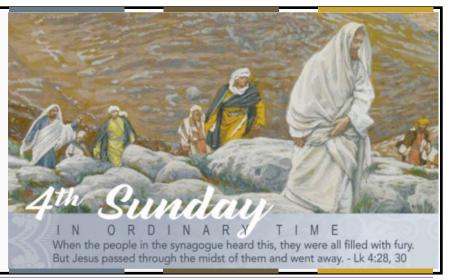


January 30, 2022





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. This weekend our Dominican Republic Missionary Team will be taking a few minutes at the end of each Mass to talk about our longtime parish outreach and missionary partnership with San Tomás Catholic Parish in the Dominican Republic to inform us of how we can support them; and to collect free-will offerings at the exits of the Church at the end of Masses. A slide show of photographs with music will also be played in the social hall after all the Masses. Thank you for supporting this parish outreach and missionary partnership.

CSA Update. I am happy to report that we have reached our CSA Goal in pledges and have exceeded it by \$643. Congratulations and thank you so very much to all those pledgers – and especially actual contributors. But "we're not out of the woods yet." While this is awesomely great news, we must be careful not to "count our chickens before they hatch" for actual contributions tell a slightly different story. In terms of actual contributions received, we are 6,189.05 short of collecting the remaining pledges as contributions. We now await these remaining pledges to become actual cash or check contributions received. We hope to collect these remaining pledges by the end of May 2022, when the CSA year ends, so that Saint Christopher's Parish Family can finalize our CSA goal. If we do not collect these funds, then the difference will be remitted to the Archdiocese from our savings. Financial details may be referenced in the financial reporting section of this bulletin. Any questions about the CSA or things financial regarding our parish may be directed to me at any time. Thank you so very much to all our contributors and pledgers.

Financial Strategy Explanation. Frequently I am asked about our financial strategy and what is behind the changes to it (since previously the CSA was emphasized). Simply put, we are keeping ourselves financially solvent and viable. We have a system in the Archdiocese I am working with to manage cash flow for (or between) our local Advia account and our Loan Deposit Program (LDP) Savings Account with the Archdiocese of Detroit. When our contributions exceed the CSA Goal, those contributions go to the LDP and are typically accessible by formal request, in writing, with a good reason, and with the minutes of the Finance Council – this Archdiocesan process makes things quite cumbersome, inefficient, and difficult to obtain what belongs to the Parish. Contributions made to Christmas and Regular Sunday Offertories are deposited in our local Advia account, for which the Parish has full access to by the Pastor and the Finance Council – in this situation the authority is local, which makes access to

(Continued on page 2)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 30

8:00 am Mass - DR collection

9:00 am Rosary

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

Monday, January 31

9:00 am Mass

tGerald Huber

by Paul Levandowski

Tuesday, February 1

9:00 am Mass

†Joseph Konopka

by the Kalbaugh family

Wednesday, February 2

10:30 am Small Church Community 3

7:00 pm Small Church Community 12 & 16

Thursday, February 3

9:00 am No Mass

Friday, February 4

6:00 am TMIY

9:00 am Mass

†Arthur Baranowski

by Ron Baranowski

Saturday, February 5

9:00 am Adult Faith Formation

3:00 pm Confessions

Sunday, February 6

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



financial resources efficient and easy enabling us to pay our bills.

Since the closure of the Church from March 13 through May 19, 2020, our income, along with our cash flow, has desperately decreased, and so certain strategies are employed to - simply put - place more cash in our local account to pay our bills. I am anticipating a loss this fiscal year unless income levels increase in the next five months. Christmas and Regular Sunday Offertory contributions are deposited directly to our local account, but the Sunday Offertory is assessed 7% by the Archdiocese, Christmas is a 0% assessment, and the CSA – an "assessment" to itself – is calculated by taking 13% of the average of our Christmas Collection plus Sunday Offertory for the last three years. If you ever wonder what kind of income any parish in the Archdiocese of Detroit is pulling in, then you only need to divide the CSA target by 12% (for income less than \$500,000), divide by 13%, which is our tier (for income between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000) or divide by 14% (for income between 1,500,000 and \$2,000,000) or divide by 15% for income above \$2,000,000). Approximate income levels for a parish can be estimated by simply looking at a weekend collection multiplied by fifty-two weeks and adding the Parish's reported Christmas collection. In addition, in terms of "assessments," we also contribute 5% of our income to the Blue Water Vicariate Catholic Schools Support Agreement.

In total, this is 25% of our total income in assessments alone. Clearly, we operate on only 75% of our income at the Parish, this presents certain challenges, and in our depleted income levels, we must look to other strategies.

As a reminder, please make use of the "OFFERTORY" slot in the wall to make financial contributions (keeping them flat and un-wadded to prevent jams) at any time since we no longer pass baskets to collect offertories. Once again, this fiscal year, I am anticipating a loss in the tens of thousands of dollars. In the event anyone is wondering how Saint Christopher's Parish compares among other parishes, our income is the lowest in the Blue Water Vicariate.

In next weekend's bulletin I will examine a potential 50-40-10 financial strategy for next fiscal year 2022-2023, that is, 50% of your total tithe to Sunday Offertory, 40% of your total tithe to Christmas, and 10% of your total tithe to CSA. Thank you so much for your generous financial support.

Helpful Prayers for Forgiveness, Spiritual Liberation, Healing, and Inner Peace. Lies and spirits oppress us, or we still experience the memories of past hurts struggling to forgive. These following prayers, if prayed often, are simple, powerful, and strategic ways to heal and gain inner peace. For these prayers to be 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!"

(Continued on page 3)

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•	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 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>i.e.</i> disease, death, disappointing others, not being loved, not being forgiven, not being good enough, <i>x</i> , <i>y</i> ,) 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.
•	In the Name of Jesus Christ I command $\underline{}$ (<i>i.e.</i> 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

Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this weekend's readings to ponder. "Faith makes us taste in advance the light of the beatific vision, the goal of our journey here below. Then we shall see God 'face to face,' 'as he is.' So faith is already the beginning of eternal life: 'When we contemplate the blessings of faith even now, as if gazing at a reflection in a mirror, it is as if we already possessed the wonderful things which our faith assures us we shall one day enjoy'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 163).

Peace, Fr. James



the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30, 2022

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

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk

5:21-43

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 [1c]/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-

8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Frank Behn Colleen Berry Mary Bixler Elizabeth Bolton Linda Bowman Marilyn Bromberger Lenny Brown **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 -Part Two

"When you understand more, you do better." This is a phrase I used in last week's bulletin article as I wrote about the importance of understanding how our Catholic churches are designed and the sacredness of not only the building but of many of the items contained within it. Since I was only able to scratch the surface, I thought that this week I could continue discussing this topic. But first, I'd like you to close your eyes and imagine you are at Mass. In your mind, let your eyes travel around the church and notice all that you see and hear. Go ahead and try this. Take your time...I'll wait!

Welcome back to those who actually did it! I hope by doing that "imagination exercise" you can more easily place yourself in the church environment as you continue reading about some of what you may have seen or heard. Placing ourselves in the scene can allow the knowledge to take root and really help deepen our understanding,

Processional Cross and Candles- As Mass begins you will often notice that the altar servers will carry a crucifix (usually mounted on a long pole) and candles as they process in ahead of the priest. The crucifix, which displays the body of our Lord, will always be facing the direction in which they are moving. You may have seen a movie, such as Gladiator or Braveheart, that shows a general and his troops marching into battle holding up flags or shields that identify who they are as they proceed forward. In a similar way the priest and altar servers are identifying that we are Christians as they proceed into Mass, and they are showing that the light of Jesus is greater than any darkness we may face. I just love that analogy!



Altar- This word is derived from a Hebrew word that means "place of sacrifice" and it is indeed the holy place we focus on during Mass especially during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. As I mentioned last week, the altar is located in the sanctuary, and it adorned and protected with an altar cloth. Today's altars contain a relic of a saint either under or within the altar. At Saint Christopher it is believed that a relic from Saint Elizabeth Seton, the first person born in what would become the United States to be declared a saint, is contained in our altar.



Corporal- When you were imagining you were at Mass earlier you may have found yourself "seeing" the altar server (or sometimes a priest) folding a piece of cloth, which is laying on the altar, very carefully and deliberately at the end of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This square white cloth is called the corporal and its name comes from the Latin word 'corpus" which means "body". Because as

Catholics we believe that the Eucharist is Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, the consecrated Host and Precious Blood are treated with the utmost respect. You may see a priest brushing his fingers lightly over

the corporal to pick up any sacred particles that may have dropped. Then, to ensure that Jesus is treated reverently the corporal is folded multiple times to make sure that none of the particles drop to the floor. This sacred cloth is then washed in a special way.

Chalice and Paten-The chalice is the cup that holds the wine that will become the Precious Blood and the paten is the plate that holds the bread that becomes the Body of Christ. The priest acting *in persona Christi* (in the



person of Christ) holds up the bread, says the words of consecration and then places what is now the Eucharist back onto the paten. The word paten comes from the Latin word *patina* which means "pan or dish", and this is so fitting because Jesus is our spiritual food! Similarly, the priest holds up the chalice of wine and after saying the words of consecration it becomes the Precious Blood of Jesus. What a tremendous miracle this is!

Ambo-This is located in the sanctuary, and it is where Sacred Scripture is read, the Gospel is proclaimed and the prayers of the faithful are spoken. At times, the priest may deliver his homily from here also.

While at the ambo the lector will read the first and second readings from a book called the **Lectionary**. The readings are set out in such a way that as Catholics we will hear almost the whole Bible over a three-year cycle in Mass. The priest will raise a beautiful book called the **Book of the Gospels** and proceed to the ambo to proclaim the Gospel. We truly are a universal church because regardless of what Roman Catholic Church you attend in the world you will hear the same readings read from the ambo on any given Sunday!



Prayer Candles (Votive offerings)- When you hear a Catholic say "I lit a candle for you!" it is their way of telling



you that they said a prayer for you by lighting one of these prayer candles. From the Latin word *votum* meaning "a vow or promise" these candles are usually organized in tiered rack and are near a picture/statue of a saint or Jesus. At Saint Christopher these candles are located toward the front, on the right side, as you are sitting facing the altar. As a person lights a candle they pray for a person or an intention oftentimes asking for a saint to intercede for them. The candle stays lit until it burns down on its own. My eyes are always drawn to the prayer candles when I enter a church and I can't help but think of each prayer that is being offered up for each flickering flame that I see. We are never more beautiful than when we are praying for each other.

Crucifix- I couldn't end this without mentioning one of the most recognizable symbols of our Catholic faith. The word crucifix comes from the Latin *cruci fixus*, which means "one fixed to the cross". When we see the body of our Savior Jesus hanging on a cross, we can't help but connect with the suffering He endured, not because *He* did anything wrong, but rather to free *us* from our sins and make it possible for us to live with Him and our Father forever. This may be why as Catholics we display a crucifix rather than an empty cross in our churches. We know that we can't get to the resurrection without some suffering. One of the reasons we make the Sign of the Cross on ourselves is because we know that there is power in the kind of love that God has for us.

I hope that these last two bulletin articles have helped you learn a little more about all of the beauty that surrounds us at church. Mass is both the "source and the summit" of our faith and

the more deeply we understand the meaning behind what we see and do the more closely we can draw to God. Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Theresa) once said, "When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." When I read that quote, I can't help but close my eyes and picture myself sitting in Mass at Saint Christopher, seeing both, and feeling that unconditional love that only the Father and His Son can give.



May your heart always be open to receive His priceless love!

Blessings, Kristi Socha Director of Religious Education





"The first highlight was seeing all the people on the March full of energy and singing fun chants." - Catherine

"Uniting in one voice for the voiceless through prayer and (peaceful) demonstration with so many people of Christ is etched in my heart." - Tom

Last weekend, we prayerfully sent 13 Highlights from our participants parishioners to represent St. Christopher include: as they walked in solidarity with "The March was unlike anythe outdoor rally with pro-life speakers out our Nation's Capital." - Thomas including Fr. Mike Schmitz, Kirk Cameron and Matthew West, participate "Hearing the testimonies of all the hearted crowds and even enjoyed some March truly is!" - Mary sight-seeing of our national monuments.

hundreds of thousands of people who thing else, with very enthusiastic (and The local March in Port Huron was well defend life from conception to natural surprisingly very nice) crowds and the attended too! Praise God for the good death at the March for Life in thousands of people with the same mor- work He is doing to change hearts to Washington, D.C. Although it was a als and beliefs as me. I also really en-recognize the sanctity of all human life. cold day, our group was able to attend joyed the stunning architecture through-

in the March with peaceful and kind-speakers and seeing how peaceful the



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



The members of St. Christopher's Parish extend their prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Jill Stringer John Pavlov**



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Confirmation Commitment is Feb 6 at 8am, 11am and 5:30pm Masses.

All preparing for Confirmation should attend one of these Masses at St. Christopher. Father James will lead you through what to do (stand when asked) and how to respond.

*Our next session (for parents & teens) is February 24, 2022 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Social Hall. Sponsors are welcome too!

UPCOMING QUEST CALENDAR

(Grades 9-12):

*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, from 7am-7pm. Lunch & dinner provided. RSVP needed by Jan 30.

*Detroit Day is Saturday, Feb 12 from 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.

ST. CHRISTOPHER. MARYSVILLE

		- SI. CHRISTUPH	EK, WAKTSVILLE	
WEEKEND LITURGY FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2022				
DAY /TIME	SUNDAY 8:00 AM	SUNDAY 11:00 AM	SUNDAY 5:30 PM	
MASS INTENTIONS	Parishioners and Territorial Souls of St. Christopher's Parish	†Darold McMullen by the Severini family †Fred Rosa by the family	Vocation to the Priesthood and Religioius Life	
		Paul Levandowski (90th Birthday)		
CELEBRANT	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady	
LECTOR	Carrine Sylvia	Christine Sass	John Gomola	
MUSICIAN	Todd Stevens	Therese Oldani	Brandon Byrne	
CANTORS/ CHOIR	Mark Privette Cheryl O'Neill	Marilyn Taylor Judy Garijo Erin Bockhausen	Greg Kobe	
HOSPITALITY MINISTERS	Dan & Luz O'Brien	Pam Binsfeld Gary Armstrong	Dave Huxhold Lorraine Frendt	
EMHC *MASS SACRISTAN	Linda Tokarski Mary Brown Rob Slis*	Monica Myers Cori Krohn Irene Huber*	Debbie Gomola Mike King Jill Measel*	
ALTAR SERVER	Graysen Stadler Graysen Stadler Sophia Senyk	Jacob Tunich Evan O'Connor Leah Ureel	Jack Curley Jerry Measel	



JANUARY 23, 2022

Loose	\$	686.00
Envelopes	\$	5,700.00
Online	\$	324.00
Total Collection	\$	7,396.00
Weekly Budget	\$	7,795.00
(amount needed to	pay	expenses)

Parishioner Summary

Registered Families......705 Envelopes Received......150 Contributing Families... ...21%

2021 GOAL \$65,062.00 Total Pledges..**\$65,705.00**

Contributions Received \$59,515.95

Families Supporting CSA - 142

Please make checks payable to Archdiocese of Detroit - CSA Thank you for your support

Marvin Redlawski Dominican Republic ~ 2019

Jesus said; For I tell you the truth, whatever you do for the least of these, you have done for me.

Because of your generous gifts to the Dominican Republic ministry, the eight of us who travel to the Dominican Republic were able to bring medical supplies, school supplies, crafts, sewing materials, clothing, and more importantly, your love and friendship to the staff and children of the Saint Tomas church and school. I cannot even begin to describe their gratitude and warm, loving hospitality, which they showed to us during our visit. For me personally, I thought that since I'd seen the photos of past trips, I knew what to expect. However, I must admit, I didn't have a clue! You see, the photos are merely a flat image of something in the past. I couldn't see and feel the hearts of joy and content-



ment which beat in the lives of these grateful and very spiritual people. Their smiles, their never ending hugs, the look of love and gratefulness in their eyes were so overwhelming to the entire team and me.

Beyond the rusted protection window bars of their huts that they called home, and the steel rusted fences crowned with barbed wire and razor wire wrapped with resolute assurance of being safe, were the people who smiled as they said Buenos dias señor, making me feel welcome even though I dressed kind of funny and was a stranger on the narrow street that they walked each day back and forth to school and church.

These people have a freedom that most of us here in America will never know. You see, they have nothing of the material stuff that the world has to offer other than their basic needs, and sometimes if they have extra food, they immediately give it away,

sharing it freely with others!



While we in America have an overabundance of everything, which is just a click away, these beautiful and grateful people have joy and love in their hearts, which to me, is priceless! What we took there was an anticipation of what we could give and do during our short stay. But what we left behind there was far more than material supplies. We all left a piece of our heart that will always remain there, and God willing, we will return to feel the freedom that can only be felt in the hugs and smiles of the little ones of the Dominican Republic at Saint Tomas.

We certainly hope that we can return to Saint Tomas next year, but in the meantime, those smiling faces and grateful hearts will remain with us each day. Mucho Gracious for the overwhelming generosity of the people of St Christopher!



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