

Third Sunday of Easter

## CSA –

This week, you will receive a letter from Bishop Walkowiak asking you to make your commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries through the Catholic Services Appeal. These are ministries that benefit us all but are difficult for any one parish to provide on its own. Your gift to the CSA enables the Catholic Church to reach out to people in our 11 counties in a variety of ways, including through seminarian and deacon formation; youth programming; support for the homebound and incarcerated; families who are struggling; the hungry, and the homeless. Through the CSA, we all work together to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted us. Our parish goal for 2025 is \$ 33,475 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. Please join us in this important work.



Join us for Memorial Day Masses in our Catholic Cemeteries May 26

Remember the men and women who have died during military service with the celebration of Mass at one of our Catholic cemeteries. Masses will be held rain or shine; please bring a chair.

Mass will be held at:

8 a.m. – Ss. Peter & Paul Cemetery Chapel, 1750 Preston Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, with Msgr. Lou Stasker presiding.

9 a.m. – Resurrection Cemetery (near the large cross), 4100 Clyde Park Ave. SW, Wyoming, with Fr. Logan Weber presiding.
10 a.m. – Holy Cross Cemetery (in front of the mausoleum), 2000 Walker Ave., Grand Rapids, with Fr. Jake Zemaitis presiding.
Attendees at Resurrection and Holy Cross should bring a lawn chair or blanket due to limited seating. Visit greathcem.org to learn more.

## Is God calling you to consider the permanent diaconate?

Has the Vocations Prayer *moved* you to *question* if God is calling you to become a deacon? The Office of Diaconate Formation invites men with interest or questions about discernment and formation to a Discerning the Diaconate information session.

Monday, May 5

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S. Grand Rapids.

To RSVP or learn more, contact Deacon Jerry Roersma, director of Deacon Formation, at 616-288-0913 or jroersma@grdiocese.org



## Join us for a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center

Searching for peace? On May 14, join Catholic Charities West Michigan as we embark on a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. Inspired by the life and example of Blessed Solanus Casey, the center serves as a place of pilgrimage, healing, reconciliation, and peace – a perfect opportunity to draw closer to God in this Jubilee Year.

Partake in Mass, tour the center, and more. Tickets are \$70, which includes your bus ride to and from the center along with lunch. For more information or to register, visit ccwestmi.org/jubilee-year.

Questions? Please reach out to Sarah Stechschulte at <u>sstechschulte@ccwestmi.org</u>.

**ENCOUNTERING THE SAINTS OF DIVINE MERCY IN POLAND** November 3 – 11, 2025

Join Father Lam Le, pastor of St. John Paul II in Cedar Springs and Mary Queen of Apostles in Sand Lake, and Catholics from the Diocese of Grand Rapids as they embark on a special pilgrimage during this Jubilee Year to the homeland of Saint John Paul II. Highlights include:

- Explore Old Town in the center of Mass celebrated by Fr. Lam Le at St. James Church in Warsaw
- Warsaw City.
- Visit the beautiful hilltop Jasna Gora Monastery, where Saint John Paul II made frequent visits throughout his life.
- Take a cable car ride to the breathtaking village of Zakopane and then head to the Jaszczurówka
- Chapel, which was visited many times by the young Karol Wojtyla (St. John Paul II).
- Explore Wawel Hill in Krakow. This hill is home to the Cathedral and Coronation Chapel, one of the most the most important sites in Poland.
- Spend time in prayer and reflection at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Visit the cell of St. Maximillian Kolbe.
- Visits to many other popular and devotional sites

For more information and to register contact Pattie Reynolds at <u>preynolds@grdiocese.org</u> or <u>https://www.206tours.com/cms/grdiocese/poland/</u>. Don't delay, seats are limited!

May 4, 2025

#### Third Sunday of Easter

## Jesus Christ is ALIVE!

Jesus Christ is ALIVE! He has risen and lives forever. We know this. But it is something we really emphasize during this Easter season. He is Alive! And Jesus has given himself to us. He has given us the Eucharist. This means the Eucharist is Alive. Maybe you already know this. Maybe you once knew it but forgot. Or maybe this is brand new. Jesus is the Eucharist. When we come up to Communion, we receive Him. We receive His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. We receive Jesus. We receive the Eucharist. Jesus is alive. The Eucharist is alive.

When a stranger watches us receive the Eucharist, would he know this? When we receive the Eucharist, does it look like we believe we are about to take into our bodies the living person Jesus Christ, true God and true Man? How many times, Lord, have I forgotten that the Eucharist is alive? As I wait in line to receive you, do I think of how much you want to unite yourself with me? Am I seeing your hands filled with the graces you want to give me? Am I filled with awe at how much you want to come to me in this most intimate way? Or am I distracted, thinking of other things?

The Host we receive is not a thing. It is not a wafer. It is not bread. It is a person---And He is Alive. Still wondering? Think of this. Back in 1916 when Our Lady was preparing to appear in Fatima, an angel, the Angel of Peace, appeared to Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. On his third visit, he brought with him the Eucharist. Suspending the Host and the chalice in the air, the angel threw himself prostrate on the ground and prayed:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.

An angel prostrates himself on the ground! We stand in line with our minds filled with distractions, walk up, receive the Eucharist, and return to our pews thinking about other things. But an angel, a pure spirit who lives in the presence of God, prostrates himself before the Eucharist in adoration! Think about it.

It is a pretty strong message. It was so strong that young Francisco spent the rest of his short life trying to console God in the Eucharist. So here is our invitation: We can treat God as just a symbol, or we can prostrate ourselves in front of Him, in adoration, gratitude, love and reparation. I am not suggesting we come up and throw ourselves on our faces in front of the Eucharist, but we can do it interiorly. As we receive, standing or kneeling, we can always, in our hearts, minds, and souls, be prostrate in loving God in the Eucharist. As the Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship explains, "The Church has always required from the faithful respect and reverence for the Eucharist at the moment of receiving it." (Inaestimable Donum, 11). Pope Benedict XVI discusses it, saying that instead of arguing over receiving standing or kneeling, in the hand or on the tongue, we need to focus on the spirit of reverence with which the early Christians received the Eucharist.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says: "I am the *living* bread . . . whoever eats this bread will live forever . . . just as the *living* Father sent Me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will have life because of Me."

May God bless you!

Fr. Tom



Adoration Thursday Evenings - 6 to 8 pm in the Church. May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Adorers Schedule for May 8 6-7 pm Connie Goble/ Suzanne King 7-8 pm Joe Coates/ OPEN

Sign up to be an adorer. Open times are 7-8 pm on the first, third, fourth and fifth Thursdays of the month and 6-7 pm on the fourth and fifth Thursday. Prayerfully ponder, spending one hour a month in adoration of our Lord. Contact Suzanne King at 269-271-6406 for more information.

In remembrance of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, We celebrate the following children *Receiving for the first time* HIS Most Sacred Body and Blood in Holy communion

Scarlett Jones

Grace King Jake Spitzley Eva King Lauren Snider Genevieve Weller



## Third Sunday of Easter

## **Please Prav for:**

Robert Rasche, Randy Armstrong, Manuel Rodriguez, Julie Sutton VanLiew,

Bill Sutton & those who have asked for our prayers. If you want to add a name, please call or contact the office. Be sure you have the consent of the person or the family member.

#### **Grief Support Group**

The next meeting will be on May 1 at 1:00 pm, in the library. For more information, please call Marsha at (269)367-4403.

## **ST. EDWARD'S PRESCHOOL Open Enrollment for 2025-26**

Saint Edward's Preschool is now planning for the 2025-26 preschool year. We are accepting applications from families who would like their child to attend our program this Fall. If you would like more information, please contact us at 616-374-7253 x4, email fredia@wowway.biz, or stop by the St. Edward Family Center. Enrollment applications can be found in the south entrance of the church or can be downloaded from www.stedwardslakeodessa.org/parish-life/pre-school/

Blessings,

Ms. Fredia / Program Director of St. Edward's Preschool

#### **Donuts and Coffee**



Starting on May 11, after Sunday Masses we will be having donuts and coffee in the Family Center. This will continue until further notice. Come and join us.

# Saint Edwards Easter Flower 2025

Kris & Dale Galaviz

Al & Mary Hamp

In Memory of Ray & Evelyn Orth, and Joe & Leona Tomandl (Tomandl and Orth Families)

In Memory of Patrick & Helene Cabinaw, Michael & Helen Smith, Jessica Smith, and Tim Smith (Mr.& Mrs. Michael Smith)

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wrubel

In Memory of Clark Family and Grades Family (Eric & Paul Clark)

George & Carole Heinze

In Memory of Nugent, Schrauben & Wieland Families (Betsy Wieland)

Joe Hickey Family

In Memory of Clarence & Agnes Slowinski (Yvonne McCaul)

Mr. & Mrs. Riha

In Memory of Albert & Gerladine Hodge (Irene Miller)

Ryan & Suzanne King

In Memory of Larry O'Mara and Michael O'Mara (Ruth O'Mara) Katherine Possehn

In Memory of Carol M. Cantrell & Scottie Yuhas (The Agostinelli Family)

In Memory of Lawrence Endres (Mary K. Endres) In Memory of Larry, Cody and Dalton (Nuala Williams)

			May 4, 2025
OUR Adults Loose: Total receipt Budgeted We		\$ \$	3,760.00 307.00 <b>4,067.00</b>
Overage/Sho	ortage:	\$	217.00 Offertory Collections
Year-to-Date Budgeted Yea	:	\$ \$	180,579.00 165,550.00 <b>15,0296.00</b>
	hat "Our Parish o <u>f</u> Ioly Day offertory		ects the income from
placed in the	locked black mai nail to: St. Edwar	lbox beside	ropped off at the office, the office door, or sent
5 0		ssa, MI, 488 upport of th	e church.
			as meeting will be on
Tuesday, May 12			
fellowship and will <b>not</b> meet meeting, mark	l prayer. Coffee a	nd donuts August. If y September	
Worldwide	Marriage Encour	nter Sharin	g Group- May 9
If you have experience in t group. We me basement. If	ever attended a he past, we would et on the 2nd Frida	Worldwid like to invit by of the mon stions, pleas	le Marriage Encounter the you to join our sharing onth, at 7 pm in the church se feel free to call Chris
Different ch The regularly cathedral will Indianapolis 5 return to FOX on the diocesa	be moved to An 00 airing on FOX 17 the following n YouTube channe	lcast of tel ntenna TV 17. Mass w weekend. Y el and websi	levised Mass from the on May 25 due to the ill still air at 10 a.m. and ou can also watch Mass
Family Persp	ective	by Bud	l Ozar
Jesus invited the beach breakfast be more than e	he disciples to "Co st and the Last Sup eating. Family mea	ome and hav oper Jesus te lls are oppor	re breakfast." At this aches us meals should tunities to share prayer, support one another.