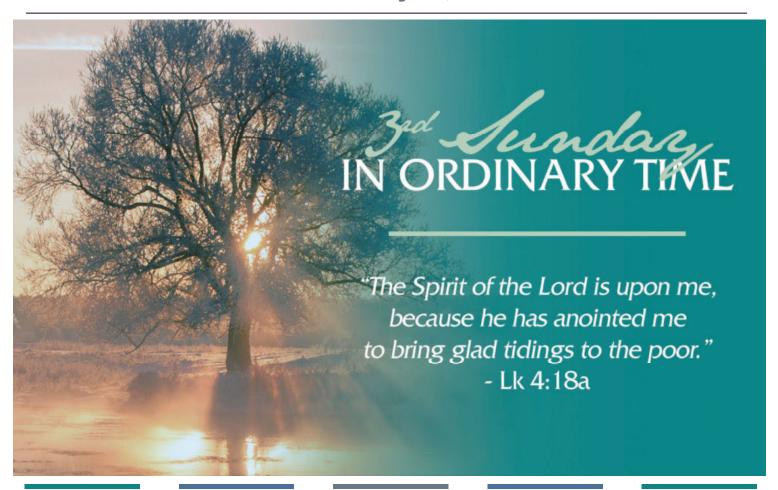


# ST. CHRISTOPHER

## **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

January 23, 2022



#### **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., Fri., 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. Next weekend, on January 30, our Dominican Republic Missionary Team will be taking a few minutes at the end of each Mass to talk about this longtime parish outreach and missionary partnership with San Tomás Catholic Parish in the Dominican Republic. Although travel is still quite restricted, we are still making efforts to support this outreach and mission. Therefore, our Saint Christopher's Parish mission team members have coordinated speakers to inform us of their efforts and intentions and how we can continue to support this parish outreach and missionary partnership. In particular, the team will be receiving free-will donations at the exits of the Church at the end of Masses next week and a slide show of photographs with music will be played in the social hall after all Masses. Thank you so very much for generously supporting this parish outreach and missionary partnership.

*Note on the CSA Goal.* At the time of the writing of this bulletin article, which is January 15, we have reached our CSA Goal *in pledges* and have exceeded it by \$643. Wonderful! Congratulations and thank you to all those pledgers. This is, of course good news, but we now wait for these remaining pledges to become actual cash or check contributions. Currently, we are \$6,635.72 *short* of collecting the remaining pledges as contributions. You may view these details in the financial reporting section of this bulletin. We hope to collect these remaining pledges – or at least \$6,529.72 of them (since \$643 is our "cushion") – by the end of May 2022 so that Saint Christopher's can finalize our CSA goal. If anyone has any questions about the CSA, then please do not hesitate to call upon me. Thank you so very much to all our contributors and pledgers. We are almost there.

Helpful Prayers. I keep reprinting these prayers in the bulletin because they are truly effective for forgiveness, spiritual liberation, healing, and inner peace. Lies and spirits oppress us, or we still experience past hurts from others. These following prayers, if prayed often, are simple, powerful and strategic ways to heal and gain inner peace. For these prayers to be truly effective in our lives they require faith in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ and belief in His power, repentance of our own sins, and a willingness to forgive all. In addition, I would recommend reading Unbound, A Practical Guide to Deliverance by Neal Lozano, and The Temperament God Gave You by Art and Laraine Bennett. Use these prayers in "good 'spiritual' health!"

•	In the Name of Jesus Christ I forgive (name of person) for (what they did) and I declare null and void any and all of its/their effects in my life in the Name of the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
•	In the Name of Jesus Christ I renounce the lie that ( <i>i.e.</i> I am not worthy, I have no meaning, I'm alone, I'm no good, It's never enough, God does not love me, $x, y,$ ) and I declare null and void any and all of its/their effects in my life in the Name of the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

• In the Name of Jesus Christ I renounce the fear of \_\_\_\_\_ (*i.e.* disease, death, disappointing others, not being loved, not being forgiven, not being good enough, x, y, ...) and I declare null and void any and all its/their effects in my life in the Name of the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Continued on page 3)

• In the Name of Jesus Christ I command \_\_\_\_\_ (*i.e.* depression, doubt, fear, x, y, ... (or spirit of x, y, ...) to depart from me right now and I declare null and void any and all of its/their effects in my life in the Name of the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this weekend's readings to ponder. "Justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God,' 'sanctified...[and] called to be saints,' Christians have become the temple of the Holy Spirit.' This 'Spirit of the Son' teaches them to pray to the Father and, having become their life, prompts them to act so as to bear 'the fruit of the Spirit' by charity in action. Healing the wounds of sin, the Holy Spirit renews us interiorly through a spiritual transformation. He enlightens and strengthens us to live as 'children of light' through 'all that is good and right and true" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1695).

Peace, Fr. James

## **WEEKLY PRAYER**

#### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2022**

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or

12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk

4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor

12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

#### Sunday, January 23

8:00 am Mass

9:30 am RCIA

9:30 am Religious Education

11:00 am Mass

11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting

5:30 pm *Mass* 

Monday, January 24

9:00 am Mass

Rich Kliemann

by Irene Huber

Tuesday, January 25

9:00 am Mass

†Joseph Konopka by the Kalbaugh family

Wednesday, January 26

10:30 am Small Church Community 3

7:00 pm Small Church Community 12 & 16

Thursday, January 27

9:00 am *Mass* 

†Ellen Berranen by Donna Miller

Friday, January 28

9:00 am Mass

†Allen Pugliese

by Donna Miller

Saturday, January 29

3:00 pm Confessions

Sunday, January 30

8:00 am Mass - DR collection

9:30 am RCIA

9:30 am Religious Education

11:00 am Mass - DR collection

11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting

5:30 pm Mass - DR collection

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Frank Behn

Colleen Berry
Mary Bixler
Elizabeth Bolton
Linda Bowman
Marilyn Bromberger
Christine Cairns
William Cairns
Mary Deising
Denise Gawronski

Karen Goodmen
Sharon Goulet
Nancy Hubbard
James Jagger
Linda King
Sondra Kota
Donna Landschoot
Judy Landschoot
Alan Langolf

Barbara Letzgus
Edward Letzgus
Mark Meier
Iris Miguel
Mike Murphy
Natalie Lech Parent
Greg Porrett
Chuck Roehl
Robert Schuler

Nancy Schweihofer
Dorothy Shafran
Michael Slowski
Heather Stadler
Dorothy Vanlerberghe
Michael J. Ward
Robert Wawrzyniak
Sara Wawrzyniak
Phillip Ziezulewicz



"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

## The Beauty of the Church

I've heard a quote for years that goes something like "When you know better, you do better." I liked it because it helped me come to terms with those times in the past where I may have made a poor choice, not out of malice but rather out of lack of knowledge or understanding. Once I "knew" or had learned what was needed I "did" better (aka made wiser choices) in the future. As I was praying about a topic for this week's article a variation of that phrase popped into my head..." When you understand more, you do better." Not as catchy but that's what the Holy Spirit said to me! Perhaps it was because I had been reading a book entitled *The Sacred that Surrounds Us: How Everything in a Catholic Church Points to Heaven*, and it was helping me to understand not only the proper names for so many sacred objects and areas but also their origin and meaning.

As I've mentioned in the past, I was raised Methodist and came into the Catholic Church as an adult. The church I grew up in was less ornate than most Catholic churches and although there were certain liturgical norms it seemed simpler. Although I thought the Mass and the churches where it was celebrated were beautiful, I suppose I thought most of it was beautiful just for the sake of beauty. Once I began to learn about the meaning behind the beauty, I figured that my lack of knowledge was because I didn't grow up in the Catholic faith. However, I interact with many "cradle Catholics" in the course of my ministry and I realized that many of them didn't know either! So, although the history of the Church is long and complex, and I could never capture even a fragment of that within a simple bulletin article I thought sharing some of the knowledge about what we see and hear in our churches would help lead to deeper understanding.



Narthex- When we enter a church from outside, we step into this area. It can also be called a Vestibule or Gathering Space. At Saint Christopher, we commonly call it the Gathering Area. Narthex is a Greek word meaning "giant funnel" and it's quite appropriate because as we step into the church building, we are stepping out of the "wider" physical world and "funneling" together into a sacred space. The Church has always encouraged us to prepare our hearts and minds as we come into the presence of Jesus and the Narthex allows us that space to quiet ourselves.

**Nave-** This is the actual area in the church where we sit facing the sanctuary. Before we enter the nave, we stop at the baptismal font to bless ourselves and renew our baptismal promises. Nave comes from the Latin word "ship" so I like the analogy that while we are sitting, standing, kneeling, and walking down the aisle we can imagine that we are on a ship moving toward heaven and Jesus.





**Sanctuary**- This is the area

in front which is usually elevated in some way, and it includes the altar, tabernacle, ambo, and presider's chair. It's appropriate that the word comes from the Latin word "sanctis" which means holy since this is where Jesus is physically present. When you are at Mass watch the reverent way the priest kisses the altar and how he, along with the altar servers, bows or genuflects as they move about the sanctuary. The love for Jesus is evident.

**Altar Bells**- I remember hearing an elderly man say that when he heard the altar bells ring it meant to wake up and pay attention! That made me smile but there truly is a deeper meaning to the bells. The first time the altar bell is rung it is rung once. This is called the *epiclesis*, a Greek word meaning "calling down upon" and it signifies the moment of the coming of the Holy Spirit. A little later when the bells are rung three times it is to signal that Jesus is now sacramentally present in the Holy Eucharist. Historically, bells were used by the High Priest, usually on his clothing, to signal that he was moving into the presence of the Lord in the sanctuary. So, although the elderly man I spoke to was joking he was correct in saying that these are the moments to truly pay attention!





**Tabernacle and Sanctuary Light-** The tabernacle is located in the sanctuary, and it is where Jesus is sacramentally, in each consecrated host. Since this is Jesus- Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity- the tabernacle is what we are facing when we genuflect to show our love and reverence. It is usually kept locked in order to protect Jesus and the priest is the person who is allowed to access the tabernacle during Mass. The sanctuary light, which is usually red in color, is hung near the tabernacle and whenever it is lit it indicates that Jesus is present in the tabernacle. The only time I have seen the sanctuary lamp extinguished is on Holy Thursday and it is relit at the Easter Vigil. This is because there are no consecrated hosts inside the tabernacle at that time. As a Catholic convert, I find the physical presence of Jesus in the tabernacle changes the entire feeling I have when I go into church to pray. Although my mind recognizes that I am alone praying because there are no other people sitting in the pews with me, my heart knows that I am not alone because Jesus is right there in the tabernacle. That is unique to the Catholic Church! So, when you enter the nave always look for the light...and you will find Jesus!

**Pews and Kneelers**- Finally, a quick word about the pews and kneelers. It is easy to think of these as just being there for function but even they are used in a very deliberate way. The pews (or chairs) are placed in the nave in such a manner that we, as the congregation, are focused on the altar, ambo and the tabernacle. As we worship God, we are meant to direct our eyes so that we see Him and our ears so that we may hear Him. We are not meant to be focusing on each other at this point. Even our "Catholic aerobics" have meaning! We kneel to show our reverence for God, we stand when something great is occurring such



as certain prayers or the proclaiming of the Gospel, and we sit when we are learning something such as during the homily. Pay attention to your posture the next time you are at Mass, and you may see the significance in a way you haven't before.

There is so much more to learn and understand about our faith, but I hope that the ones mentioned above will help deepen your understanding. Like I said at the beginning of this article, "When you understand more, you do better". For example, when we understand that one of the purposes of the Narthex (Gathering Area) is to prepare to worship God, we may find ourselves entering into it more quietly or when we understand we sit, stand, and kneel for a specific reason our worship experience can deepen.



May the Holy Spirit give you the eyes, ears, and heart to take in all the beauty that the Catholic Church offers!

Blessings, Kristi Socha



### St. John Bosco Prayer Initiative

St. John Bosco, whose feast day is January 31, is the patron saint of youth. Not long after his ordination to the priesthood in June, 1841, he established what he called a Festive Oratory, a kind of Sunday school and recreation center for boys, in Turin. Father Bosco regularly relied on God's providence to care for these boys through many lean times.

One time the local baker refused to give Father John further credit, and the boy who had gone for the rolls returned

with only 15 rolls for over 300 boys. The boys got in line as Father John began to distribute the rolls, one to each boy. He continued to draw out fresh rolls until each of the boys was fed. The last boy in line counted how many rolls remained in the basket and found there were 15. prayer. Thank you in advance for your https://www.roman-catholic-(Source: saints.com/st-john-bosco.html)

The Archdiocese of Detroit is once again last weekend. coordinating a St. John Bosco Prayer Initiative to engage at least 1,000 intercessors to pray for youth and youth ministry in the Archdiocese of Detroit from January 30 – February 5, 2022.

Knowing the power of prayer to bring about blessing, we are asked to invite 50 people from each parish (consider this your invitation) to participate by going to www.boscoprayer.org. There you will find a brief introduction and an opportunity to sign up (by name or as guest) for a 1-hour block of time to pray during the designated week mentioned above. The user-friendly website also has specific suggestions on how to pray and for whom to pray. I encourage you to give this a try if you happen to know any young people - especially those



for the Sacrament of preparing Confirmation or recently Confirmed.

We thank God ahead of time for the prayerful response of His people and look forward to seeing the results God has in store when we respond in faith and continued prayers for the youth of St. Christopher especially those received the Sacrament of Confirmation



Joyfully in Christ, Suzy DeVeny Coordinator of Youth Ministry

1000michiganave@gmail.com 810-364-4100 ext 204



\*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.

## **UPCOMING QUEST CALENDAR** (Grades 9-12):

\*Sledding with QUEST is Sunday, Jan 23, 2 pm - 3:30 pm Columbus Park WEATHER PERMITTING PERMISSION SLIP **REQUIRED** 

\*Traveling Dinner Party is Sunday, Jan 30, 5-8:30pm in Social Hall. Please RSVP to Suzy by Ian 16.

#### **RISE Detroit Youth Conference** is Sunday, Feb 6 @ 7am-7pm. Lunch & dinner provided. RSVP needed by Jan 30.

\*Detroit Day is Saturday, Feb 12 @ 8am-6pm. Join us for serving at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Gleaners Food Bank, lunch as a group, then Mass at a beautiful old church in Detroit. RSVP by Jan 30.

#### **WEEKEND LITURGY FOR JANUARY 30, 2022** DAY /TIME SUNDAY 8:00 AM **SUNDAY 11:00 AM** SUNDAY 5:30 PM MASS †Sally Eagen Parishioners and †Mike Halvorson **INTENTIONS** by Dave & Linda Tokarski by the family Territorial Souls of St. Christopher's †Virginia Simmons †Dr. Jennifer Askew Parish by Mila Atart by Linda & Mike King †Helmut W. DeVigili †Fred Rosa by Marilynn & Joe Pavlov by the family **CELEBRANT** Rev. James F. Arwady Rev. James F. Arwady Rev. James F. Arwady **LECTOR** Mark Schweihofer Kim Kozlowski Justin Bonney **MUSICIAN** Marcello Rossi Marcello Rossi Brandon Byrne **CANTORS**/ Mark Privette Marilyn Taylor **CHOIR** Cheryl O'Neill Judy Garijo **HOSPITALITY** Selina Schweihofer Terry & Evelyn Carl Bruce & Marianne **MINISTERS** Rinke Jacque Schweihofer **FMHC** John Szczygiel Teri Landschoot Debbie Gomola \*MASS Julia Szczygiel Sherry Kobe Elizabeth Moore SACRISTAN Kristin Tunich\* Mary Brown\* Mike King\* **ALTAR** Vincent Schweihofer Jacob Tunich Jack Curley **SERVER** Graysen Stadler Konner Wattle Cooper Buset Alex Harris



The Spring Semester of THAT MAN IS YOU begins Friday January 28 at 6:00 am

at St. Christopher on Fridays, beginning at 6 AM. From 6 AM until 6:20 AM, participants can enjoy a light breakfast; See you Friday, Mornings. then, we open by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. At 6:30 AM, we play a video following with a small group discussion.

The sessions end at 7:30 AM, just in time for most to get to work. We could use some volunteers to assist with the breakfast set up and the clean-up afterward.

Thank you for being a part of the TMIY men's group as we all grow in our faith and in our roles of fathers and husbands to serve our families and our community around us.

Don't forget to bring a friend and That Man Is You meets in the social hall introduce him to an outstanding group of guys and the wonderful fellowship we share with Christ as the center point!

> For more information please contact Marv Redlawski at (810) 326-1700 or check out TMIY.org.

## THANK YOU for your generosity

#### **JANUARY 16, 2022**

Loose	\$	410.00
Envelopes	\$	5,918.00
Online	\$	1,300.00
<b>Total Collection</b>	\$	7,628.00
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	\$	7,795.00
(amount needed to	pay	expenses)

#### **Parishioner Summary**

Registered Families	705
Envelopes Received	130
Contributing Families	21%

#### 2021 GOAL \$65.062.00

Total Pledges..\$65,705.00 **Contributions Received** \$59,069.28

Families Supporting **CSA - 142** 

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## PLEASE GIVE —

For over twenty years St. Christopher has supported St. Thomas Parish in the Dominican Republic. Over the years teams of parishioners have built classrooms, dug wells, provided computers for the school, built homes, and brought down much supplies.

One of the ways the parish supports the St. Thomas Parish is through monetary donations. After mass on January 30, team members will be taking up a collection to send to our sister parish in the Dominican Republic. Donations can also be brought to the Parish Office during the month of February.





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