ST. CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH



September 5, 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

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., -

Thur., - 7pm

23 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1000 MICHIGAN AVE, MARYSVILLE, MI 810-364-4100 - WWW.STCHRISMI.ORG



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. As I continue to share my thoughts and concerns with Jesus, I seem to always end up back at the fundamental need for "faith" — especially as we continue to navigate our strange times that we find ourselves living in these days. More so than ever, "faith is needed," as Jesus continues to tell me. Therefore, inspired by this recognized need for faith and my prayer "faith" will be my topic of "pondering" this weekend.

Throughout time "faith" has been discussed, preached and debated; but what is "faith?" When we employ a commonly used term (such as that of "faith") it may be helpful to set a baseline by defining words for the sake of being precise and avoiding confusion — so let's define it. "Faith" has many different explanations or definitions; one can simply define "faith" as "belief." "Belief in a person who has your good at heart" is considered "having faith in a person." When we apply this understanding to Jesus, then we have faith in Him. Again, this is the most simplistic understanding of "faith." In addition, there is the usage of the word "Faith" (capital "F"), which is commonly used to refer to "religion."

The aforementioned simplistic definition for faith follows similarly to John A. Hardon, S.J.'s *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, which defines faith as "the acceptance of the word of another, trusting that one knows what the other is saying and is honest in telling the truth. The basic motive of all faith is the authority (or right to be believed) of someone who is speaking. This authority is an adequate knowledge of what he or she is talking about, and integrity in not wanting to deceive. It is called divine faith when the one believed is God, and human faith when the persons believed are human beings."

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church's Glossary* "faith" is "both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God who invites his response, and freely assents to the whole truth that God has revealed. It is this revelation of God which the Church proposes for our belief, and which we profess in the Creed, celebrate in the sacraments, live by right conduct that fulfills the twofold commandment of charity (as specified in the ten commandments), and respond to in our prayer of faith. Faith is both a theological virtue given by God as grace, and an obligation which flows from the first commandment of God (*CCC 26, 142, 150, 1814, 2087*)." So, the *Catechism* says that faith is a gift of God and a human act assenting to the truth; and is also revelation, adherence to God and the Creed of the Roman Catholic Church, the Sacraments, prayer, virtue, grace, and obligation. This is quite a definition, eh? It kind of combines the definition of "faith" and "Faith" from above into one.

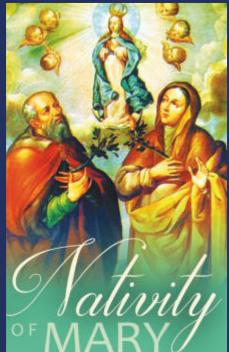
Another definition, more simply and accurately put, is "faith is a genuine assent of the intellect to truth received by hearing from an external source" (from *The Oath Against Modernism* by Pope Pius X, 1910). Everything said above can be applied to this precise, yet profound, definition. Faith is needed to get us through every trial and distress that we experience; so may our intellects ascend to the Truth for greater faith.

Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this Weekend's Readings to Ponder. "Socio-economic problems can be resolved only with the help of all the forms of solidarity: solidarity of the poor among themselves, between rich and poor, of workers among themselves, between employers and employees in a business, solidarity among nations and peoples. International solidarity is a requirement for the moral order; world peace depends in part upon this (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1941).

Faithfully, Fr. James

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, September 5
8:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting
5:30 pm Mass
Monday, September 6
9:00 am No Mass Offices Closed
Tuesday, September 7
9:00 am Mass
†Gerald Huber
by Kay Korth
Wednesday, September 8
4:30 pm Small Church Community 3
7:00 pm Small Church Community 12&16



Thursday, September 9
9:00 am Mass
†Ed & Pauline Condland
by their sister
5:00 pm Adult Choir Practice
Friday, September 10
9:00 am Mass
†Mike & Pearl Senyk
by their family
Saturday, September 11
3:00 pm Confessions
Sunday, September 12
8:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting

5:30 pm Mass

TIMOTHY

"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

"Third cup of joe just to get me through the day...Want to make the most of time but I feel it slip away...I wonder if there's something more to this crazy life. I'm busy, busy, and it's no surprise to see...that I only have time for me, me, me...There's gotta be more to this crazy life" (Lyrics of Breathe by Jonny Diaz)

Sacramental Life

Too often this can be the refrain that sings through our head as we try to navigate through our lives on a daily basis. We live in a culture that is fixated on "more" such as doing more, earning more, or buying more. The focus can also turn to "better" as in being better looking, a better athlete, better wife, better husband, better employee and even a better Christian. All of this striving, competition, and comparing leaves us exhausted and empty. The emphasis on outward achievements or acquisitions can be an attempt to fill the inward emptiness we often feel. However, God in His wisdom has given us a beautiful gift in the sacraments of the Church, and the opportunity to live a sacramental life that is counter-cultural and can bring us true joy.

The Catholic Church has been entrusted with seven sacraments that were instituted by Christ. These sacraments are physical signs of God's grace and are an ever-present source of strength for each of us. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are the sacraments of initiation. We often experience these at our birth, at our coming of age and in our daily life as we live in communion with him. Reconciliation (Confession) and Anointing of the Sick are sacraments of healing and are often experienced during our times of weakness such as sinning, illness and death. Holy Orders and Marriage are the sacraments of service. Both of these help us with our relationships whether it be in a leadership role or the foundation of a family. Each of these seven are sacred signs of Christ's presence in the key moments of our life because He longs to be with us in each step of our journey.

Although it may be cliché to compare the sacraments to a gift it is a very appropriate analogy. We can receive a gift that is beautifully wrapped and the perfect item that we need at that particular time. That gift is ours forever and no one can take it from us. Yet, there is more than having knowledge of the gift or admiring it's beautiful appearance. When we choose to "unwrap" and use the gift it can have a more profound impact. Such it is with the sacraments. As Catholics we often know the seven sacraments, receive them and observe them taking place around us; however, we never fully receive the full gift because we haven't "unwrapped" it and applied it to our lives in a practical way. We may remain unaware of how powerful the sacraments are in drawing us even closer to God. We may have "head knowledge" of the sacraments but not truly feel them penetrate the wall that our Western culture has built around our hearts.

This week I'd like to focus on two of the sacraments: Reconciliation and the Eucharist. These are sacraments that are meant to be experienced over and over. Each time we experience these sacraments we receive even more grace and there is no such thing as too much grace! The Sacrament of Reconciliation requires both humility and vulnerability which are two virtues that our culture does not necessarily celebrate. We must humble ourselves by examining our conscience in a very honest way for sin and then make ourselves vulnerable before a priest (who acts in the person of Christ) to confess our

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

failures. However, there is great value in naming our sins. By naming them we separate the sin from who we are as a person. By naming them we are able to know exactly what we are contrite about, and we can start fresh with loving others even better than we have done in the past. For me the answer to making Reconciliation a powerful sacrament is simple: Go and go often! Once I am there, I am not able to put myself on autopilot; the very nature of the sacrament causes me to search my heart deeply and immerse myself into those moments. The grace I experience is profound.

The Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our faith, can be the sacrament that we, sadly, take for granted most. To become too familiar with something can breed indifference or, at the very least, unawareness...at least that is true in my life. When I try to rely on my own strength to pay attention in Mass and not let my anxieties take hold I certainly fail. Yet, I find when I read the Gospel before Sunday, pray, and ask God to simply help me focus on the miracle of the Eucharist I am more mindful and able to fully receive Jesus. Once I consciously receive Him my very life is transformed because how can I remain unchanged when Jesus is a living part of me? Even if I don't *feel* transformed Jesus is working within me. At each Mass a miracle is taking place, and I am privileged to be not only a witness but an active participant. There are documented Eucharistic miracles, some of which have scientific evidence to "prove" them, throughout history. Here are but just a few:

The Miracle of Lanciano, which took place in 750 AD and underwent testing in the 1970s. In 750 AD, a priest experienced a terrible temptation to doubt the True Presence while he was saying Mass. As he pronounced the words of consecration, the bread and the wine transformed into what appeared to be flesh and blood.

1992 and 1996, Buenos Aires, Argentina: In 1992, consecrated particles left on the corporal were put into water to dissolve and locked in the tabernacle, as the Church prescribes for disposing of consecrated hosts. One week later, they had changed into a red substance. Then again in 1996 after a consecrated host fell to the ground and was also put in water to dissolve, it was found a few days later to have turned into a bloody substance. Both cases were sent to be tested by the archbishop of Buenos Aires, who was none other than our future Pope Francis.

2006, *Tixtla*, *Mexico*: During a retreat, a religious sister who was distributing Communion looked down and noticed that one of the Hosts had begun to bleed and transform.

2008, Sokolka, Poland: A consecrated Host fell to the ground during Communion and was put in water and locked in a tabernacle to dissolve. A week later, most of the Host was dissolved except for a red "clot" that remained.

(https://media.ascensionpress.com/2020/04/13/the-amazing-science-of-recent-eucharistic-miracles-a-message-from-heaven-%EF%BB%BF/)

In closing, I'd like to leave us all with two "challenges" this week. First, make the time and commit to going to Reconciliation. It is offered at St. Christopher on Saturdays at 3:00 pm but it is also offered at every Catholic parish. You can look at the various parish websites or call to find out the times. The grace you receive will far outweigh any of the nervousness you may experience beforehand! Secondly, make a point to not only attend Mass but to do so mindfully. Thank God for the greatest sacrifice, that of Jesus, and receive Him with a grateful, attentive, and reverent heart.

Blessings, Kristi Socha

Join Us

(Grades 9-12)

Kickoff Bonfire

Sunday, Sept. 26, 6:30-8:30pm (after 5:30pm Mass) – bring a camp chair and invite a friend!

Sign & Social

Sunday, Oct. 3, 7-8pm in the Social Hall– teens and parents invited to this open-house style event!

Minute to Win

Sunday, Oct. 10, 7-8:30pm



(ages 14-24)
Our Fall Youth/Young Adult
Bible Study begins Sunday, Sep
19, 9:30-10:45am – There will be 7
sessions total (Sep 19, Oct 3, Oct
24, Nov 7, Nov 28, Dec 12, Dec 19).

Please RSVP to Suzy by Sep 16 1000michiganave@gmail.com



*Our next session (for those who began preparing January 2021) is Wed, Sept 15, 6:30-8:30pm in Social Hall – teens, parents and sponsors invited.

Called to Serve for teens only is Sunday, Sept 26, 1:00pm.

*New Confirmation Prep group (current 8th graders) will begin January 2022.

EDUCATION

There's still time to register for Religious Education. 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. If you have any questions please call (810) 364-4100



St. Teresa of Calcutta

September 5 is the feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). Allow me to share my favorite story of hers.

Siege of Beirut August 1982. Aerial and ground bombardments which started in June continued. The Beirut International Airport was closed. The toll was heavy: 500 deaths according to some, mostly civilians, and as many wounded. In the besieged capital, water and food supplies were running out. Many neighborhoods were without power.

On 10 August, Mother Teresa arrived hurriedly in Lebanon. The call for help came in desperation by Amal Makarem, horrified witness of a scene worthy of Dante's inferno: a hundred spastic and mentally retarded Muslim children had been abandoned to themselves by the staff of an orphanage located in the western part of Beirut without food, care, or hygiene. Some were dying.

<u>All for Jesus</u> - 13 August 1982. Mother Teresa talked to a priest and an officer about what has to happen the next day.

"I feel that the Church must be present at this time," Mother Teresa tells the two men sitting in front of her. "Because we are not into politics. This is why we need to be present."

Priest: "That's a good idea, but you must understand the circumstances Mother . . . Two weeks ago, a priest was killed. It's chaos out there. The risk is too great."

Mother Teresa: "But Father, it is not an idea. I believe it is our duty. We must go and take the children one by one. Risking our lives is in the order of things. All for Jesus. All for Jesus. You see, I've always seen things in this light. A long time ago, when I picked up the first person (from a street in Calcutta), if I had not done it that first time, I would not have picked up 42,000 after that. One at a time, I think ... "

Second man - "But do you hear the bombs?"

Mother Teresa - "Yes, I hear them."

Second man - "It is absolutely impossible to cross (east to west) at the moment; we must obtain a cease-fire!"

(this is my favorite part!)

Mother Teresa - "Ah, but I asked Our Lady in prayer. I asked for a cease-fire for tomorrow eve of her feast day" (eve of 15 August, feast of the Assumption).

Mother Teresa had asked to see the Ambassador of the United States, Philip Habib, an American diplomat of Lebanese origin, was known for his work in Vietnam. The *New York Times* described him as "the most outstanding professional diplomat of his generation."

According to witnesses, after listening carefully to Mother Teresa, Philip Habib replied, "Mother, I am more than happy to have a woman of prayer at my side. I believe in the power of prayer; I believe that prayer is answered. I am a man of faith. But, you see, you're asking Our Lady to deal with Prime Minister Begin, and do not you think that the time limit you gave him (to order a cease-fire) is a little short? You should extend it a little? "

Mother Teresa, very seriously: "Ah! Not at all Mister Habib! I'm sure we'll have a cease-fire tomorrow."

Philip Habib: " If we get a cease-fire, I personally will ensure that arrangements are made for you to go to West Beirut tomorrow."

The next day, 14 August 1982. Total silence enveloped the city.

No time to waste - A coffee, a glass of water, a bit of a sandwich, Mother Teresa refused everything, said Amal Makarem. There was no time to waste. The convoy with a bus and a jeep of the Lebanese Red Cross, drove off towards the Islamic orphanage. One by one, as it has always been done with Mother Teresa, dozens of spastic children, totally feeble, were carried out and placed into cars. They were mentally disabled, but what is terrible is that we also found normal children in the group who, through mimicry, behaved like feeble-minded children. Mother Teresa took them in her arms, and suddenly, they flourished, becoming somebody else, like when one gives a little water to a wilted flower. She held them in her arms and the children bloomed in a split second."

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mother-Teresa%2C-the-war-in-Lebanon-and-the-rescue-of-100-orphans-and-children-with-disabilities-38470.html

What I love most about this true story is St. Teresa's unwavering confidence in God through Our Lady. The external circumstances didn't matter. She left the "how" up to God and just obeyed the "what" that had been put on her heart. God can work through each of us as well. The "bombs" in our everyday lives may be intimidating, but when our focus is "All for Jesus", there is always hope.

Joyfully in Christ,
Suzy DeVeny
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
1000michiganave@gmail.com



acred Music Ministry

Musical Musings

The month of September holds many Feasts and Memorials:

September 8 – Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

September 13 – St. John Chrysostom

September 14 – The Triumph of the Holy Cross

September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows September 16 – St. Cornelius and Cyprian

September 20 – St. Andrew Kim and companions

September 21 – St. Matthew

September 23 – St. Pio of Pieltricina (Padre Pio)

September 27 – St. Vincent De Paul

September 29 – Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

September 30 – St. Jerome

These Feasts and Memorials all fall during the week this year. So those who regularly attend Mass during the week will be singing the Gloria (for Feasts) at Mass, and will be able to pray, in a special way, the prayers prescribed for these Feasts and Memorials.

Living the liturgical feasts of the year is an invaluable way to draw close to Christ, and to follow Him on the path to holiness.

Pope Pius XII in his encyclical *Mediator Dei* states:

165. Hence, the liturgical year, devotedly fostered and accompanied by the Church, is not a cold and lifeless representation of the events of the past, or a simple and bare record of a former age. It is rather Christ Himself who is ever living in His Church.

So the month of September will provide many opportunities to pray with the Church in her Feasts, and to obtain from God, through Our Blessed Mother, and through these glorious saints, many graces and treasures to store up for heaven.

Sing to him, yea sing praises to him: relate all his wondrous works.

- Psalm 104:2

Deidre Collins
Director of Sacred Music

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37

Monday: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c [Is 61:10]/Mt 1:1-16,

18-23 or 1:18-23

Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [2]/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

Prayer REQUESTS

Frank Behn
Mary Bixler
Elizabeth Bolton
Linda Bowman
Marilyn Bromberger
Christine Cairns
William Cairns
Marilyn Cruickshank
Mary Deising
Denise Gawronski
Karen Goodmen

Sharon Goulet
Nancy Hubbard
James Jagger
Linda King
Sondra Kota
Donna Landschoot
Alan Langolf
Barbara Letzgus
Edward Letzgus
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
Phillip Ziezulewicz

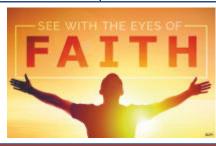
PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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



Weekend Liturgy for September 12, 2021			
Day / Time	Sunday 8:00 am	Sunday 11:00 am	Sunday 5:30 pm
Mass Intentions	†Blue Water Vicariate Family 3 of Parishes' Registered Parishioners and Territorial Souls	†Judy Grupido by the Severini family †Gerald Huber by Kay Korth †William Kalbaugh by the Kalbaugh family	†Sandy McMillen by the Severini family †Janet Borgne by Joe & Marilynn Pavlov †Lawrence & Evelyn Nofs by their sister
Celebrant	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady	Rev. James F. Arwady
Lector	Carrine Sylvia Maggie St. John	Traci Rumsey Erin Bockhousen	John Gomola Jenine Ulrich
Hospitality Ministers	Mike O'Brien Gale Messing Ted Hubbard	Terry & Evenly Carl	Dave Huxhold Lorraine Frendt
EMHC *Mass Sacristan	Linda Tokarski Rob Slis Ron Baranowski*	Monic Myers Irene Huber Cami Armstrong*	Sherry Kobe Elizabeth Moore Mike King*
Altar Server	Sophia Senyk Graysen Stadler Gavin Stadler	Leah Ureel Evan O'Connor Brendan O'Connor	Alex Harris Jerry Measel Konner Wattle





August 28, 2021

Parishioner Summary

Registered Families......705 Envelopes Received......138 Contributing Families......20%



Total Pledges..\$45,390.00 **Contributions Received** \$34,009.75

Families Supporting CSA - 101

Please make checks payable to Archdiocese of Detroit - CSA

Thank you for your support

Mazriage Banns

Pamela Mollan & Christopher LaMilza

Abigail Davis & Tyler Smith

Julia Louise & Sean Vantiem

A Journey Like No Other ... a Journey of Faith

Have you, or someone you know, thought about:

- becoming Catholic?
- completing Sacraments for full initiation into the Church?
- learning more about your Catholic faith or enhancing your relationship with Jesus?

Well, look no further than the RCIA! (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

We begin our journey on Sunday, September 26, at 9:30 a.m. and continue through Sunday, May 1, 2022(two Sundays following Easter). You are invited and welcome to join us! Sessions will be filled with faith-sharing on Catholic teaching and the Sacraments. You will have opportunities to ask questions, receive answers, share faith and participate in meaningful discussions.

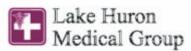
For more information and to register:

- Call the Parish Office at 810-364-4100
- Complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office
- Place the form in the offertory basket at Mass.

You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Name: ______Phone:

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