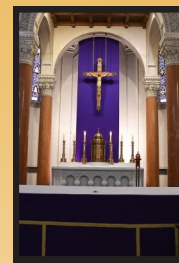
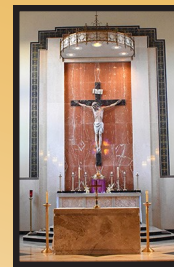
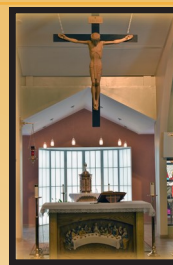


Our Catholic Community

ST. JEROME † ST. JOSEPH † ST. PHILIP
BATTLE CREEK AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Spring 2019

Vol. 1 No. 1

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Our Catholic Community Committee

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PROFILE: Cas Dzwik

Life is for the Living

by Frank M. Skeltis, Photos by John Grap

It is said that into each life a little rain must fall. In the case of Casimer "Cas" Dzwik, it was more like a torrent. But rather than being swept away by the catastrophe that struck him and his family, he found the rainbow that emerges after the storm.

Cas hails from the tiny town of Elmira, located a few miles from Gaylord, in the north country of Michigan's lower peninsula. Gregarious and jovial, he was elected president of his high school junior class and vice-president of his senior class. A two-sport star in high school, he was offered a basketball scholarship to Aquinas College in Grand Rapids but could not afford to attend. Having three uncles who called Battle Creek home, he came here in 1957 the day after his nineteenth birthday looking for work. Post Cereal hired him and he retired in 1997 after more than thirty-nine years.

He continued playing baseball, basketball, and softball in Battle Creek recreation leagues and coached in factory league sports through the years. A good hitter in baseball, Cas even had two tryouts with the Detroit Tigers. He knows many present and former local athletes through his participation as a player and coach. He still regularly attends local sporting events.

Cas met his wife, Alice, at a Catholic singles social club organized by Father Matthew Fedewa of St. Philip



Parish. She was a nurse who lived in Hastings with her parents. They dated for about a year and a half before he asked for her hand in marriage on Feb. 13, 1966, the day before Valentine's Day. In 2016, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a Mass offered by Bishop Bradley at St. Augustine Cathedral. Five children were the product of their long, loving marriage.

Arguably one of the most well-known citizens of Battle Creek, Cas is a vivacious and ebullient man who loves meeting people and telling stories. But there is another side to Cas Dzwik. Anyone in the Catholic community who has attended a funeral in any of the three parishes in Battle Creek has undoubtedly seen him at Mass. For the last forty-four years, Cas Dzwik has attended over four thousand funerals in ninety percent of the churches in the city of Battle Creek. Sharing respects for the deceased has become his life's mission.

See PROFILE, page 2

Profile Continued from page 1

Cas explains why he has taken on this crusade. One day many years ago, he and his family were driving in the country on North M66 when they encountered a small herd of deer. His uncle was driving and attempted to miss them. As often happens, the first deer scampered away but the impact of the second deer caused the van to swerve into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Cas said he bore the brunt of the impact but his children, not wearing seat belts, were tossed around in the back. Little Greg, the oldest at just seven years of age, suffered a closed head injury and did not survive.

Cas recalls, "He was studying for his First Holy Communion."

Greg's funeral mass was at St. Jerome. Cas reminisces, "Before that, I occasionally went to funerals. But on that day, the church was nearly full—and it was a work day. Many of my co-workers came. I can almost remember where each one of them was sitting."

"It impressed me that those people took off a half day of work to come to the funeral of that little guy. Even one of my friends came from back home. After that, I tried to go to funerals because I wanted to pay back all the people who came. One of them, it took thirty-three years. But I was able to go to both her mom and her dad's funerals."

"Shortly after Greg's funeral, I got switched to the 11 pm to 7 am shift. For twenty-three years, I went to funerals as well as the kids' games and school events. I was working tired. Once I retired, I could go anytime."

But Cas has taken his mission of thankfulness to a new level. He is well known by all the past and present pastors of the three Catholic parishes. But he attends funerals at other denominations as well. He chuckles as he recalls, "Once I was dressed in a suit and tie and was mistaken for a bishop. They invited me to come and sit with the clergy!"

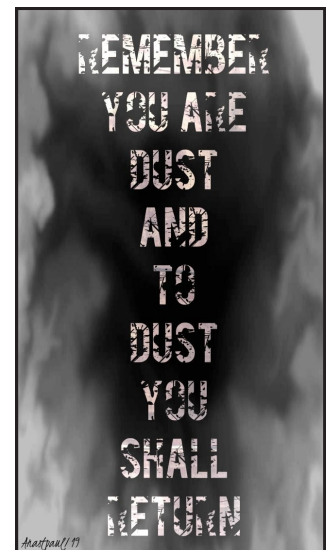
"I have a lot of connections to Battle Creek people. I belong to St. Jerome but I help at all the parishes. You start talking with people and get acquainted and you get to know them. When I see some connection, I try to attend the funeral. Of the four thousand funerals I have attended, out of about three thousand of them, people ask me if I knew the person. I sometimes say, 'No, but I know you—I came for you.' Life is for the living; so I come back to that." †



*Cas Dzwick,
with his
wife, Alice,
and Bishop
Paul
Bradley*



Ash Wednesday March 6th



Come Pray with Us

by Deacon Al Bell, Photos by John Grap

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Prayer Group is a charismatic prayer group that offers up praise, worship, prayers, and petitions to God for individuals, our Church, our country, and our world. Contemporary Christian songs are used by our musicians and everyone, young and old, joins in the joyful atmosphere. At

each gathering, there can be individual witness to how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is working in our lives. At times, there are Scripture readings, prophetic words, intercessory prayers (always), and often requests by members to be prayed over. The Sacred Heart Prayer Group meets every two weeks on Thursday evening at 7 pm in the St. Philip Parish Center. All people, young and old, are invited to come and sing along and offer up prayers of praise. For more information, contact Barb Cummings 269-420-1279. †



Eucharistic Adoration

Did you know that the Adoration Chapel at St. Philip Church is actually called **Sacred Heart Chapel**? Did you know it is a *Tri-Parish Chapel*?



We are trying to get back to 24/7. We need all parishioners of all three parishes to help, so please consider taking an hour!

To sign up or for more information, contact Betty Dillard at 962-8255

Times and Special Hours

Sacred Heart Chapel:

- † Perpetual Adoration:
Wednesdays 9 am through
Saturdays 9 am
(Call office for door code.)
- † Tuesdays
 - † 9-11 am - Complete Rosary
 - † 1-2 pm - Spanish Rosary
 - † 6:30-7:30 pm - St. Monica's Prayer Group (1st Tuesdays)
 - † 7-8 pm - Restored, praying for marriages (4th Tuesdays)

St. Joseph:

- † Mondays - 4-8 pm* (Chapel)
 - † Wednesdays - 7-8 pm*
Trilingual Praise & Worship
(1st Wednesdays, Church)
 - † Thursdays - 8-9 pm* - Vocations (Chapel)
 - † Fridays - 8:30 am-4 pm* (Church)
 - † 2-3 pm - St. Joseph School Adoration (1st Fridays, Church)
 - † 7:30-9 pm - Young adults (3rd Fridays, Chapel)
- (*Ends with Benediction)



6:30-8:30pm
St. Joseph Parish Center
Boardroom

- † **May 7th**
Navarre Bible—Mark
- † **June 11th**
How to Converse with God
Uniformity to God's Will
By St. Alphonsus de Liguori
- † **July 9th**
Catherine of Siena,
Chapters 1-12
By Sigrid Undset
- † **August 13th**
Chapters 13-end



Parents in Prayer will prayerfully support BCACS and provide opportunities to deepen faith, strengthen community and encounter Christ.

For information on joining Parents in Prayer, email
parentsinprayer@bcacs.org

Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry

by Cathy Hirzel, Photos by John Grap, Andrea Perry, and Amy Schaub

On January 13th, the Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry once again commemorated the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion by sponsoring the annual prayer service at the Memorial for the Unborn in Beckley Cemetery on Helmer Road. The memorial was a collaborative effort of St. Joseph's Queen City Council #575 Knights of Columbus and Battle Creek Right to Life. It was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Alfred Markiewicz on May 12, 1996. Deacon David Krajewski from St. Joseph Church led the group in prayer.



The following week, almost 40 students and adults from the Tri-Parish Youth Group and St. Philip Catholic Central traveled by bus to the March for Life in Washington, DC. Along with hundreds of thousands of people from all over the United States, our Battle Creek group marched to end abortion, with the vision of a world where the beauty, dignity, and uniqueness of every human life are valued and protected. The Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry was happy to contribute financially toward the bus trip for the students as well as to help with the cost for the Schaub family who also attended the March. We are grateful to have Battle Creek represented in Washington, DC at this important event.



We are now making plans for our Mothers' and Fathers' Day Masses. Masses will be said at all three Battle Creek parishes for our parents as a way of saying thank you for giving us the gift of LIFE. Please fill out the form below if you would like to have your loved ones remembered at these Masses and return it by May 5th. †



The Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry invites you to join us in honoring mothers and fathers for giving us life. There will be Masses offered in May and June at all three parishes to remember and pray for both our **living and deceased** parents. If you would like your loved ones remembered at these Masses, please fill out the form below and drop it in an envelope along with your donation in the collection basket by May 5th (marked Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry). The names of your loved ones and the contributors will be included in a special insert in the bulletins on May 11th/12th. Contact Cathy Hirzel at 968-4639 for more information.

Contributor _____ Phone _____

Amount \$_____ (checks made out to Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry)

In memory of/in honor of: _____

St. Jerome CCW

Purse Bingo

Saturday, May 18th, 6 pm



9th Annual Purse Bingo

Tickets: \$12

20 games & coverall

Purses worth \$200

Door prizes, 50/50 drawing, free desserts

Funds raised go toward various church projects

Contact St. Jerome Church at 968-2218. †

St. Joseph CCW

St. Joseph's Council of Catholic Women (CCW) invites all women of our parish to join us. We host receptions for our Bishop and priests, purchase sacramental items to enhance the Liturgy for the church, provide covered dishes and serve funeral luncheons, support church organizations monetarily and through volunteering, offer Mass for our deceased Council members and have representation in the Kalamazoo Diocesan CCW and National CCW.

Upcoming fundraisers are the May Flower Raffle and the June Card Party.

Please see the bulletin for announcements regarding our events and meetings which are held on Tuesdays (February, April, and June) at 6 pm in our Parish Center. †

St. Philip CCW



**St. Philip CCW
Card Party**

May 14th, 6 pm

Mark your calendars for May 14th! That is the date for the St. Philip CCW Card Party sponsored by St. Elizabeth Circle which will be held in the Parish Center. If you have never attended, you don't know what you are missing!

A wonderful dinner with dessert will be provided. Admission is \$10 per person. Admission gets you dinner and a chance at door prizes. Raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle are an additional cost. After dinner, there is time to play your favorite card or board game with your friends as well as lots of door prizes and raffle baskets. Tickets will be sent to St. Philip CCW members in April.

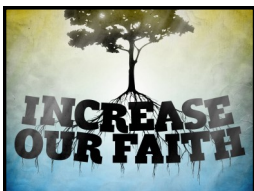
We do appreciate reservations so that we have plenty of tables and food for all. We invite all women of the tri-parish area to join us. If you know others who would enjoy this fun time, please invite them. Extra tickets will be available by contacting Mary Jo McPeake at 269-968-4464. †



The St. Philip CCW once again is ready to launch the annual Spring Plant Sale. Orders will be taken on Saturdays and Sundays, May 4th and 5th, May 11th and 12th, and May 18th and 19th before and after all weekend Masses at St. Philip. Be sure to stop in the narthex on those weekends to see our sample ferns, premium hanging baskets, and premium patio pots.

Ferns will sell for \$15. Premium Patio Pots and Premium Hanging Baskets will sell for \$20. The delivery date is Friday, May 24th from Noon to 6 pm in the Parish Center. For more information, contact Mary Jo McPeake at 269-968-4464.

St. Philip CCW thanks you in advance for your support. The proceeds from the sale will be used to refurbish our beautiful church. †



Did you know you can take FREE online classes from Franciscan University? For more information, go to www.imdisciple.com/catechetical-institute.

Don't have time for a full class but want to dive deeper into the faith? Check out www.formed.org for movies, books, engaging talks and more!

Use the parish code to register: PTRKXD

Why We Pray the Rosary

by Deacon Al Bell, Photos by John Grap

The Rosary has a long history within the Catholic Church. It has had the endorsement of most of the popes throughout its history dating back to the time of St. Dominic during the 13th century. The rosary beads themselves started as a copy of what the early monks were using to say the Our Father. Those illiterate monks who could not read the psalms would recite the Our Father using 150 beads on rope or twine while those who could read recited or sang the psalms.

When Mary appeared to St. Dominic, she showed him 15 mysteries of her and Jesus' life and directed him to meditate upon these mysteries while saying the Our Father and Hail Mary prayers. Only the first part of the Hail Mary was used for one hundred years or so... i.e. "Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus."

In the 14th century, the black plague spread across Europe and Asia. During this time the people themselves promulgated the second part of the Hail Mary by adding: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners NOW and at the Hour of Our Death – Amen!" It seems that so many thousands of people were dying of the plague that everyone was desperate to know that Mary and Jesus were with them because death seemed imminent! So the Hail Mary, as we know it today, has been an evolution from scripture, vision, and pleading intercession to Our Lady.

A number of saints, especially St. Louis de Montfort, have indicated that praying the Hail Mary is like giving Our Lady a rose! Let's think of that for a moment: If saying the Hail Mary is like giving Mary a rose, what would it look like? Perhaps a single Hail Mary would be a small white rose to signify her purity, that would unite with all the other single Hail Mary prayers from around the world, and would adorn her head and shoulders like a pure white shawl signifying our love and devotion for and to her. Going further, what would praying a full five-decade mystery look like? Perhaps this could be compared to laying at Our Lady's feet a long white stemmed rose for her use to help battle the world's sins and problems.

Prior to the addition of the Luminous mysteries, a complete Rosary that included all 15 mysteries looked like those long rosaries that sisters, brothers, and some priests wear attached to their belts. Some of the consecrated were and are required to pray the complete Rosary daily. Imagine the multiplying effect...one Hail Mary - a small white rose, one five-decade Rosary - a large single white stemmed rose, or the former Rosary of 15 mysteries - a larger single red stemmed rose presented to Mary! If we add the Luminous mysteries, promulgated by Saint Pope

John Paul II, we now have the complete 20 mystery Rosary equivalent to a very large red stemmed rose presented to the Blessed Virgin Mother!



This view of Mary's garden can be thought of as a collection of roses presented by all who pray worldwide every day. There is a multiplying effect when, as scripture says, "When two or more are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them." St. Louis de Montfort says this gathering effect increases exponentially with the addition of another person. Furthermore, each additional person praying the entire Rosary is like presenting Mary a red rose so large it would take a semi to deliver it! Praying the Rosary is a powerful weapon to defeat evil. Outside of Mass and the reception of the Eucharist, when the Rosary has been recited (by many, many people), it has defeated heresies and was the reason for the success of many battles against Christendom. *See ROSARY, page 7*

New Evangelization Summit

THE
NEW EVANGELIZATION
SUMMIT
Inspiring Catholics

MAY 4TH • 2019
LIVE IN OTTAWA

Cardinal
Gerold C. Lorenz

Fr. James Bellon

Michelle Haren

Michael Hupp

Fr. Joe Kielowski

Michelle Thompson

STREAMING TO:
Battle Creek, MI
St. Philip Roman Catholic Church
112 Capital Ave NE Battle Creek
stjec@bcacs.org
1-269-962-0165

**WEBCAST TO HOST SITES
AROUND THE WORLD!**

To save your seat, register at newevangelization.ca

The New Evangelization Summit (NES) is an international conference that will be live-streamed on May 4th with international speakers who will provide inspiration, encouragement, training, practical wisdom, and resources on how Catholics can effectively evangelize. All Catholics will benefit from this powerful opportunity to be further equipped in the fundamental mission of the Church. †

May 4th, 8:15 am-4:30 pm

St. Philip Parish Center

A Tri-Parish Collaborative event

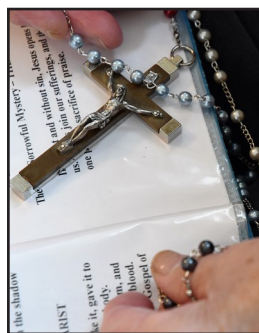
Cost: FREE

*****Register at: newevangelization.ca*****

Rosary

Continued from page 6

The Tuesday Rosary Group prays the complete, 20 decade Rosary to combat the personal and social problems of our present day and age. Although this list is not all inclusive of every evil or issue, it covers many of the big ones facing our country and world. So we pray for the following intentions:



- † all family concerns
- † the overturn of Roe v. Wade
- † defunding of Planned Parenthood
- † those affected by the aftermath of abortion
- † vocations - marriage, priesthood, diaconate, religious life, single life, lay leaders - that they all may be sanctified by God's grace
- † state and national political leaders and Supreme Court Justices, that they pass and interpret laws respecting life for the common good of all
- † people who have no one to pray for them
- † all souls in purgatory
- † fallen away Catholics, that they may return to the true faith
- † an end to war, hatred, and violence.

Prayed in groups, the Rosary utilizes the multiplier effect of Christ's presence with us! Please consider joining with Tuesday's group, or any of the other groups that pray the Rosary, so that this weapon that we have, literally at our fingertips, can roll back the destruction of our society and the world. **The Tuesday group meets at 9 am in the Sacred Heart Chapel.** It lasts about 90 minutes – ending with Benediction.

Peace – to Christ through Mary.†



St. Philip CCD Rosary

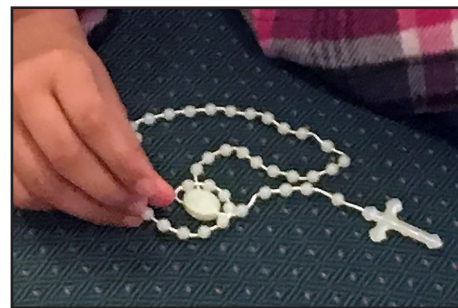
by Andrea Boughton, Photos by Andrea Boughton

The students in St. Philip's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program are learning to pray the Rosary. A couple of times throughout the year, the students come together for this enriching experience of praying the Rosary as a whole group.

The older students, sixth grade and up, pair with the younger students to work with them on saying the prayers and learning which beads to hold on their rosaries. It is amazing as a catechist to watch the students work together and help each other learn more about their faith. Students come to class not understanding and knowing the prayers of the Rosary and when the school year wraps up in late May, students not only know the prayers, but they enjoy praying the Rosary.

During Lent, the students will have an opportunity to do the Stations of the Cross as a group. The classes are looking forward to this prayerful walk with Christ. For some of our students, it will be their first time doing the Stations.

St. Philip's CCD program meets Wednesday nights from 6-7:30 pm. First grade through eight grade classes are offered. Contact Monica Vasquez at MVasquez@stphilipbc.org for more information. †



Our Priests and Seminarians

Making All Things New

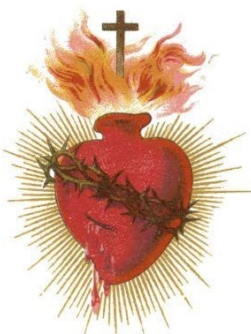
by Jacob Thomas, a seminarian from St. Philip Catholic Church



“Behold, I make all things new.” (Rev. 21:5)
As the world seems to increase in hostility toward the Catholic Church, wholeheartedly believing these words can be challenging to the virtues of faith and hope. Since we believe that God is present in all times and places, we can arrive at a certain understanding that His providence can bring the best from the worst. Often, however, we become overwhelmed by present evils and are tempted to doubt the transforming power in the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

A supreme model of our Lord’s transforming power is His own Sacred Heart. The most Sacred Heart of Jesus eternally burns and beats with both divine and human love. It also bears a wound that reflects not only the worst of our failings, but also the sum total of all the sins of the entire world. As we live today, long after the real events of the first Holy Week, we can look to the Sacred Heart for inspiration, consolation, and opportunities to quench the thirst of His love, which can be sated by our loving response to His mercy. But, in the time between Good Friday and Easter Morning, that same heart had stopped beating, and the spear wound that it had suffered seemed to take away all possible hope. The heart of God Himself had been pierced. What could have been worse?

As we now know, not only did blood and water flow from the Sacred Heart as a source of life for the Church, but after three days, not being able to be conquered by death, our Lord’s heart began to beat again in His glorified and resurrected body. What had been the sign of man’s worst failure became proof of God’s power. What had made the sky darken and the earth shake became the cause of Thomas’ exclamation, “My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28)



For more information about devotion to the Sacred Heart, read *Haurietis Aquas*, the 1956 encyclical of Pope Pius XII. †

Subscribe to
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St. Philip Church

Prayer for Priests and Seminarians

Jesus, our great High Priest, I thank you for the gift of your priesthood in the Church. I pray for all priests and those in formation for the priesthood.

Fill them with the joy of your Holy Spirit as they imitate you, the Good Shepherd, laying their lives down daily for those you have given them to serve. Let your love fill and satisfy their hearts as you teach them to give of themselves more deeply.

Make them ardent yet gentle heralds of the Gospel and tender ministers of your mercy, especially toward those most in need of it. Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, make their hearts more like yours! Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary...,
Glory Be...

St. John Vianney, patron of priests,
pray for us!

PRIESTS OF BATTLE CREEK AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Beloved Mary, Mother of all priests, please wrap your mantle of grace around these chosen men of God as a blanket of protection. Beloved Jesus, may your Precious Blood form an impenetrable defense around them. Amen.

Tri-Parish Youth Group Attends March for Life

by Andrea Perry, Photos by Andrea Perry

The Tri-Parish Youth Group attended the March for Life in Washington, DC in January. Thanks to the financial help of the St. Joseph Council of Catholic Women, Knights of Columbus Council #575, and the Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry, about 40 students and adult chaperones were able to travel to this event. It was a strenuous journey but well worth the sacrifice. The group participated in the Youth Rally at the Capital One Arena where they attended Mass with thousands of teens and youth leaders. Many received the Sacrament of Reconciliation before embarking on the March. For many in the group, it was their first time participating in a public protest to protect the dignity of every human being. The hope is that the students can build on their experience and what they learned through this trip to become better disciples right here in their own community. Here are some of the quotes from the youth who attended this amazing experience. †



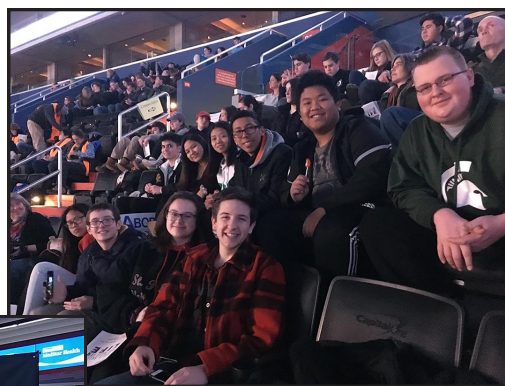
"Because I was able to go on the March for Life, I could experience the sense of purpose that accompanies joining a trip with a very important goal and high visibility. I loved knowing that even if lawmakers never paid attention to the March, we can show other pro-lifers that there is hope and show anyone who is on the fence about abortion that every life is worthy..." - Katy

"Thank you so much for making it possible for us all to go on this trip. We learned so much about pro-life ministry and are inspired to go out and spread the good news..." - Ari P.

"The trip was amazing! I loved seeing all those people marching with us who believe the same thing we do. Seeing all those pro-lifers has given me courage... I saw the greatness of our number and how many of us truly believe that the world should end aborting our brothers and sisters." - Theresa C.

"Something that I saw that I really liked was 'A person is a person no matter how small - Dr. Seuss'. I really like this because it tells us that even if you're not born, you are still a person/human and you still have rights."

"Thank you for sponsoring us so that we were able to go on this trip. It is truly eye opening and an amazing experience and I cannot wait to come back next year to help fight for the human rights everyone deserves."



Restored

by Amy Doyle, Photo by John Grap

Restored is a prayer group for anyone interested in praying for marriages – yours or others' marriages. Marriage is a sacrament and the foundation for our families. Our marriages are a reflection of Christ's love to us.

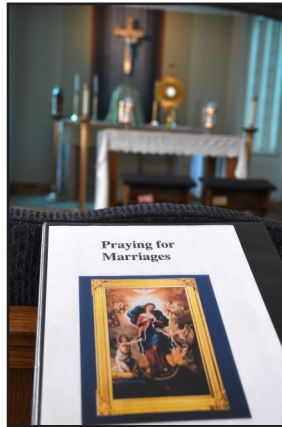
We all go through seasons in our marriages that may be difficult. Some marriages go through very difficult times, which may include separation, or even divorce. Through all of this, God is speaking to us about remembering His teachings and remembering who we are in Him.

The truth is we have to work hard in our marriages, and we also have to have Christ as the foundation of our marriages, and He wants to be there with us, each husband, wife, and God working in and through our marriages and building them up to be the beautiful union He intended.

Restored meets monthly to pray for all marriages – whether you're in a happy marriage and want to pray for others, your marriage is having trouble and you recognize your need to grow closer to Christ and each other, or your marriage has ended in divorce civilly, and you pray for the restoration of your marriage.



Whatever your circumstance, the answer is the same – prayer and trust in



God. Trusting God to restore you to Him, your spouse to Him, and you both to each other.

The joy that comes from this kind of surrender and trust is beautiful and incomparable. Join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel to pray. You'll receive a prayer folder when you enter, and we pray quietly for all marriages and families. You'll feel yourself grow closer to Christ in your journey, and you won't believe the changes this will bring in your life.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Doyle at amydoyle@bcacs.org or 924-7526. Future dates include: April 23rd, May 28th and June 25th. †



Ecumenical Good Friday Service

The annual Downtown Battle Creek Churches' ecumenical Good Friday Service will take place at noon on March 25, hosted by St. Philip, and will include First Baptist, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, St. Thomas Episcopal, St. Philip Catholic, Maple United Methodist and First United Methodist churches. The sermon will be given by the Fr. John D. Fleckenstein. The service is open to the public. †

Franklin Food Pantry

By Judy Montych, Photos by Cathy Hirzel

The Franklin Food Pantry is housed at the First United Methodist Church located at 111 E. Michigan Avenue. The pantry is open on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1-3 pm. Members of St. Philip Catholic Church operate the pantry on Mondays. Volunteers check people in on the pantry computer system. Others pack bags of food and distribute them to the families who come to the pantry. In addition, some of our volunteers pick up bread and dessert items from Panera Bread and the Family Fare store on Columbia Avenue. A **very BIG thank you** to all our dedicated volunteers! Special thanks goes to Dave Dolenski who has picked up product every Wednesday from the Food Bank to supply the pantry for many years and also to Pat Riley who places our product orders. Our group of volunteers are very dedicated and proud to serve our community. If you are interested in volunteering or subbing, contact Judy Montych at 965-8246. Please remember that there is a barrel in the St. Philip Church vestibule for your food donations for the pantry. †



History of Battle Creek Catholic Newsletters

by Matt Davis, Special thanks to Anne Goscenski, Sheri Robotham, and Ellen Tipton.

Before there were any local Catholic publications or bulletins in Battle Creek, the parish priest read the announcements at Mass. Normally the announcements informed parishioners about upcoming meetings, church social functions, and other day to day events. However, sometimes the announcements were of great importance, and people in the pews had to pay attention. For instance, the announcements Father Dillon read from the pulpit during Mass on Palm Sunday, April 1, 1928, were worth listening to. The church had burned down three days earlier, so Mass that day and for the next two years had to be held in the high school gymnasium, which at that time was half the size it is today. Anyone in the pew not listening that day would be very confused the next time they came to the church inside the gymnasium.

For several more years, Father Dillon and then Father Walsh and their respective assistants continued reading announcements each Sunday. Eventually, thanks to Father Walsh, on September 30, 1934, the first edition of *The St. Philip News* was published. Now, instead of the priest reading announcements from the pulpit, parishioners could simply grab a newspaper after Mass to stay up to date on all the local Catholic news and happenings.

Father Walsh wrote the following for the first edition of the newspaper:

"In my judgment this first issue of our parish paper meets a long-felt need. As a parish grows and its activities multiply, especially in a city as large as Battle Creek, the unity that should characterize it is in a certain degree lost. Parishioners dwelling in widely separated areas have little occasion to meet except at services, but here again they are divided into five different groups by as many Sunday Masses.

Social activities should provide occasions for closer acquaintances, but such activities are usually sponsored by ...the various societies, and so appeal to definite groups rather than to the parish. It is seldom therefore that parishioners get together as a unit and are given an opportunity of viewing parish activities as a whole. The morale of the parish suffers therefrom. For there is inspiration to be drawn from a knowledge of what other individuals and other societies are achieving.

This knowledge a parish paper can furnish and in furnishing tends to knit together the various devotional, educational and social activities. ...The parish paper in the home is a constant reminder..."

The St. Philip News was published until the end of 1941. In January of 1942, St. Joseph parish in Lakeview opened, and the publishers wished to incorporate the new parish into their weekly newspaper. The decision was made to change the name of the publication to *The Battle Creek Catholic Citizen*. This paper continued for many years and, eventually, began reporting news from St. Jerome Parish after their first Mass was held on July 31, 1955 inside the Level Park Fire Station.

None of these newspapers have been found to exist after 1957, so the thinking is they were discontinued at the end of 1956 when the bulletins began to be printed.

In more recent years, Fr. Fitz saw a need for parishioners to know more about what was going on in their church and their Catholic schools. Joyce Ryan became the editor of *The St. Philip Spirit - News and Views of the St. Philip Parish Community*. She single-handedly published this monthly newsletter from 1981 to 1987. Twenty years later, *The St. Philip Spirit* was resurrected when a new Communications Committee was formed. Under the leadership of Andrea Boughton and through the generosity of LPI Liturgical Publications (bulletin company) who printed it under the bulletin contract at no extra cost, the newsletter was mailed quarterly to every parish family from 2007 to 2018. See *HISTORY*, page 12.



History Continued from page 11

In 1993, Anne Goscenski founded *The Good News* at St. Joseph Church. First, it was copied on the parish mimeograph machine and later on the newer copiers. In 2010, Diocesan Publications (bulletin company) took over printing it at no additional cost to the parish and began doing it in full color in 2017. Editors over the 25-year history included Michele Searls (1993-1996), Sheila Wood (1997-2001), Honey Smith (2001-2004), Doris McDevitt (2004-2006), Susan Wood (2006-2007), Laurie Elmen (2007-2013), Nicole Mullis (2013-2018), and Missy Skutt (November 2018). Anne acted as parish staff resource person from 1993-2007 followed by Deacon Michael Moreno from 2007-2015 and Ellen Tipton from 2015-2018. Frank Skeltis became the featured writer in 2003 and Dan Boone provided wonderful photos of parish and school events for several years.



It is hoped that our new collaborative newsletter will “knit together the various devotional, educational, and social activities” of our three Battle Creek parishes just like Fr. Walsh envisioned for our Catholic community so many years ago. †

BCACS Foundation

Teaming Up to Preserve the Roof

“There is no greater feeling than walking into our 100-year-old high school or 70-year-old elementary school and having that euphoric sense of all the love, memories, and traditions that have taken place throughout their history. We are a small school with a large heart.... Making a donation to the roof is not only maintaining a building, it is also preserving the history and memories while also allowing us to build new ones...God is currently allowing a little ‘too much’ light to shine through, and we could use your help since through Him, all things are possible.”

-Katie Reed, St. Joseph School Assistant Principal

Our children are our greatest treasure. As they learn and grow spiritually and academically, we need to make sure we are not only feeding their minds and spirit, but also protecting them from the elements. Just as you invest in the upkeep of your home, we need to invest in our school buildings on an ongoing basis. A few years ago, we replaced the roof on all the old portions of the St. Philip Catholic Central High School. Now it's time to turn our attention to the St. Joseph campus where we need to replace the roof on the older sections of the elementary and cafeteria.

“The first two sections that need to be addressed immediately include the early childhood education wing (estimate \$150,000) and the old section of the cafeteria (estimate \$125,000),” said Business Manager Ed Bauman. “We would like to schedule these two sections to be completed during summer break. We also have additional areas that will need to be replaced within the next few years and have maintenance work to complete to maximize the life of the newer roofs (estimate \$40,000).”

There are many ways you can support this roof project. Make a pledge or gift by mailing it to BCACS Foundation at 63 N. 24th Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015 or giving online at www.bcacs.org. Indicate “facility improvements” in the memo line. Contributing gifts of appreciated stock or donating a portion of your minimum distribution directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) are accepted and can positively impact your income tax situation. Contact your professional advisor to see if one of these options is best for you. For more information about this campaign, contact the BCACS Foundation at 269-963-4771 or lmccintyre@bcacs.org. †



Don't miss the BBQ Festival! May 3 & 4!
For more information, check bcacs.org



† St. Joseph Catholic Church
† St. Philip Roman Catholic Church Battle Creek, MI
† Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

An Anonymous Sign of Christ's Love

by Nicole Mullis, Photos by BCACS

St. Joseph first-grade teacher Amy Doyle had a reason for sharing her favorite book, "Everybody Can Help Somebody" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, with her students.

"I read it to the kids to build a sense of the fact that there are people right here in our community who don't have a home, who don't have something to eat," Mrs. Doyle said. "We can't get all these people homes, and we can't feed everybody every night, but we can do something."

But how can a first grader help?

Compassion.

Mrs. Doyle's class created 80 Outreach Bags – simple brown bags decorated by the children.

"I told them to decorate the bags with whatever they think would make someone smile," Mrs. Doyle said.

They filled the bags with granola bars, water, tissue, gum, wipes, and a verse of Scripture selected by the class.

No identifying markers were included, just joy.

"This is an anonymous sign of Christ's love, so it's totally safe," Mrs. Doyle said. "It was pretty impressive when we had all 80 of them together."

Mrs. Doyle gave the children three bags each to keep in their car. When they saw someone in need – and only if accompanied by their parent – they could give that person one of their bags. If they ran out of bags, they could get more until all 80 were gone.

"It might be little, and the food may be gone in an hour, but it is something," Mrs. Doyle said. "With this project, I thought we could help people right here."

The children were eager to share their Outreach Bag experiences. One student was able to give away a bag the next morning after a dentist appointment.

"She said they stopped at a light and saw someone with a sign that said, 'Anything will help,'" Mrs. Doyle said. "She got to give him the bag, and he said thank you. When I asked how it made her feel, she said 'Really good.'"

Really good, indeed. †



Middle School Introduces Quarter Classes

by Braden Roosevelt, Eighth Grade Student

St. Joseph Middle School underwent a huge change, adding a new set of classes to the schedule. At the end of every Thursday, students file into classes that range from learning life skills to putting on a Passion Play.

"I think the quarter classes are a great way for students to explore their interests outside of sports because we don't have a lot of clubs," St. Joseph Assistant-Principal Katie Reed said.

The idea came to Ms. Reed this summer as she was pondering how to get students involved in club-like activities the middle school lacked.

"We had teachers, parents, and volunteers teach the quarter classes," Ms. Reed said.

Quarter classes include MATHCOUNTS, in which students participate in a nationwide math program; Life Skills, in which students learn everyday living skills; Practical Money Skills, in which students learn to save and budget; Chapel Society, in which students take care of the St. Jose Sanchez del Rio Chapel (see picture on page 14); Service Learning, in which students work with Jerilee Rose of Operation Christmas Child; Drama, in which students produce both a Christmas and a Passion Play; Conditioning and Wellness, in which students establish healthy habits; Crocheting, in which students created hats for charity; Photography, in which students produce a video/audio slideshow and Coding, in which students learn basic programming.

See *CLASSES*, page 14

Classes Continued from page 13

"Kids have learned acting and drama skills, as well as social skills because it mixes up the grade levels," Ms. Reed said. "Kids who don't normally hang out with each other are put in a position where they have to collaborate." These classes were an immediate success.

"Quarter classes at St. Joseph have been a huge improvement over what we had in the past for extracurricular activities," eighth grader Greg Garfield said, who participates in the MATHCOUNTS quarter class.

"I like quarter classes because they give us a break from normal work so we can go and do something fun," seventh grader Max Shugars said, who participates in the MATHCOUNTS quarter class.

Ms. Reed is already thinking about future quarter classes.

"Next I think we can grow the classes even more to what the kids would like the classes to be," Ms. Reed said. "We've had kids who've asked about cooking classes and others that have asked about model U.N."

Quarter classes fit easily into the Thursday schedule. According to Ms. Reed, the only class that students have to miss is Advisory. The only time issue is wanting more time for new electives.

"It would be really nice if we had a little extra time, which is something that we will look into next year," Ms. Reed, who teaches the life skills quarter class. "I've had a blast teaching them. Students are learning all kinds of skills, and I wish I could teach one every quarter."

It is a feeling other quarter class teachers share. "It was quite rewarding to know that we were helping to bring happiness to children who may not receive anything else for Christmas," said language arts teacher Elizabeth Casterline, who taught the crochet and service learning class.

As an eighth grader who has taken the MATHCOUNTS quarter class, I feel quarter classes are a great chance for kids to take elective classes. The support for the classes has been immense, and I think that both kids and teachers have really benefited from them. †



The Wonder Behind a Catholic Education

by Father Christopher Ankley,
Pastor of St. Joseph and St. Jerome Church

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools teach in the way that Catholic Schools have taught for over a thousand years, incorporating both faith and reason. Pope Saint John Paul II once said that faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth. With the aid of technology, math, science, reading, writing, history, and the development of critical thinking, our students are fully equipped for modern society.

Our students are also given the opportunity to develop a relationship with our Lord, not only to know about Him but to also know Him in friendship. Through classes in theology, sacramental preparation, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, daily prayer, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, and service to the community, the students grow in relationship with Christ.

The Scientific Method was developed at the great European Catholic Universities by Catholic scientists. They wanted to better understand the world, which is God's marvelous creation. With a better understanding of this world, they could give greater glory to God. Again, faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.

Our goal is to instill wonder in our students, wonder in all the workings of God's world and God Himself, because wonder is the desire of knowledge.

Do you wonder about Catholic Education for your child?

We are ready to welcome you into the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools family! We are now accepting applications for enrollment for students entering three-year-old preschool through twelfth grade.

Want to set up a personal tour? Contact Cathy Erskine, Enrollment Management, at 269-963-1131 or cerskine@bcacs.org.

Read more about our schools at www.bcacs.org and follow us on Facebook.

New families can start the application process at www.bcacs.org/join-our-family. †


BC Catholic Weekly

Email subscription
Contact Missy: mस्कutt@bcacs.org

Paving the Way for Graduation

by BCACS Blog Intern Magdalene J. Hill, Twelfth Grade Student

The senior internship program at St Philip Catholic Central has undergone some changes under the direction and authority of internship teacher Michelle Fuller. The purpose of the internship class is to prepare seniors for college and career. Exposing the students to real life job scenarios and techniques will provide them with tools they need to be one step ahead of the game.

Before diving into career choices and college applications, Mrs. Fuller started with personality and learning style tests. "It is important for everybody to understand themselves before they figure out what they want to be," Mrs. Fuller said. Once the students had figured out their strengths, they researched what they wanted to study in college and what career paths interested them. Students learned how to format neat resumes while being brief and straight to the point about their achievements. They also learned about job skills.

While hard skills like computer programming and engineering, are essentials for specific jobs, soft skills, like leadership and time management, are universal. Some soft skills come naturally, while others take a while to develop. Mrs. Fuller incorporated soft skill activities into the curriculum. "Soft skills are critical for success in college or career," Mrs. Fuller said. "They are the skills you use in whatever job you choose."

Landing an internship requires an interview and first impressions are important. Dress attire, a firm handshake, and eye contact are just some of a long list of techniques to master as an interviewee.

Mrs. Fuller contacted past colleagues and St. Philip parents to conduct mock interviews for the students. Practice makes perfect, so each student was interviewed by four different interviewers. "My experience in the mock interview process was great," senior Nicholas DweHein said. "It was intense and got very serious, but it helped me to be more comfortable."

When second semester started, it was time for the interns to leave the nest. Most students took on one internship, but senior Alex Pessetti took on two. Alex works at Bronson Battle Creek Hospital and the Battle Creek Christian Early Learning Center. "At the hospital, I am usually just answering phones and helping direct visitors to their patients," Alex said. "At the daycare, I am provided with plenty of work. Between bottles, diapers, naps, etc. I never run out of anything to do."

Senior Maya Segovia works at Learning Zone in Pennfield. Every day she is surrounded by children. "My first day was great because the children welcomed me with open arms," Maya said. "My experience has strengthened me in a positive way because I learn new things every day."

The senior interns are practicing their soft skills and work ethic in a real working environment, paving the road to graduation.

"It's a unique experience for our high school seniors that allows them to prepare for their next chapter, be it college or career, with a real world experience," Mrs. Fuller said. "I want them to remember to put the quality in because that's what people will see them as. The work they've done is a reflection of themselves."✝



This quarterly newsletter includes articles and stories about people within the tri-parish area and about tri-parish activities and ministries. It also contains information from the Catholic schools as they are an important part of our Catholic community.



We welcome ideas and articles from all parishioners. All submissions are subject to editing for content, clarity, and length. It may be determined by the editors that their newsletter is not the

appropriate channel for your article, and they reserve the right to determine whether an article is included in the newsletter. Submissions may be e-mailed to ourcatholiccommunity@bcacs.org or dropped in the collection basket (Attention: Our Catholic Community).

Thank you to Diocesan Publications (St. Joseph/St. Jerome bulletin company) for printing this newsletter free of charge for the people of the Battle Creek Area Catholic Community.

Our next publication is planned for August, 2019 with a **submission deadline of July 4th**.

St. Philip Catholic Church
112 Capital Avenue, NE
Battle Creek, MI 49017

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Holy Week Schedule

Tuesday, April 16th

Chrism Mass, Cathedral, Kalamazoo, 6 pm

Wednesday, April 17th

Tenebrae, St. Philip, 7 pm

Thursday, April 18th

Adoration after each Mass until midnight

St. Jerome, 4 pm

St. Joseph Trilingual, 7 pm

St. Philip, 7 pm

Friday, April 19th

St. Jerome Good Friday Liturgy, 3 pm

St. Joseph

Trilingual Good Friday Liturgy, 1 pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3 pm

The Passion movie, School Library, 3:30 pm

Live Stations of the Cross, 6 pm

St. Philip

Downtown Battle Creek Churches' Ecumenical

Good Friday Service, 12 pm

Good Friday Liturgy, 3 pm



Saturday, April 20th

St. Philip Parish Center, 11 am Blessing of Food

St. Joseph Parish Center, 1 pm Blessing of Food

St. Joseph Easter Vigil, 9 pm

St. Philip Easter Vigil, 9 pm

Sunday, April 21st

St. Jerome, 10 am

St. Joseph, 8 am, 10 am, 12 Noon,
1:30 pm (Spanish)

St. Philip, 7 am, 9 am, 11:30 am

