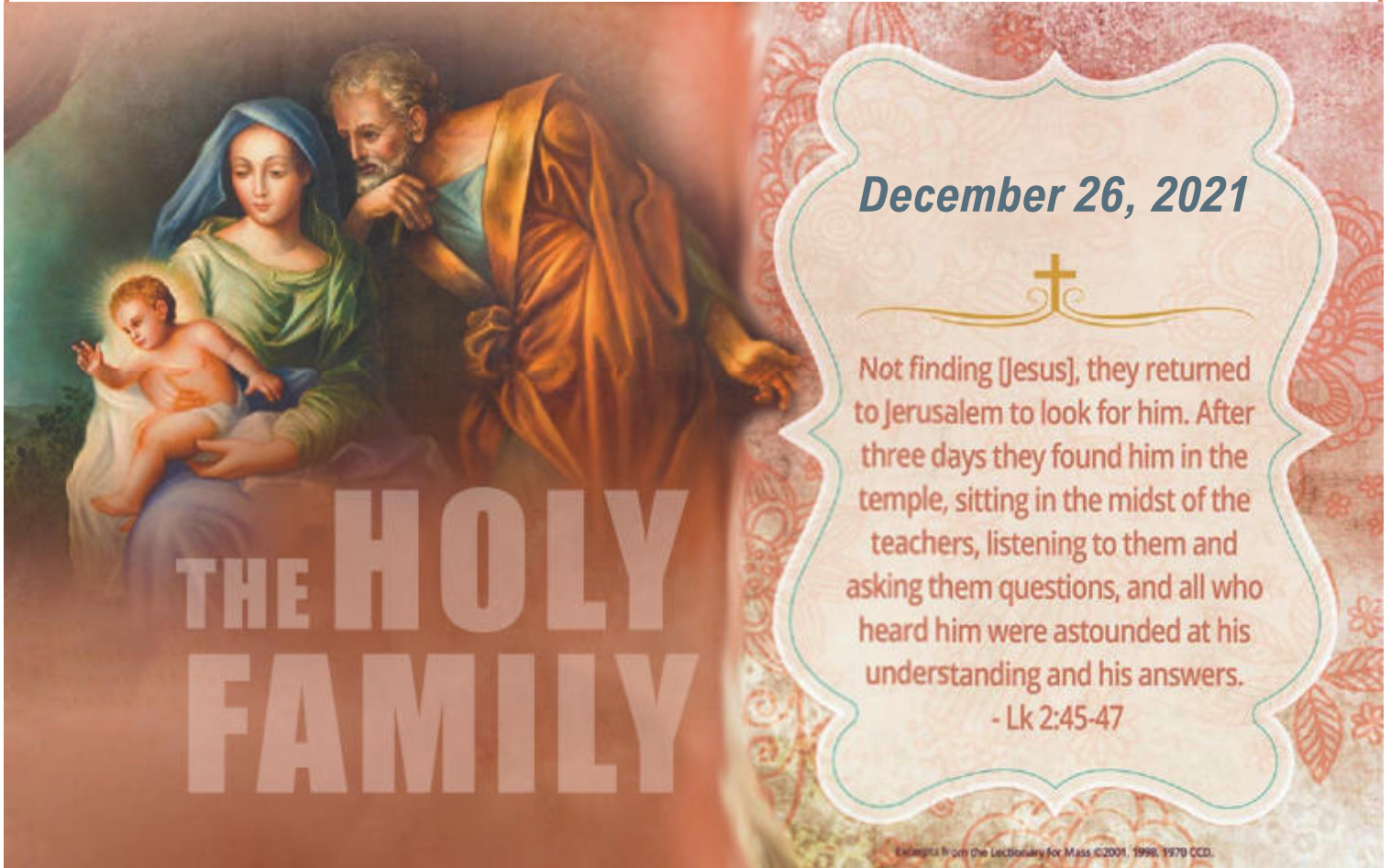




ST. CHRISTOPHER

CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 26, 2021



Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

- Lk 2:45-47

Excerpta from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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

LOCAL PARISHES 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





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. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God is at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022. There will *not* be a vigil Mass on December 31, 2021. Incidentally, January 1st is also the octave day of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, First Saturday, and World Day of Peace.

Since January 1st is a Saturday, and on Saturdays (as most of you are aware) we typically have Confessions from 3:00 – 4:00 PM, but since the Mass is at Noon, we will have a very special Confession Time for that day only, namely from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM before the Holy Mass. This way if anyone needs Sacramental Reconciliation with God and forgiveness of their sins, especially any that may have transpired the night before, you will be able to cleanse your soul and prepare to hear the proclaimed word clearly and receive the Most Holy Eucharist in a state of grace for this obligatory Mass.

In just three weeks Bishop Robert Fisher is expected to be here to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Saint Christopher's Confirmation class of 2022 on January 16. As a gentle reminder, I ask that you remember in your prayers all those who will be sealed in the Gift of the Holy Spirit by way of reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation as well as their sponsors. Thank you.

Musical Note. As of the writing of this bulletin article (December 14) in time for an early publication deadline due to the holiday, we do not yet have any musician scheduled for morning Masses on January 2nd or January 30th (this includes both 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM). We hope, by that time, we will have someone to play the piano or organ for us, but if worse comes to worst, then we will simply "go acapella" for these four Masses. If everyone sings, then this will sound pretty good. The human voice is the preferred instrument for Church worship and "he who sings well, prays twice."

Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this weekend's readings to ponder. "The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life: 'The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus – the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for *silence*, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us ... a lesson on *family life*. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character ... A lesson of *work*, Nazareth, home of the "Carpenter's Son," in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work. ... To conclude, I want to greet all the workers of the world, holding up to them their great pattern, their brother who is God'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 533*).

"The *finding of Jesus in the temple* is the only event that breaks the silence of the Gospels about the hidden years of Jesus. Here Jesus lets us catch a glimpse of the mystery of his total consecration to a mission that flows from his divine sonship: 'Did you not know that I must be about my Father's work?' Mary and Joseph did not understand these words, but they accepted them in faith. Mary 'kept all these things in her heart' during the years Jesus remained hidden in the silence of an ordinary life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 534*).

Blessed Peace of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to yours!
Fr. James



December 26, 2021

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 26

- 8:00 am Mass
9:30 am Religious Education
9:30 am RCIA
11:00 am Mass
11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting
5:30 pm Mass

Monday, December 27

- 9:00 am Mass
†Paul Janiszewski
by Marilyn & Joe Pavlov

Tuesday, December 28

- 9:00 am Mass
Jackie Falecki

Wednesday, December 29

- 10:30 am Small Church Community 3
7:00 pm Small Church Community 4

Thursday, December 30

- 9:00 am Mass
†Paul Janiszewski
by Mike O'Brien

Friday, December 31

- 6:00 am That Man is You
9:00 am No Mass

Saturday, January 1

- 10:30 am Confessions
12:00 pm Mass
Parishioners & Territorial Souls
of St. Christopher's Parish

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



Sunday, January 2

- 8:00 am Mass
9:30 am RCIA
11:00 am Mass
11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting
5:30 pm Mass

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Frank Behn	Nancy Hubbard	Mike Murphy
Colleen Berry	James Jagger	Natalie Lech Parent
Mary Bixler	Linda King	Greg Porrett
Elizabeth Bolton	Sondra Kota	Chuck Roehl
Linda Bowman	Donna Landschoot	Dorothy Shafran
Marilyn Bromberger	Judy Landschoot	Michael Slowski
Christine Cairns	Alan Langolf	Heather Stadler
William Cairns	Barbara Letzgun	Michael J. Ward
Mary Deising	Edward Letzgun	Robert Wawrzyniak
Denise Gawronski	Kim McConnell Kalvert	Sara Wawrzyniak
Karen Goodman	Mark Meier	Phillip Ziezulewicz
Sharon Goulet	Iris Miguel	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILLITARY

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

The Grinch and the Devil

I grew up watching the classic 1966 Christmas cartoon “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. As children we would wait with anticipation, scanning the TV Guide each week in November and December to see what day and time the Christmas specials would be airing because back in the “olden days”, before DVD’s or DVR’s or streaming, you had one shot. It was on TV once a year and if you missed it? Well, there was always next year!

I can remember sitting cross-legged in front of our console television, eating popcorn with glee, because even as the Grinch was creating havoc in Whoville by trying to prevent Christmas from arriving I knew what was coming. (Spoiler Alert!) I loved the iconic scene where the Grinch is standing on the top of the mountain, his sled loaded with stolen presents, decorations and holiday food, while his ears are straining to hear the cries of sadness and disappointment from the villagers. Instead, he hears the sound of beautiful singing drifting up from the valley and we hear the narrators voice say:

“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?” (Theodor Seuss Geisel)

Then, we as the viewers, got to see the Grinch’s heart grow, and grow and GROW. A smile spreads across his face, his adorable dog Max leaps up onto the pile of stolen goods and they both ride triumphantly down the mountain into Whoville to join the villagers who are celebrating the birth of our Savior despite not having any of the usual Christmas trappings. Every year I would clap and cheer at this point whether I was watching it with someone or alone, and I would crunch on my popcorn, satisfied that the Grinch once again failed at preventing Christmas from coming!

Although technically a secular movie, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” relates a Christian truth which is Christmas isn’t what is *around* us but rather what is *in* us. Sometimes, especially during holy seasons such as Advent, the Devil tries to use any of his tricks and lies to pull us away from Jesus. He’ll try to keep us focused on the things of this world; the chaos, the division, the disappointments and even the distractions of the “good stuff” that we think we must have in order to celebrate Christmas time. He’ll try to fool us by making us feel alone or overwhelmed. The Devil is clever in that he will use the things that personally discourage or scare us the most in order to cause us to miss the true meaning of Christmas. In a way, the Devil is the ultimate Grinch (but without the Grinch’s eventual redemption)!

Yet, just like the furry green Grinch failed the Devil also fails because *nothing* can keep Christmas from coming. Despite Herod, the difficulties of the journey and the lack of accommodations our Savoir Jesus was born over 2000 years ago. Despite any personal challenges or heartache, you may be experiencing this year your Savoir Jesus still longs to be born in your heart anew this Christmas season. Finally, despite any confusion or doubt the Devil tries to fling in our direction our Savoir Jesus will be coming back, in the flesh, on some unknown day in the future. We need to keep our focus on those facts and although we can enjoy all the lights and festivities that Christmas time can bring, as Christians we already know what the Grinch had to learn. We know that Christmas doesn’t come from a store, and we know that Christmas means a whole lot more. The Christmas season serves as a reminder that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son into our world so, ultimately, we may have eternal life.



So, as we gather with others, both in homes and at Mass, may we be like the Whos in Whoville and “welcome Christmas while we stand...heart to heart and hand in hand”. The Grinch and the Devil do not stand a chance against the power of that kind of love!



Christmas blessings to you all,
Kristi Socha
Director of Religious Education



THANK YOU!

The Youth Ministry would like to thank Meijer's for their generous donation of \$500 to use for the Adopt-a-family shopping.

UPCOMING QUEST CALENDAR (Grades 9-12):

*QUEST LOCK-IN

Thursday Dec, 30 - Friday Dec 31, 6pm - 6am. Permission slip required if not yet turned in.

***Human Foosball** is Sunday, Jan 9 @ 7-8:30pm in the Social Hall. Invite a friend!

***Boys/Girls Night** is Sunday, Jan 16 @ 7-8:30pm in the Social Hall. The boys will plan the details of an evening for the girls and the girls will plan the details of an evening for the boys. Sure to be fun!

Confirmation Prep

*Confirmation Conversations will be January 2 with Suzy & January 4 with Kristi. Please call the office to verify your date and time.

*WE HAVE A DATE!

The new Confirmation Prep group (current 8th graders) will have their first session (for parents & teens) January 27, 2022 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Social Hall.



#TimothyTeens



Teen/Young Adult Bible Study

We are wrapping up our Fall Teen/Young Adult Bible Study this weekend. It has been an enlightening journey on the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Catholics."

The topics each week included:

- Reading the Word of God**
- Praying Daily**
- Receiving the Sacraments**
- Being Open to the Holy Spirit**
- Building Our Character and Community**
- Practicing Stewardship**
- Sharing the Good News with Others**



The purpose of this study was not only to gain head knowledge about Jesus, but to actually practice these 7 habits to bring peace and joy into our lives. And of course, the fruits of the Holy Spirit that come from living a holy life spill into the lives of those around us and ultimately blessing them too. I am grateful for this group of young people who are becoming the change they want to see in the world.

Have a blessed Christmas season,



Suzy DeVeny
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
1000michiganave@gmail.com
810-364-4100 ext 204



KEEPING OUR PROMISE
TO PROTECT
Child and Youth Protection



Protecting God's Children for Adults

St. Christopher's Social hall
Saturday, January 8, 2022
8:30 AM (light refreshments)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM session

Attendance is required for anyone who may interact with minors, the elderly, or the handicapped. This free three-hour workshop is mandated through the Archdiocese of Detroit and is for persons 18 years of age and older. This

workshop builds awareness and empowers attendees to intervene and prevent potentially harmful situations or behavior. Participants are taught to identify situations that could leave a child, the elderly or the handicapped vulnerable. All participants must register online at www.virtusonline.org. Be sure to select the Diocese of Detroit and the location that you will be attending: St. Christopher Parish (Marysville) Seating is limited so register now! **The session begins at 9:00 AM, no late arrivals will be admitted.**

Mary, the Holy Mother of God January 1, 12 Noon

Mass Intentions	Parishioners & Territorial Souls of St. Christopher's Parish
Celebrant	Rev. James F. Arwady
Lector	Deem Boldyreff
MUSICIAN	Janina Jacobs
CANTORS/CHOIR	
Hospitality Ministers	Dan & Luz O'Brien
EMHC *Mass Sacristan	Linda Tokarski Irene Huber*
Altar Server	Sophia Senyk

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WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD AND GOD IN HIM."



ST. JOHN, APOSTLE



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"As each one has received a gift, use it to SERVE ONE ANOTHER as good stewards."
1 PETER 4:10

Thank you to all
The parishioners who
donated to The Giving
Tree!



Volunteer OPPORTUNITIES

St. Christopher Mid City Nutrition (Soup Kitchen) Ministry is in need of volunteers for 2022.

Your commitment would only be 6 times a year from 8:00 AM to Noon. We have substitutes if a conflict comes up.

The scriptures of Matthew 25 provide the reason for doing the Corporal Works of Mercy of feeding the hungry.

Please contact the church office [810 364-4100](tel:810-364-4100) or John Knuth [810 364-5338](tel:810-364-5338) by the end of December if you would like to join this ministry.

WEEKEND LITURGY FOR JANUARY 2, 2022

DAY / TIME	SUNDAY 8:00 AM	SUNDAY 11:00 AM	SUNDAY 5:30 PM
MASS INTENTIONS	†Joyce Glombowski by Linda & Dave Tokarski †Raymond Burgess by Patty Klecha †Patrick & Sean Grace by the Marysville Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary	†Gerald Huber by Mike, Sandy & Matt Spanich †Winnie Nicholson by the Severini Family Ray & Laura Somogy (special intention)	Parishioners and Territorial Souls of St. Christopher's Parish
CELEBRANT	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady
LECTOR	Deem Boldyreff	Traci Rumsey	Jenine Ulrich
MUSICIAN	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	Brandon Byrne
CANTORS/CHOIR	Mark Privette Cheryl O'Neill	Erin Bockhausen Evelyn Carl Judy Garijo Marilyn Taylor	Marianna Ranshaw Jeremy Ranshaw Heidi Tenyer Greg Kobe
HOSPITALITY MINISTERS	Mike O'Brien Gale Messing Ted Hubbard	Sandy Barrand Pam Binsfeld	Penny Trotter Paul Urban
EMHC *MASS SACRISTAN	Marilynn Pavlov Linda Tokarski Tina Schwehofer*	Fely Nurenberg Teri Landschoot Kristin Tunich*	Jill Measel Mike King Debbie Gomola*
ALTAR SERVER	Charlie O'Brien Sophia Senyk Vincent Schwehofer	Alex Harris Konner Wattle Jacob Tunich	Jerry Measel Connor Tenyer



Make a Charitable Gift from your IRA

If you are over the age of 70 1/2, you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA. Normally, the amount of this distribution is taxed as ordinary income. Recently enacted federal legislation allows you to make a direct distribution from your IRA to a qualified charity that will not be subject to income tax and still counts toward filling your required minimum distribution. The Office of Planned Giving encourages you to consider making a donation to your Parish. For more information on how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact your financial advisor or the Office of Planned Giving at 313-883-8771



<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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2021 GOAL \$65,062

Total Pledges..\$61,625
Contributions Received
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