue Water Vicariate Family 3.

Reminder: Making a return to Saint Christopher's Parish is *Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)*, which is now
 (Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

called *Welcome* (a slightly modified 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 that strengthened many people in their faith and increased their zeal as they prepared for the Sunday Eucharist by reflecting upon the upcoming Sunday readings. 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. Men's and women's retreat teams have been working diligently to plan retreats for the Fall to offer these special times with Jesus. 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. For more information you may contact our parish office.

Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this Weekend's Readings to Ponder. "There is no surer pledge or dearer sign of this great hope in the new heavens and new earth 'in which righteousness dwells,' than the Eucharist. Every time this mystery is celebrated, 'the work of our redemption is carried on' and we 'break the one bread that provides the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the food that makes us live forever in Jesus Christ.'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1405*).

Fraternally,
Fr. James

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, August 8

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

Monday, August 9

9:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, August 10

9:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, August 11

7:00 pm Small Church Community 12
7:00 pm Small Church Community 16

Thursday, August 12

9:00 am No Mass
5:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

Friday, August 13

9:00 am No Mass

Saturday, August 14

3:00 pm Confessions

Sunday, August 15

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

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8, 2021

- Sunday:** 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a]/Eph 4:30—5:2/
Jn 6:41-51
- Monday:** Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 17:22-27
- Tuesday:** 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 [5]/Jn 12:24-26
- Wednesday:** Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5 and 8, 16-17 [cf. 20a and 10b]/
Mt 18:15-20
- Thursday:** Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:21—19:1
- Friday:** Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 and 24/Mt 19:3-12
- Saturday:** Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a, and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5a]/Mt 19:13-15
- Next Sunday:** Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14 [8]/
1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16 [10bc]/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Mass
and a Meal
St. Stephen, 325 32nd St., Port Huron

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MONDAY | AUGUST 30 | 6-8 P.M.
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FOPGATHERINGS.ORG

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*



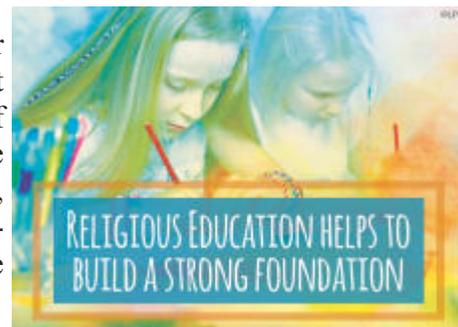
Religious Education

It's That Time of Year Again!

For me, September has always signaled a new beginning which I suppose is due to the fact that I transitioned from a student to a teacher to a Director of Religious Education. September has always brought the smell of new crayons, the sight of fresh blank notebooks and the belief that new adventures were ahead. This year I am feeling that even more deeply after a year of unprecedented changes and challenges. The whole Religious Education team is eager to see **all** those precious faces as we gather together in person! There is something very powerful about sharing our faith together each Sunday morning.

For those of you who were enrolled and participated in our program last year we thank you so much for your patience and perseverance! Seeing your faces, whether it was virtual or in-person, encouraged us to keep sharing the teachings of the Church and of Jesus. We greatly appreciate you!

I know that some of you, for a variety of reasons, took a step back last year and were either not participating in weekly Mass and classes, or were not attending regularly due to the dispensation. During that time away some of us may tend to downplay the importance of our presence and think that we are not an essential part of what is happening at our parish. However, nothing is further from the truth! We are a family that is only truly complete when all our members are together! You are prayed for, and you are greatly missed.



Here at Saint Christopher Parish, we are honored to be able to walk along this faith journey with your family and we take this responsibility seriously. We know that parenting can be overwhelming so we pray that you and your children discover the joy and freedom that come once a personal encounter with Jesus occurs and that you find strength through the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Our catechists and other members of the Religious Education team are here to offer any support and guidance that you may need.

So, with that said, we are currently enrolling students who will be in the 1st through 8th grades during the 2021-2022 school year. Classes are held from 9:30- 10:45 am (between the two morning Masses) and begin Sunday September 26th. **If you have not already, please complete a registration form and return it, along with payment to the office. This year, more than ever, we would really appreciate receiving your registrations as soon as possible.** It helps us know our student numbers so we can plan accordingly and also ensure we have the correct number of supplies ordered. If you have not already received a registration form you can find copies of it, along with the Religious Education calendar, located in the Gathering Area. The tuition fee is listed on the registration form and payment (cash or a check made out to St. Christopher Church) is due at time of registration. If you need a payment plan or financial assistance, please contact me at (810) 364-4100 ext. 202. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns and know that I continue to pray for you and your families.

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.” Psalm 127:3



Blessings,
Kristi Socha- Director of Religious Education
(810)364-4100 ext. 202

August 8, 2021



READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

SHARING THE GOSPEL

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus compared himself to manna. A long time ago God's people ate manna in the desert, because there was no other food to eat. By sending manna falling from the sky every morning, God taught his people to trust him. Manna tasted good, and it kept them healthy. God took care of them and gave them all they needed. Then, hundreds of years later, God sent Jesus down from heaven, so people could have everlasting life with him.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus down from heaven so that we can look forward to living with you forever in heaven. Amen.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

The Hebrews often baked manna into little cakes. Ask your parents if you can make pancakes this weekend, and talk about how Jesus is like manna.

Find the eight things that are different.



HELP YOUR CHILDREN MEET THEIR **BEST FRIEND**

Register for Religious Education today.

your child belongs

...in this church
 ...in this community
 ...in the body of Christ
...in Religious Education

Join a Small Church Community

Small Church Communities are an opportunity for Catholic adults to come together for faith sharing through proclamation of the Gospel and thoughtful reflection on God’s Spirit moving within us through His Word. God does not speak to us only as individuals, but He speaks to us and through us as His Church. If you have never been part of a Small Church Community before, or if it’s been awhile since you could be part of one, give yourself a chance to grow in faith with your fellow parishioners here at St. Christopher! This is not a Bible study or a class, this is real people coming together to share the Gospel with each other and be companions with each other on the journey to a deeper faith in Christ by preparing ourselves to receive all of God’s blessings before coming to Mass each week. We remind each other that we are Catholics every day, not just on Sunday!

If you want to find out more about Small Church Communities or how to join, please call the parish office or visit the St. Christopher website at www.stchrismi.org/smallchurchcommunities. Fill out the form at the bottom of the page, and someone will reach out to you quickly!

A Special Opportunity for Women & Men

Welcome.

There is More to Life

What: An incredible experience that will help you discover what’s missing in your life and what to do about it

When: Men’s Welcome Retreat : October 9-10, 2021
 Women’s Welcome Retreat: November 6-7, 2021

Where: St. Christopher Catholic Church, Marysville

Who: Any man or woman over the age of 18

Why: Because you deserve to live with passion and purpose

RSVP: St. Christopher (810)364-4100

Dynamic Catholic

Save the Date

9/11/21

Patriot's Day Walk For Life,
 Liberty and Justice for All

Spero
 Pregnancy Center

September 11, 2021
 Registration 8:30 am - Walk 9:00
 Fort Gratiot Trail
 810.985.HOPE BlueWaterBabies.org

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 Letzgus
 Edward Letzgus
 Kim McConnell Kalvert
 Thomas McMahon
 Mark Meier
 Iris Miguel
 Mike Murphy
 Natalie Lech Parent

Greg Porrett
 Chuck Roehl
 Dorothy Shafran
 Heather Stadler
 Jane Veitentruber
 Michael J. Ward
 Robert Wawrzyniak
 Sara Wawrzyniak
 Phillip Ziezulewicz

Weekend Liturgy for August 15, 2021

Day /Time	Sunday 8:00 am	Sunday 11:00 am	Sunday 5:30 pm
Mass Intentions	†Mary Prevost(8 years) by Poppy & family †Bernice & Eugene Melczarczyk by Michael & Mary Byington Tyler Ellery(graduation) by Suzy & Chris DeVeney	Blue Water Vicariate Family 3 of Parishes' Registered Parishioners and Territorial Souls	†Florence Siopes by the Slowski family †Darold Walker by the Severini family †Bernard Shafran by Dorothy Shafran & Family
Celebrant	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady
Lector	Deem Boldyreff Maggie St. John	Kim Kozlowski Christine Sass	John Gomola Jenine Ulrich
Hospitality Ministers	Mike O'Brien Gale Messing Ted Hubbard	Jan Hamblin Webb & Sue Coates	Penny Trottier Paul Urben
EMHC *Mass Sacristan	Ron Baranowski Marilynn Pavlov Mary Brown*	Fely Nurenberg Teri Landschoot Kristin Tunich*	Elizabeth Moore Sherry Kobe Mike King*
Altar Server	Charlie O'Brien Sophia Senyk Graysen Stadler	Nick Hong Jacob Tunich	Luke Badley Griffin Badley



<p>Lectors</p> <p>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</p> <p>Hospitality Ministers</p> <p>Altar Servers</p> <p>Altar Sacristans</p>	<p>Musicians</p> <p>Homebound Ministers</p> <p>Please contact the Parish Office at (810) 364-4100 if you are interested in joining one of these ministries.</p>
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August 1, 2021

Loose\$ 645.35
Envelopes\$ 7,802.00
Online..... \$ 150.00
Total Collection \$ 8,597.35

Parishioner Summary
Registered Families.....705
Envelopes Received.....152
Contributing Families.....22%

2021 Goal \$65,062

Total Pledges..\$44,465.00
Contributions Received
\$31,447.31

Families Supporting CSA - 98
Please make checks payable to Archdiocese of Detroit - CSA

Thank you for your support

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- 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 Hohf, 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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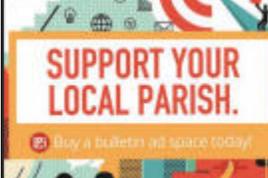
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