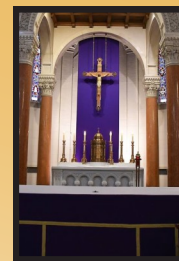
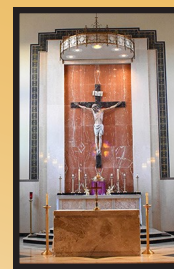
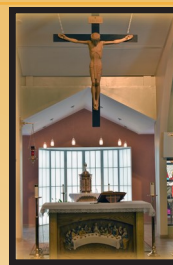


# Our Catholic Community

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



Summer 2019

Vol. 1, No. 2

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## PROFILE: Monika Rosas, *Madrina*

by Frank M. Skeltis, Photo by Frank M. Skeltis

In the world of Disney, the fairy godmother works her magic with a wand, incantation, or spell. In the real world, the godmother is more practical with a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on, or helpful advice. St. Joseph has its own godmother or, more correctly, *Madrina*, in the person of Monika Rosas. She works her magic by spreading her love for God and his people to any and all with whom she comes in contact.

Monika was born in the Dominican Republic and was brought with her brother and sister to the United States by her caring, inspirational mother who wanted her children to grow up learning English and having opportunities for a good life. Monika chokes up as she remembers her mother having traded an office job back home to work two menial jobs in the U.S. so that her children could have success. She taught them to fight for their goals and that God will help. Her faith in God and in her children was rewarded when all three of them earned college degrees and found satisfying, fulfilling careers.

"I always love and like to help people," she says. "As a kid I wanted to be a doctor. My mom is my inspiration and said that I could do whatever I want."

Monika, like her mother, chose to believe in God's power in her life. She earned a master's degree and became a nurse practitioner. Although she did work in medical practice, she has since expanded her positive influence on others by becoming a home health care nurse and health educator. She travels extensively visiting homes to help people with health assessments and sharing practices and advice on how to live healthy lifestyles. She glows when describing how she brings her knowledge and information into people's homes to make their lives better.

It is a logical leap from nursing to active participation in her faith. Though very busy in her career, she still makes time to sing in the Sunday choir, lector at Mass, participate in the jail ministry, serve as an interpreter for the Hispanic community, and teach Spanish two days per week at St. Joseph Elementary in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Her godmother persona evolved through her participation in the school. Principal Sara Myers tells how in the summer of 2018 she, Katie Reed, and Fr. Chris attended the Latino Enrollment Initiative at the University of Notre Dame. At the conference, they learned how parishes around the country were learning to be more welcoming and inclusive, of primarily Hispanic families.

One aspect of being more inviting to both the church and school communities was the *Madrina* Program. Taking advantage of the "local talent," many parishes invited bi-lingual individuals to be the liaison between the Anglo and Hispanic groups. Fr. Chris invited Monika to be the St. Joseph School *Madrina* (Godmother) and to teach Spanish on Monday and Friday to the children.

See PROFILE, page 2





## PROFILE Continued from page 1

Sara Myers says that it was a natural fit for Monika. Besides teaching, she was a translator during parent conferences; she made home phone calls; she translated notes sent home to parents; and so much more. She organized the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at the school which, in the Hispanic community, is the equivalent of Christmas, Easter, New Year, and Fourth of July rolled into one. She was the powerful force who increased attendance at the planned Literacy Night by organizing the Hispanic families to bring food for dinner at the school event. Her influence is obvious and subtle in the school as students respectfully call her "Señora" and call out "Hola" when passing in the hall.

Laughingly, Sara Myers recalls that Monika also became the de-facto school nurse. "One time a student entered the office with a severe bloody nose. We started to panic then remembered....Yes..this is Friday!! Someone call Madrina Monika!!"

When talking with "Madrina Monika," it is clear that she relishes her opportunities to engage with people and influence their lives. But she is very humble when explaining her motivation.

"Because I love to help, it helps me to give. By giving, I receive even more than I give. Just the thought of helping someone find a solution or a way out that gives them hope fills my heart. I may have more than others but I don't feel attached to it. I can make an impact on someone's life with food, clothing, or money. I like to share what I have."

Each of her ministries touches her in special and unique ways. She feels the presence of Jesus in the jail ministry by sharing time with those incarcerated. "I feel mercy for them because they are children of God. Fr. Chris received a letter from them expressing appreciation for giving our time and

telling us it made them know they were not forgotten."

As a translator, she feels that she gives everyone an opportunity. "I've worked with multiple people with the health system, work issues, legal situations. It is a gift to respond whenever, wherever, and to whomever needs me."

As a Spanish teacher she says she learned as much as she taught. "It has helped me to love them more; to be more patient, kind, and understanding and to appreciate their spontaneity. They need to follow rules but with love. They give me love."

Monika has even helped for the last six years in the Sunday Religious Education program, doing whatever is needed. She has helped Barbara Kincaid with First Holy Communion, Confirmation, retreats, translating texts and even making coffee. Her response is remarkably inspiring.

"It has helped me grow in my faith to know more and to be closer to God. Now I invest my time in knowing my faith and letting God do His will in my life."

Her love for people and doing the will of God is evident as she shares what motivates her. She has a message for everyone:

"You are gifted. I get my little food everyday by seeing people happy and by making them feel satisfied and dignified. We all learn from each other. There is a message from each person. I learn from you and you learn from me. With God everything is possible. Always smile knowing that your life can make other people's lives better. Be an image of God to the world. He is a God who will always love us."

Spoken like a true Madrina. †

## Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist





# Eucharistic Adoration

by Erin Buchko



For a full list of adoration times at each of the Battle Creek churches, visit: [www.CatholicBC.org/adoration](http://www.CatholicBC.org/adoration)

To sign up for an hour at Sacred Heart Chapel, contact Betty Dillard at 269-962-8255



*From Eucharistic adoration compassion is born for all men and from this compassion the thirst to evangelize is born.*  
— Pope Benedict XVI

Have you ever considered becoming a regular adorers at the Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel? If you're like me, you may wonder what adoration entails and if you are a good fit for regular adoration. When I first signed up for adoration, my mind was filled with questions: What would I pray about each week? Could I bring a book? What was proper protocol in the chapel? And, what if, even with my best intentions I didn't quite understand adoration and quit – embarrassing myself directly in front of Jesus' real presence? Needless to say, I was not sure what to expect when I stepped into the adoration chapel for my first hour of adoration.

I was immediately captivated by the level of peacefulness in the chapel. It is a very unique experience to step outside of the noise filled world and into Jesus' real presence. The worries of my day are swept away in the adoration chapel. And the desire to check my phone for calls, emails, and social media posts completely disappears. It is almost as if I step completely out of time. And when my hour is up and I re-enter the world, I do not feel bombarded by all the noise. But rather, I am refreshed and able to share Jesus' peacefulness with the world.

It is also very special to sit in the presence of Jesus who died on the cross for me (and everyone). Entering into the chapel, I do not have to act a certain way. I don't have to hide my emotions if I am worried, sad, or upset. Jesus understands me perfectly well and desires me to spend time with him. Jesus longs for each one of us to be transformed by him; and there is no greater way to initiate that transformation than spending time with Jesus' real presence.

During my weekly hour in the adoration chapel, I have encountered close to one hundred individuals in the last year. I have encountered families, married couples, single individuals, young adults, and older adults. All of these individuals have vastly different backgrounds, but came to spend time with Jesus. Reflecting on this fact, I realize what a gift it is to have Eucharistic adoration in our community. If we seek the Lord and want to develop a better relationship with the Lord he is there for us in the Chapel. And Jesus is not just there for you or me, but he is present for everyone. If you stop to think about it, it is truly a remarkable gift!

When I look back at my initial concerns about adoration and the concerns of others who do not sign up for adoration, I notice that many statements have the word "I" in it. I might not understand adoration. I might be too busy to sign up for adoration. I can experience Jesus in other ways. After spending time in the adoration chapel, my concerns have shifted away from "I" statements. My time is spent thinking about others. I feel a level of concern for those I have encountered in the adoration chapel. What is their story? How is Jesus transforming their lives? And I also feel a level of responsibility about those who have never entered the chapel, or even the church. Does the man walking down the street past the adoration chapel know he is walking past Jesus' real presence? Would his life be altered in any way if he did know that? Would he too be drawn to Eucharistic adoration? My time in the adoration chapel has allowed all of my concerns to slip away, so that I can focus on what is really important – sharing Jesus with others, in thought, word, deed, and action. I invite you to sign up for Eucharistic adoration. Allow yourself to be transformed. I assure you, you will not be disappointed. †

# Our Priests and Seminarians



## Fr. José Haro

*St. Joseph and St. Jerome Church had to say a tearful good-bye to Fr. José and wish him well on his new role as Vocation Director for the Diocese. You are loved and will be missed, Fr. José!*

Photos by Angie Cheng

Fr. Chris celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you, Fr. Chris, for your ten years of service and commitment to the priesthood. You have been a huge blessing and a joyful witness to all of us.

May you continue to be sustained by His grace, and may your life in God's service always be filled with joy.



Congratulations on your 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a priest, Fr. Chris!



## Fr. Andrew Raczkowski

*St. Joseph and St. Jerome Church are very happy to welcome Fr. Andrew. We look forward to getting to know you, Fr. Andrew!*



Photos by Angie Cheng

## Prayer for

## Priests and Seminarians

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.

Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

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

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



# Meet Father Pangiraj Jabamalai Nathan, aka Father Raj

by John Grap, Photos by John Grap



## Tell us about your family and the town you grew up in.

I grew up in Rayapuram, in the Villupuram district of the southeastern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is a village of 350 Catholics. I am the fifth child in the family, with two brothers and two sisters, all older than me.

When I was born there was a superstition about the fifth child. If the fifth child was a boy, either the child or the head of the household would die. A curse was on me that I had killed my dad. (Editor's note: his dad died when he was very young). Even today that is a superstition. But I never felt that because of the love of my mom. Her care was amazing! I will continue to take care of her forever.

I enjoyed my childhood, despite the suffering, difficulties, and failures, and struggles. Being with my mother and learning her love was something that was a great thing for me. The same love that I experienced, I want to, as a priest, give to others.

## When did you realize your vocation as a priest?

It was a very shocking or inspiring moment when somebody asked me what I wanted to become in life. Without any prayer, thought, or visioning, I said I wanted to become a priest.

Knowing priests' lifestyles and sharing their struggles and experiences of shepherding people gave me lots of energy to think about how good it would be if I became a priest. Thereafter, I nurtured these thoughts.

In my formation days, in the seminary, I never thought about leaving, even though I had lots of setbacks and failures. I held the vocation to be a priest close to my heart. Today I love being a priest.

As a human, during my seminary days, I had my own failures, being naughty, and not acting responsibly. When people thought I wasn't fit to become a priest, God never let me down. Even the day of my ordination I had to struggle, people wanted to stop me from becoming a priest. But I really felt the hand of God on me and blessing me to become one.

## Tell us about your work as school principal and a psychologist in India.

Being a school principal - to lead and to cherish children's viewpoints and help them along in their education - with my own limitations, was very difficult. I was very short-tempered when students failed in their studies. As a priest I used to feel really pained if I mistreated the children, because I am called to be person of love. At that time I failed to be a good priest.

Later, when I received my Masters degree in psychology, the horizon of my thinking was opened. And I began to treat the children as they are, getting into their own shoes, and knowing their lives. God threw off all these struggles as I studied psychology. When I learned more about myself I wanted to learn more about other people.

Then as a principal, and psychologist, I had a different viewpoint of their children, and I never even scolded people, always treating everyone with love. That was a turning point for me, a change of lifestyle and thought patterns.

## How did your mission to St. Philip in Battle Creek come about?

I had a desire to work in an overseas mission, which is one of the pillars of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. I always had the desire, but it didn't happen for a long time. One day, however, our provincial director asked me if I could go to the United States as a missionary.

I had some initial hesitation because I had never been to a foreign country and wondered how the situations, including the climate, would be. Keeping in mind my desire to do mission work I said yes to the call, and today I am here in the United States as a missionary for the call of the universal church.

## What has been the biggest challenge to adjusting to life in the United States?

First of all the weather, I had never seen such changes, as I had always experienced the hot weather of India. Initially it was freezing for me here. Slowly and steadily I ventured out and became acclimated to the climatic conditions here in Michigan.

The second challenge is the English language, which is my third language. I started learning it while in the seminary. Now I am learning American English and it is very hard. I've had to forget what I knew before about English and have to relearn it. I can do it, but it is a challenge.

Being here, living in Battle Creek, with the St. Philip parishioners, I feel I am very blessed because of their encouragement, love, and support. Because of this I feel I can continue. I am so happy to be here to serve the people of God at St. Philip.

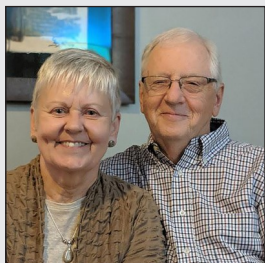
And we are very blessed you are here with us. †



# Golden Wedding Anniversary Couples

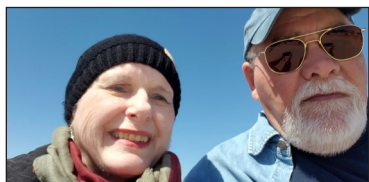
by Cathy Hirzel

The following couples are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries during 2019. Congratulations to them for achieving this special milestone. We ask God's blessings on them and ALL THE COUPLES celebrating 50 years of marriage. (If we did not know that you were celebrating a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please contact us and we will include you in the next issue of *Our Catholic Community* newsletter.)†



**Phill and Mary Sue Avery** (St. Joseph) were married August 2, 1969 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. They have two children – a son, Michael, and daughter, Michelle, whose son, Leif, is their only grandchild.

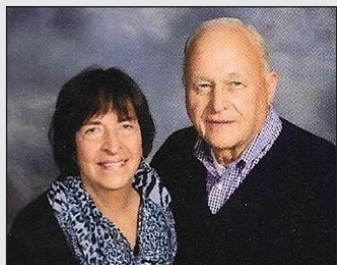
*"Our shared faith has been our greatest asset throughout our 50 years of marriage. It has helped us weather our challenges and has been an essential part of our married life. We have been greatly blessed, and every day we pray together, express our love for each other, and thank God for these blessings."*



**Michael and Linda Darr** (St. Philip) were married at St. Philip Catholic Church on February 8, 1969. They have four daughters – Becky (who died in 2014), Michelle, Stacey, and Erica.

They have 13 grandchildren: Zachary, Madison, Karleigh, Kennedy, Allysia, Josslen, Tyler, Brayden, Carlos, Anthony, Jaxson, Beckham, and Ella, as well as one great granddaughter, Reece.

*"We are a close family and always have each other's backs. We celebrate holidays and special occasions together! Linda has been fighting cancer for the past year (her second bout). Mike is the best caretaker and our whole family helps – they are the Best! We truly believe you need to take time for yourselves so we go away for the weekend on our anniversary or whenever we can. We love to be together. We are best friends! God has been good to us and we love and thank Him for everything we have!!!"*



**Jim and Carol Heisler** (St. Philip) were married at St. John's Church in Jackson, Michigan on June 20, 1969. They have two daughters – Christine (Jay) and Jennifer (Tom) – and seven grandchildren: Leah, Lucas, Grant, Tommy, Caroline, Katherine, and Rowan.

*"Jim was employed by Michigan Carton and retired from Kellogg's as an electrician. Carol worked as a nurse for 50 years. In marriage, there are ups and downs and it is always easier when both partners help each other. When you pick the right one, it is easy."*

**Rudy and Margaret Barda** (St. Joseph) met in high school and dated through college. They were married on June 14, 1969 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Darien, Illinois. Their family is: David (Emily) and their children Stephen, Christian, Joseph and Michael; Andrew (Tomara) and their children Taylor and Jackson; Catherine (Chris) and their children Madeline, Justine, and Danielle; Daniel (Kristy) and their children Grayson and Ophelia.



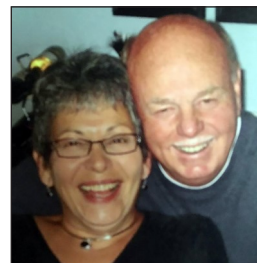
*"Our marriage has been a discovery all these years as we learn more of each other and of ourselves -- the laughter and tears and the crazy and peaceful times. We suggest setting aside a moment to pray together every day. It is unbelievable the peace this brings to your lives. And, of course, the advice of a dear priest friend: 'every day say I love you, I'm sorry and I forgive you.'"*

**Sharon and Robert Dewey** (St. Philip) were married at St. Mary's Church in Marshall, Michigan on May 24, 1969. They have nine children: Robert, David, Thomas, Anthony, Ana Marie, Andrew, RonEl, Damien, and Kitana. They have four grandchildren – Nyana, Anlya, Eleon, and Han.



*"Marriage is a journey shared with each other and God Himself. During the hard times, honor the sacrament of your vows. During the good times, rejoice and be thankful."*

**Gale and Alicia McCullough** (St. Joseph) were married on August 16, 1969 at St. John's Catholic Church in Albion, Michigan. They have two children – Jason (Amanda) and Cristina – and three grandchildren: Marin, Delaney, and Samuel.



*"Grateful! Thankful! Blessed! We are grateful and thankful for all the Good Lord has bestowed upon us in these 50 years of marriage. To continue growing in love and understanding, and appreciating God's blessings. We are blessed with wonderful children. We thank God for our love, our laughter, our faith, our families, and our friends."*

See GOLDEN, page 7





**Bob and Opal Nelson** (St. Philip) were married by Fr. Robert Consani on February 22, 1969 at St. Philip Roman Catholic Church. They have three wonderful daughters – Angela (Mark), Jennifer (Mike), and Amy (Bryan) – who all graduated from

St. Philip Catholic Central. They have been blessed with six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

*"It is hard to put into words what it takes to achieve 50 years of marriage but we both think it is important for couples to really know each other before making a lifelong commitment to each other. We were fortunate to meet in elementary school as close neighbors and literally grew up together. We were lucky, too, to live almost next door to St. Phil, the church that has been such a big part of our lives. We were both baptized there, received our First Communion and Confirmation there, and of course were married there 50 years ago. The only advice we can give is to always put family first, do your best to be faithful servants of God, and find something to laugh about every day – even if it is yourselves!"*

**Deacon Jim and Kathy Nelson** (St. Joseph) were married on August 2, 1969 at St. Augustine Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan (before it was the cathedral). They have one daughter, Katie, who is married to Paul Jones.



*"We met in January 1969 while attending WMU and a short time later were engaged on Valentine's Day. We came from strong families which was so important to both of us. A strong sense of humor and a commitment that our relationship was more important than any issue we faced brought us to 50 years of marriage."*

## CCD

### St. Joseph

Registration: [https://www.stjosephbc.org/docs/2018\\_2019RegistrationForm.pdf](https://www.stjosephbc.org/docs/2018_2019RegistrationForm.pdf)

Classes: Sundays, beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>

Classes for children and adults available!

Time: 8:30 - 9:45 am

Contact: Barbara Kincaid, Director, 269-965-4079, [bkincaid@bcacs.org](mailto:bkincaid@bcacs.org)

### St. Philip

Registration: [stphilipbc.org/re-register](http://stphilipbc.org/re-register)

Classes: Wednesdays, beginning September 4<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6 - 7:30 pm

Optional light dinner available before CCD in Parish Center. Donations welcome.

Dinner: 5 - 5:45 pm

Contact: Monica Vasquez, Director of Faith Formation, 269-962-9506, [mvasquez@stphilipbc.org](mailto:mvasquez@stphilipbc.org)

## Tri-Parish Youth Ministry

by Andrea Perry, Photos by Andrea Perry

The Tri-Parish Youth Ministry has had a busy summer! We began with a dinner and a night of fun with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; followed by a week at Catholic Heart Work Camp, and later an evening on Goguac Lake. It's not too late to join us! Join the email chain: [aperry@bcacs.org](mailto:aperry@bcacs.org) or check out the BC Catholic Weekly for our scheduled events for the 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades!

The Catholic Heart Work Camp was a rewarding week! This year we chose to serve in our home state in Detroit! We were given the opportunity to serve in several schools and churches. We helped clean up vacant lots and city blocks where schools are located. God was present in those we met, the people we served, and in us! ✝



## Volunteers Needed

It takes many hands to prepare almost 2000 *Our Catholic Community* newsletters for mailing. Help is needed to fold the newsletter in half. Each person would take about 300 newsletters and fold them at home over a long weekend.

A group of people then meets to tape and label the folded newsletters. This usually takes about two hours. If you are interested in helping with either of these activities, please contact Cathy Hirzel at 968-4639 or [chirzel@aol.com](mailto:chirzel@aol.com). If you would like to help on our committee by writing articles, taking pictures, proofing, etc., please let us know. ✝

# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

by Cathy Hirzel, Photo by John Grap

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or R.C.I.A. is a process designed for those seeking a deeper understanding of the mysteries of God and the Catholic Church. It is a spiritual journey open to both baptized and unbaptized persons. The process includes a number of Rites to mark progress along the way. The R.C.I.A. culminates in the celebration of the Easter Vigil. At the Vigil, candidates and catechumens join the faithful at the Eucharistic table. We would like to welcome the following people to our Battle Creek Catholic community who recently completed the R.C.I.A. program. From St. Joseph Parish: Mark Barrett, Rosa Guerrero and her daughter Mia, Jennifer Lussier, and Eriberto Torres. From St. Philip Parish: Jonathan Galbreath, Katrina Hilnan, Mike Kipp, John Parker, Luann Talbot, and Christine and Geoff Willis.

We are so happy to have you as part of our family!



A few of our new parishioners shared their thoughts with us about becoming Catholic:

*I was an agnostic-athiest when I started reading the "Sayings of the Desert Fathers" (4th century Christian hermits) and praying the Jesus Prayer. I began to practice Zen meditation while continuing to study Christianity. I found the moral laziness of Zen to be off-putting and I wanted to participate in the sacraments and rituals I had only read about up to then. After seeing someone with ashes on their forehead (Ash Wednesday 2018) I decided to go to Mass. I liked it so much that I just kept going.*

Mark Barrett

*Growing up, I considered myself a non-denominational Christian. I went to Sunday school until about 4th grade when my family stopped going to church for reasons not discussed with children. After that, I would say prayers at night, refrain from using the Lord's name in vain and of course live by the "Golden*

*Rule". That was the extent of my religious education and upbringing. I felt I had a good spiritual connection and that I didn't need Church to continue my relationship with God. People who went to church needed "structure to find God", I already knew Him.*

*I met David, my husband and cradle Catholic, 12 years ago. He went to church every Sunday, cantored for Mass and would ask me to go. I had no interest. Church made me uncomfortable. He didn't push the issue but continued to ask me to go with him. I finally agreed to attend on the Saturday night before Easter, a.k.a. Easter Vigil. I had no idea what I was getting myself into! After making it through Easter Vigil, one hour a week on Sunday was no problem. I started going regularly and enjoyed Church but swore, "I will never be Catholic".*

*When we got married, I agreed to raise my children Catholic, but didn't really know what that meant. I figured it wasn't a big deal since we did not have children and were not planning a family any time soon. After a couple of years, we had our first son. We went through the baptism, had the party but I still didn't really understand why all of Dave's family was making such a big deal about it. Things continued in this manner, me going through the motions without questioning what was actually happening. It wasn't until my oldest son asked, "Mommy, why don't you go up for Communion?" that I started questioning what was going on. I did not have a good answer for him, so I started investigating. That summer on a random camping trip I experienced grace for the first time. At that point, I was hooked. I started RCIA that fall. The more I learned, the more I wanted to know. I now feel a freedom that I never knew before. My battle with anxiety and depression is nearly non-existent. I give everything to God and look for him in all I do. I am excited to be Catholic!*

Jennifer Lussier

*"Whenever we take a step towards Jesus we come to realize that He is already there. Waiting for us with open arms. How good it feels to come back to Him whenever we are lost!" - Pope Francis*

*My spiritual journey has been blessed by my sponsor and mentor, Susan Campbell, who gave me strength and encouragement to become confirmed and feel the presence of the church everyday.*

Luann Talbot †



Save the date: September 20, 21, and 22, 2019  
For more information:  
[www.allsaintssuperfest.org](http://www.allsaintssuperfest.org)

## St. Jerome Pancake Breakfast



The St. Jerome Men's Club welcomes the parishioners of all the parishes to enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship the third Sunday of the month between 9 and 11 am. From September through May, we serve a free will donation breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausage, egg casserole, biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit and a variety of other delicious foods. Please come and join us. We welcome your company.



# Legion of Mary

by Tammy Allington, Photo by Tammy Allington

*Who is she that comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array. (Song of Songs 6:10)*

*The Virgin's name was Mary. (Luke 1:27)*

*The Legion of Mary, What a Perfectly chosen name! (Pope Pius XI)*

I bet that you did not know that we have a battle ready group in our midst!

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic group of lay people in the Catholic Church, with well over 3 million active members (plus even more auxiliary members). They are located in almost every country in the world.



Patricia Fellabaum, Secretary; Mary Ann Lupina, Treas., Linda Schnipke, Vice President, Linda Kellogg, President, Genevieve Green, Angie Cheng.

Missing Sr. Cyrilla., Spiritual Mod., Trudy Stark, Rosalie Gaudrault. Auxiliary members: Diane Bogan, Kathy Swonk, Pat Peck

Frank Duff was the founder of the Legion of Mary in 1921. The Legion helps its members become better Catholics through a balanced program of prayer and service, inspired by the Holy Spirit, as He works through Mary, Mother of the Church.

A typical week for a member involves attending a Legion meeting, performing a couple of hours of service, which may involve one or more of these ministries: visiting and praying with the sick or homebound, taking Holy Communion to those in need, visiting prisoners, feeding the hungry, and doing many other works of mercy.

Genevieve Green states, "Everything I do is the work of Mary. She is the source of my good action. Our work is not social work, but giving glory to God through Mary's intercession. The work lifts us up, and Mary makes it fruitful."

Mary Ann Lupina says, "To quote one of my dearest friends, 'Thank you for bringing me the most precious gift in the world.' That is what we do. We bring Jesus in the Holy Eucharist every week to those who cannot come to Mass. It is an honor and a privilege and I thank God for the opportunity. We are their connection to the world. We share stories, news of local parishes, pray with them and more importantly, we listen to them. It a ministry that gives back more to me than anything else."

Angie Cheng said that after she did her 33 Days to Morning Glory retreat and Marian consecration, she felt the

call to serve. She started to attend the Legion of Mary meetings and did training with the Legion of Mary members. It took her about a year to become a member. Why so long? Angie says she always wanted to be sure she kept her commitment and did not want to fail. "I love the spirit of the Legion of Mary and enjoy visiting with my people. I am happy to help Jesus and distribute His love."

The Vice President of the Legion of Mary, Linda Schnipke, has been with the Legion since 1987. "I have always enjoyed the group's devotion to the Blessed Mother and the service we do for parishioners. Much love and compassion is shown to all our people. We wish many more would join us as there is MUCH need. Please come, even if it is part time. You will benefit so much from being a member and you will receive many graces!"

If you are thinking of learning more about becoming a member, you are welcome to attend a meeting. They are held in the St. Joseph Parish Center every Tuesday following 8 am Mass and rosary. Who can belong? Anyone! Any Catholic, young or not so young, single, married, working or retired, who would like to draw closer to Jesus and His Mother, is welcome to give it a try. There is a three month trial to see if this is something that can work for you and your family.

If you or someone you know would like a visit from a Legion member, please contact Linda Kellogg at 269-965-2074 or email at kelloggdl@att.net. †



Sr. Cyrilla long time member of the Legion of Mary.

DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

10  
19  
19

IGNITE  
THE  
FAITH

IN SOUTHWEST  
MICHIGAN

8 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
RADISSON PLAZA  
HOTEL, KALAMAZOO

www.diokzoo.org/congress

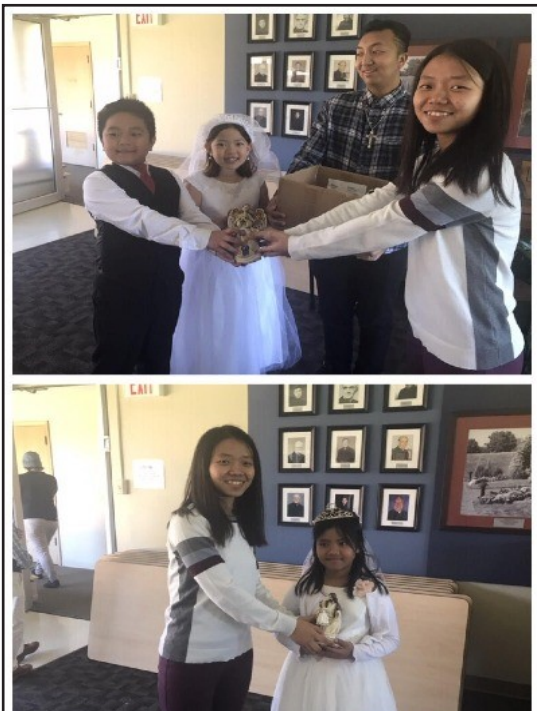
CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
OF KALAMAZOO

# Burmese News

by Dolly Vumzathang, Photos by Dolly Vumzathang

အားလုံးကို နှုတ်ခွန်းဆက်သအပ်ပါတယ်။

ရာသီဥတုကလည်းကောင်းလာပြီ။ မနက်မနက်ဆို ငှက်သံလေးတွေသီဆိုတာတွေကြားရပြီ။ ဘာလိုလိုနဲ့ နွေရာသီရောက်ပြီနော်။ ပြီးခဲ့တဲ့ မေလတွင် ဘီစီအေ အသင်းမှဒုတိယတန်း ကျောင်းသူကျောင်းသား အယောက် ၁၁ တို့သည် ပထမကိုယ်တော်မြတ် ရရှိကာ စိန်ဂျိုးဇက်ဘုရားရှိခိုးကျောင်းတွင် ကျင်းပခဲ့ပါတယ်။ လက်ဆောင် ပေးကမ်းခြင်းဖြင့် ကလေးများအတွက်လုပ်ဆောင်နိုင်ခဲ့ပါသည်။ ဒီလိုဖြစ်မြောက်ရန် အစအဆုံး လမ်းညွှန်းပေးသော မိဘတို့ကိုလည်း စိန်ဂျိုးဇက်မှလှူဒါန်းသော လက်ဆောင်များအတွက်အ ထူးကျေးဇူးတင်အပ်ပါသည်။ ဇွန်လ ၁၅ နေ့တွင် လူငယ်များမှ အမေရိကန်နိုင်ငံလုံး ဆိုင်ရာမြန်မာကက်သလစ်ဘာသာဝင်များ၏ ဒသမကြိမ်မြောက်နှစ်ပတ်လည်ပွဲတော်ကြီးကို စက်တင်ဘာလတွင် ပြုလုပ်တော့မည်ဖြစ်သောကြောင့်ပါဝင်တက်နိုင်ဖို့ရန်အတွက်ရန်ပုံငွေကို စိန်ဂျိုးဇက် အလယ်တန်းကျောင်း၌ မြန်မာမုန့် အကြော်စုံနှင့်ကားရေဆေးခြင်း တို့ကို စိတ်အားထက်သန်စွာလုပ်ဆောင်ခဲ့ကြပါတယ်။ အဘက်ဘက်ကကူညီပေးသောသူ အားလုံးကိုကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်။ ပွဲသို့သွားရောက်မည့်သူများအတွက်နှင့်ပွဲစီစဉ်နေသည့်ကာလ တလျှောက်တွင် အောင်မြင်နိုင်ဖို့ရန်နှင့် လမ်းခရီးချောမွေ့စွာဖြင့်ရောက်ရှိနိုင်ဖို့ရန်ဆုတောင်း ပေးကြဖို့လည်းတောင်းခံအပ်ပါသည်။ ကျေးဇူးတော်ကြောင့် ဘီစီအေအဖွဲ့မှ အသင်းသူအ သားများအတွက် အားကစားပွဲနေ့ကိုလည်း ဇွန်လ ၂၂ ရက်နေ့တွင် ကျင်းပနိုင်ခဲ့ပါသည်။ စိန်ဂျိုးဇက်မှ ကျောင်းထိုင် ဘုန်းတော်ကြီးကိုလည်း နေရာကောင်းရရှိနိုင်ဖို့ရန်အတွက် အာမခံချက်ပေးပြီး သောကြောင့် ကျေးဇူးအထူးတင်ရှိကြောင်းပြောကြားရင် နောက်ကျန်ရှိသော နွေရာသီ ရဲ့အလှပ များနှင့် ဒီထက်မက ပျော်ရွှင်မှုများရရှိကြပါစေဟုဆုမွန်ကောင်းတောင်းရင်းနိဂုံးချုပ်အပ်ပါတယ်ရှင်။



## Journey through Scripture

Fr. Chris Ankley will lead a Bible study September through November at St. Joseph on Tuesday evenings and at St. Jerome on Thursday mornings. For more information, contact: Barb Kincaid, [bkincaid@bcacs.org](mailto:bkincaid@bcacs.org)



THE BIBLE  
and the  
VIRGIN MARY  
JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE



# Al encuentro con Jesús

by Teresa Bello, Photos by Teresa Bello



Jesús es nuestro amigo y quiere encontrarse con cada uno de nosotros de una manera personal. Para poder establecer esa relación de amistad especial con él, nuestra Parroquia de S. José además de la liturgia del domingo, nos ofrece otros espacios.

El rezo del Santo Rosario antes de la misa de los domingos a las 4:15. Es una manera de saludar a nuestra madre, ir conociendo a Jesús en cada misterio y al mismo tiempo nos vamos haciendo cada vez más comunidad con nuestros hermanos.

La Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento los lunes. El Santísimo está expuesto en el Centro parroquial de 4 a 7 pm para tener un encuentro personal a solas en silencio con Jesús y de 7 a 8 tenemos adoración comunitaria con cantos de alabanza y el rezo del santo Rosario. Cualquier horario que elijas será una bendición para ti y tus seres queridos.

Grupo de Oración los jueves en el Centro Parroquial comenzando a las 6 pm. Es una manera de conocer más acerca de nuestra fe católica, con charlas formativas, testimonios, oración, encuentros de sanación, cantos de Alabanza y lo que va inspirando el Espíritu santo. Es una manera de hacer crecer tu amistad con Jesús y fortalecer los vínculos comunitarios en un ambiente de Alegría, Paz y fraternidad.

Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento orientado a las familias, el 1er miércoles de cada mes en la Iglesia de 7 a 8 pm. Es un encuentro trilingüe, con cantos de alabanza adecuado para niños y toda la familia para que empiecen a gustar al Señor.

Dios nos regala la vida, devolvámosle un ratito de nuestro tiempo encontrándonos con El en amistad. †



## St. Joseph Evangelization Commission

by Dave and Suzanne Nielsen, Photo by Tammy Allington



Jesus Christ: that is the mission of the St. Joseph Evangelization Commission.

From the beginning, we realized that evangelization begins at home. Becoming a parish family that is supportive of each other and shares our faith together, both formally at Mass and informally at parish and family events are the first steps in reaching to the wider community. Experiencing community from within enables evangelizing community from without.

In our first year, we introduced the first annual summer "Movie on the Lawn" at St. Joseph's to bring families together for an evening of fun. We also developed and printed Order of the Mass in both English and Spanish to be placed in the back cover of the Worship Hymnal to make it easier to participate in the Mass. Additionally, we partnered with St. Vincent DePaul Society in assisting with Christmas Basket distribution and delivery. That Christmas partnership continues as part of our Parish outreach efforts.

In our second year, the Commission continued the "Movie on the Lawn" and in the Fall organized the first bi-annual Parish Ministry Fair. All Parish ministries and

Building a vibrant parish community seeking and welcoming all who are looking for a closer relationship with

organizations participated and several new volunteers were recruited. One highlight of the Fair was the publishing of a Ministry Guide with pictures, brief descriptions and contact information for each ministry.

During the relatively short life of the Evangelization Commission, its members have provided hospitality for the Parish Missions that have brought new opportunities for prayer, inspiration, and joyful fellowship to our parish. Together these opportunities demonstrate that our Catholic faith is indeed a celebration of our relationship with Christ in our lives. Sharing that faith is not only the mission of the Commission, it is the mission of us all.

As the Commission continues in its role of creating opportunities for sharing our faith, it is always looking for new avenues for building and expanding our Parish family. We invite you to join us and learn more about our Evangelization Commission. For more information please contact Nancy Haack at [nemahaack@gmail.com](mailto:nemahaack@gmail.com) or Suzanne Nielsen at [suzannenielson44@gmail.com](mailto:suzannenielson44@gmail.com). †

2019 New Evangelization Summit (NES).



Save the date for NES 2020:  
April 25!

# Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry Will Host Dr. Janet Smith —

**Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

by Cathy Hirzel

The Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry is excited to announce the presenter for our sixth annual October pro-life dinner. Dr. Janet E. Smith is a well-known speaker and author. She taught at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Dallas and recently retired from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit where she was professor of moral theology and held the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics.



Dr. Smith is the author of *Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later* and of the *Right to Privacy*; and the editor of *Why Humanae Vitae Was Right: A Reader*. She also coauthored with Christopher Kaszar *Life Issues, Medical Choices, Questions and Answers for Catholics*. Her latest book is *Self-Gift*, which is a compilation of her essays on *Humanae Vitae* and the thoughts of John Paul II.

She served three terms as a consultant to the Pontifical Council on the Family and also served as a member of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission, III for 8 years. She has received two honorary doctorates and many other awards for scholarship and service.

Dr. Smith has appeared on the Geraldo show, Fox Morning News, CNN International, CNN Newsroom, Al Jazeera and has done many shows for various series on EWTN.

Watch the bulletins for more details. †

**Thursday, October 17, 2019**

Student Presentation

“Why Premarital Sex is Wrong”

1:30 pm - St. Philip Catholic Central

Dinner and Presentation

“A Culture of Life vs. A Culture of Death”

6:00 pm - St. Philip Parish Center

Reservations are requested

269-968-4639 or [chirzel@aol.com](mailto:chirzel@aol.com)

No charge - Donations will be accepted

# Council of Catholic Women –

## St. Jerome CCW

President - Diane Rameriz

Vice president - Pat Smith

Secretary - Sue Campbell

Treasurer - Jackie Stefanski

If you want to contact anyone, please call the church @ 968-2218. †

## St. Joseph CCW

New CCW officers for St. Joseph Council of Catholic Women are:  
Seated (l-r)  
President Colleen Vitale,  
Treasurer Pat Fellbaum.  
Standing (l-r)  
Vice President Judy O'Hare and  
Secretary Carol White. †



## St. Philip CCW

St. Philip Council of Catholic Women held its Installation Banquet at Barista Blues Café Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The 2019-2020 Officers are: President, Judy Montych; Co-Vice Presidents for Membership, Cheri Perkins and Diana Cloud; Recording Secretary, Monica Vasquez; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Vasquez; Treasurer, Mary Jo Hendrickson. At this event Fr. John Fleckenstein was presented with gifts to the parish of \$15,000 and 11,876 hours of volunteer service to the parish and community.

Please plan on joining St. Philip CCW members for our General Membership meeting and potluck at the St. Philip Parish Center on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 6 pm. Also look for your new/renewal membership form and our quarterly newsletter, *Catholic Women*, in your August mail. †





## A Garden for Thomas

by Nicole Mullis

When our BCACS Family gathered together for a new school year last fall, it was with a heavy heart. Thomas Thang, set to enter second-grade, suffered a swimming accident, and passed away on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

A loss like that leaves a hole. Although our school family can't fill that hole, it did take steps to ease the pain.



On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, after a school Mass celebrating St. Joseph the Worker, Fr. Chris led Thomas' parents, William and Mary (Sui) Duh, their children and family, and a long line of students, parents, and grandparents to the old entrance of St. Joseph Elementary School. They gathered around the fresh mulch and young plants of a new garden, at the center of which was a base awaiting the installation of a new St. Joseph statue. Fr. Chris blessed the garden and, one by one, students placed rocks they painted at the foot of the base, which bore Thomas' name. This is Thomas' garden, a place of prayer and reflection.

"Thomas' parents were very appreciative of what the school did," said Dolly (Sui) Vumzathang, who helped with translation. "For a Burmese family, coming from a different country, to feel so much love from the St. Joseph family – they don't know how to thank everyone, but it is more than words."

The garden is the joint effort of the church which provided the statue, the school which provided the painted rocks, and one very prayerful Boy Scout who pulled it all together.

"A lot of teachers and the principals were talking about having some sort of garden for Thomas in the fall," Fr. Chris said. "I knew Andrew Cutshall was looking for an Eagle Scout project. So I asked him."

Andrew, a St. Philip sophomore

and member of Troop 325, was more than looking for a project.

"I was praying for Eagle Scout ideas," Andrew said. "Then, Fr. Chris approached me and said he had an Eagle Scout idea for me if I wanted it. I said I would be more than happy to do it."

Andrew began an intense process of paperwork, fund-raising, approval meetings, planning, and oversight. He is the third Boy Scout whose Eagle Scout project directly benefits St. Joseph Parish and Schools.

St. Philip junior Adam Sprague's Eagle Scout project, the St. José Sanchez del Rio Chapel, was dedicated inside the Middle School last August. St. Philip freshman Jacob Thome's Eagle Scout project, the Blessed Mother grotto, was dedicated outside the Middle School last December.

"I think it is cool that there are sites that make the school more Catholic and give people a nice place to pray," Andrew said.

"Andrew and his family were amazing," St. Joseph Elementary School administrative assistant Jeanine Winkler said. "Not only did they donate that beautiful garden, but they had enough mulch to cover the other gardens at the school. Their gift just kept on giving."

The memorial garden will also keep on giving for many generations of our family to come.

"It will look nice once St. Joseph gets here," Fr. Chris said. Even without the statue, the garden is a comfort for those who miss Thomas.

"After the ceremony, I heard a few of my students say that they miss him and they pray for him in Heaven," St. Joseph second grade teacher, Barbie Carrier said. †



## The Way of the Cross Told in a Different Way

by Nicole Mullis

The Lord's Passion is the apex of our faith journey, which is why Lent is a special season for our St. Joseph students. As a family, we prepare for Easter with prayer, penance, and fasting. And every year, during Holy Week, the Middle School performs the Passion Play.

"Art captures your imagination," said Ayesha Franklin, St. Joseph School music teacher. "It is a different way to present any kind of material, and this is the most important material. It is another opportunity to explain the great gift that we were given."

Producing the play has a profound effect on the students involved, which Don Shafer, St. Joseph Middle School theology teacher, has witnessed during his years directing the show.

"For just a moment, it gives us a glimpse of what Jesus may have gone through and how surreal it is that He gave up His life for us," Mr. Shafer said. "I think it gives the kids a chance to get involved with that in a way they never have before."

This year's actors were no exception.

"You're more involved in the scenes, and it makes you feel like you're more there," said eighth grader, Jeremy Gallaway, who played Jesus. "You feel more emotion."

"Experiencing the Passion Play this way is more visual, and you are able to connect with more characters instead of just reading about the characters and wondering what they felt," said eighth grader Hayden Skutt, who played Judas.

"Being involved is different," said eighth grader, Julissa Reyes, who played Mary. "It is so much more emotional, especially the part where Jesus is nailed to the cross."

This year that involvement grew.

See CROSS, page 14.

# Our 2019 Senior Capstone Finalists

by Nicole Mullis

Every senior in our three diocesan high schools has one assignment in common - the Senior Capstone.

The Senior Capstone journey begins junior year when students select a topic from an approved list based on the Theology curriculum. With help from teachers and priests, these students research their subject with an eye towards defending the Church's positions. Once the research is complete, students write a thesis paper on their findings, as well as prepare an 8-12 minute presentation on their topic in front of their high school's panel of judges.

Finalists from each school present their Capstones at the Thomas Aquinas Scholarship competition in Kalamazoo for awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. More than money, the Senior Capstone gives each student a deeper understanding of their Faith, as well as experience completing a college-level research project.

"Most kids don't understand the method of Apologetics - what do we teach, why do we teach it, what are the common objections and how do we answer those objections," St. Philip Theology teacher Tony Wojick said. "Many students find a new appreciation for our Faith using that method."

The 2019 St. Philip finalists were Magdalene Hill, Madison Elliott, Maya Segovia, and Myrka Cardoso-Garcia. Each walked away with a \$500 scholarship and a deeper understanding of the Faith.

## Magdalene Hill

Maggie's project was on angels and their differences. She chose this topic because of its difficulty.

"I wanted to do something supernatural because morality is so easy to defend whereas supernatural is harder," Maggie said. "It's the harder questions that I want to answer."

Maggie enjoyed the in-depth research and found comfort in her conclusions that angels do exist.

"Even if you think there is no one, you are never really alone," Maggie said. "Your guardian angel knows you better than you know yourself. I found that reassuring."

Maggie is going to Michigan State University this fall.

## Madison Elliott

Madi's project was on euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. She chose this topic because she wanted a deeper understanding of the Church's view on the subject.

"I didn't have a lot of information going

into the project, but I am much more well-informed now," Madi said.

The process itself was interesting to Madi, who delved into church teaching as well as personal stories from euthanasia advocates. Her conclusion was euthanasia is morally wrong in all circumstance.

"My research confirmed what I went into it with, but with a deeper understanding about why it was that way," Madi said.

Madi is going to the University of Michigan in the fall.

## Maya Segovia

Maya's project was on artificial contraception and whether it is morally permissible. She chose this topic because it is relevant for young adults.

"For teens today, artificial contraception can be seen as an easy way out," Maya said.

Her research led her to a deeper understanding of the Church's position on the subject. It also was a chance to study the Faith in a personal and practical way.

"You are choosing a topic you are interested in," Maya said. "You have a mentor, but it is more on you and what you're doing. It prepares you for the real world."

Maya is going to Michigan State University this fall.

## Myrka Cardoso-Garcia

Myrka's project was on Christ's divinity. She chose it because she had heard arguments that Christ wasn't truly God. Her research ranged from the Church's view that Jesus is God, to others' views that He is not. Ultimately, Myrka returned to her fundamental belief.

"I found lots of arguments about why Jesus wasn't God, but there was always something from the Catholic Church to explain why that wasn't true," Myrka said. "The whole time I still believed what I've always believed, that Jesus is God."

The difference now, however, is why she believes it. "When you are little, they teach Jesus is God, but now I understand why and I actually know," Myrka said. "It's not just something I've been taught since I was little."

Myrka is going to the University of Michigan this fall. †



## Cross

Continued from page 13

Traditionally an 8th grade project, the new quarter class system enabled any interested middle-schooler to participate in the Passion Play. The fifth-grade choir prepared and performed the music, under the direction of Mrs. Franklin, and accompanied by St. Philip High School junior Adam Sprague.

"It is exciting for me to see kids from across grades working together," Mrs. Franklin said. "I think this is a nice opportunity for that."

"Here at St. Joseph, the younger kiddos spend a lot of time looking up to the middle school kids and the fifth-grade kids," Mrs. Franklin said. "When they see them singing in the Passion Play, it captures their attention, and if we do it right, they will forget that it's their friend that they see in the hallway. We have an opportunity to transport them to a different time and place." †





# Rome, 2019

by Missy Skutt, Photos by Vicki Groat

Rome, 2019.... How do you even begin writing about a trip that captured your heart in a way that is not worthy of words? I have eight children, and my oldest daughter, Sereah was interested in the Rome trip. Immediately I thought of how fun it would be to go with her. I didn't realize the powerful effect it would have on not only my relationship with my daughter, but for my faith and those I was blessed to be able to travel with as well.

The trip started by meeting in the St. Philip parking lot and taking a bus to Chicago. We then boarded a plane for a nine-hour flight and landed in Rome. From Rome, we took another bus to Assisi. After 15 hours of travel, plus waiting time, we arrived at our hotel in Assisi. The hotel we stayed at, Hotel Winsor Savoia, was this quaint little place that oozes Italian charm. I was instantly in love. Walking down the streets and seeing the views, seeing shop after shop that sold Catholic items... love doesn't even begin to describe it. It was like walking into a fairy tale. Everyone I talked to on the trip agreed Assisi was, by far, the highlight of the trip.

All too soon, we were back on the bus and heading to Rome. Rome had its own charm with so many amazing places to visit that didn't just boost your faith, it consumed your being and thrust your soul up to God: seeing the Holy Father so close; praying on the Holy Stairs that were uncovered; the immensity and beauty of the Basilicas and Churches we visited; the Catacombs and the Scavi tour; free time to explore places on our own!

We were also blessed with daily Mass in amazing places: St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi; at the Basilica of St. Francis - at the altar of the Tomb of St. Francis; the Basilica of St. Peter in Chains; the Basilica of St. Peter's - at the altar of the Tomb of St. Peter; at the Basilica of St. Clement; and a few of us went to a local Italian Mass. Let us not forget the 6 am wake-up call to attend Sunday Mass in the hotel lobby before returning to the airport to travel home.

A part of my heart remains in Italy. Once home, it took me a long time to shake jet lag because I didn't want to be home, I wanted to still be in Italy! My young children didn't help much in this matter, as the time difference intrigued them and for two solid weeks they would ask me multiple times throughout the day: "What time is it in Rome, Mom?"

May God bless all those who went on this trip with an unshakable faith and may this trip be the propelling into an amazing life of faith for all who went, desired to go, and/or read about the senior class of 2019's journey to Rome.

For more details on the Rome 2019 trip and to see more photos, visit: [www.catholicbc.org/Rome](http://www.catholicbc.org/Rome). †



## The end of the Mary Rabbitt era...

Mary Rabbitt has helped raise 34 classes of St. Philip graduates, two of which included her sons.

"Mary has been a huge blessing to our schools," said Cathy Erskine, BCACS enrollment director. "She tries hard to hide her heart of gold, but she has always done whatever it takes to support the students and staff of St. Philip."

The decision to retire was "bittersweet", but Mary wants to spend more time with her husband, her grandchildren, and her mother. When she returns to St. Philip next, it will be as a volunteer, a fan, and a grandma.

To read more, visit: <https://bcacs.org/2019/05/24/the-end-of-the-maryrabbitt-era>.

There is a party scheduled for 8/31/19 6-9 pm at St. Philip Parish Center. Mary's farewell gift of choice is new basketball hoops in the Sheila Guerra Gym.

**Thank you for all you have done, Mary. We wish you the very best!!**



*Fr. Chris celebrates Mass in Rome.*

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

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### **Mass and Confession Schedule**

#### **St. Jerome**

##### Mass Times:

Sunday - 10 am  
Monday and Friday -  
9 am

##### Confession Times:

Sundays - Before Mass



#### **St. Joseph**

##### Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil - 5 pm  
Sunday - 8 am, 10 am,  
12 pm, 5 pm (Spanish)  
Monday - Saturday -  
8 am

##### Confession Times:

Saturdays - 3:30 pm  
Sundays before Spanish  
Mass - 4-4:30 pm  
First Fridays 12:15 pm

#### **St. Philip**

##### Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil -  
4:30 pm  
Sunday - 7 am, 9 am,  
11:30 am  
Monday, Wednesday -  
Saturday - 8:00 am  
Tuesday - 12:10 pm

##### Confession Times:

Sunday - 8:15 am,  
10:45 am  
Monday, Wednesday -  
Friday - 7:15 am  
Tuesday - 11:25 am  
Saturday - 7:15 am and  
3 pm

## Our Catholic Community

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

The deadline for the next issue of *Our Catholic Community* is October 10th. Submissions may be e-mailed to [ourcatholiccommunity@bcacs.org](mailto: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.