

St. Cyprian Church



Winter 2019 News



Rev. Dr. William J. Promesso, Pastor
734-283-1366 x111
wpromesso@stcyprian.com

Igniting the Gospel

After our parish council and four commissions had studied Archbishop Vigneron's pastoral letter *Unleash the Gospel* for a year, I collected the thoughts and comments from many meetings. Then I spent the past summer composing my own pastoral letter *Ignite the Gospel* which localizes the archbishop's desire to "change the DNA" of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Issued on September 16, the feast day of St. Cyprian of Carthage, *Ignite the Gospel* is intended to aid planning for the next 3-5 years; specifically, how we will grow our Worship, Education, Service and Stewardship to better enable the parish to help us become more committed followers of Jesus Christ. Some things have already happened:

- New speakers installed in church for high definition sound
- More frequent use of print and social media for publicity of "shallow entry points"
- New preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation that utilizes technology in faith development
- New guided Bible Study series on Wednesday mornings
- Increased offering of Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration with contemporary praise & worship music
- Encouraged participation in online Novena for Life in January
- Church lights have been refitted with energy-saving bulbs

I am proud of the work we've already undertaken to Ignite the Gospel at St. Cyprian. We should anticipate the introduction of many more activities, events and programs as our commissions and council continue to discuss and seek implementation of the vision. If you'd like to read my pastoral letter, go to our website stcyprian.com and you'll find a link to the document. After you've read it, feel free to send me your thoughts and suggestions. Better yet, maybe you'll realize it's time for you to step up to make those next steps happen.

May the remainder of winter be filled with goodness and the hope of a springtime of love.

All the Lord's best,
Fr. Bill

UPCOMING Events

MARCH

- 1 Volunteer Appreciation Party
- 2 Confirmation
- 3 Blood Drive
- 6 ASH WEDNESDAY
- 8 Stations of the Cross
- 10 St. Paul Street Evangelization
- 17 Opioid Addiction in the Fami9ly Pancake Breakfast
- 22 Stations of the Cross
- 24 Soup Supper
- 27 Book Club
- 31 5th Sunday Rosary, Adoration and Taize

APRIL

- 5 Stations of the Cross
- 7-8-9 Parish Mission
- 24 Book Club

MAY

- 2 LG Salad Lunch
- 5 First Eucharist
- 5 Pancake Breakfast
- 11 Knight out w/Fr. Bill
- 29 Book Club

Christian Service & Outreach Ministries



Kim Switzer
Director of Christian Service & Outreach Ministries
734-283-1366 x114
kswitzer@stcyprian.com

As I am writing this newsletter I cannot believe we are in the month of February. Soon spring will be upon us. Lent is just around the corner, a time to renew and grow closer to God. The Lord's love in action is seen through the amazing people in this parish. For Thanksgiving, over 100 turkeys were given to families in need. Through your generous donations, over 100 Christmas dinners were distributed. Thank you to **Crystal Gardens** for allowing us to use their freezer space once again.

A big thank you for clearing the **Giving Tree** in less than one weekend! Wow! That brought tears to my eyes. 472 gifts were given from the Giving Tree Project, 11 families were adopted by parishioners, and 3 families adopted by Catholic Charities. So many people were able to have a brighter Christmas thanks to you! The gifts went to local families in need, as well as Children's Hospital, Karmanos, Toys for Tots, Rivergate Health Care, Rivergate Terrace, Belle Fountain, and St. Vincent De Paul. When the families came to pick up their gifts, they were overjoyed with tears of happiness, smiles, and hugs. One woman literally jumped up and down in happiness and cried. I am sharing this story because YOU make this happen. The Giving Tree is a huge project that takes many hands. I cannot tell you how many people came to me and asked, "how can I help?" and "what are the needs?" It is so wonderful to be a part of a parish like this. Thank you to all who helped with this project, from organizing this event, purchasing gifts, donating money, filling out the gift tags, collecting, sorting, bagging and delivering the gifts. Words cannot express my gratitude for your kindness. We CANNOT do this without you!

Our **Crafters** recently connected with one of our parishioners for an anti-bullying campaign led by Detroit Mercy Project called *#hatnothate*. The girls, ages 8 - 18 years old, are participating in this project to encourage and empower those to overcome bullying. Our Crafters made 99 blue hats in support of this program. Bullying, at all ages, is destructive. This anti-bullying

movement's goal is to send the message that bullying is unacceptable. What a great cause! Thanks to the Crafters for supporting this important project. If you are interested in joining, they meet every Wednesday in the Social Hall from 10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Our **Welcome Committee** distributed pens to all who attended our Christmas masses. The Committee will get together to further review *Ignite the Gospel*, plus develop ways on how to welcome visitors and new parishioners. Handmade rosaries are now given in our welcome bags, as well as several Police Precincts. Thank you to the parishioners who make and deliver the rosaries.

We participated in the **9 Days for Life** on January 14th - January 22nd led by the USCCB. This prayer is a multi-faceted novena for the respect and protection of every human life. Then, on January 19th and 20th, luminaries were distributed to honor the Sanctity for Life. Thank you to all who participated.

We will soon have the opportunity to donate blood. Please come and give the gift of life! There is a great need! The **American Red Cross** will be in the Social Hall Sunday, March 3rd from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you to our coordinators for overseeing this event.

The Christian Service Commission, along with Father Bill, will host the presentation **Opioid Addiction In the Family** on March 17th at 4:00 p.m. There will be an upcoming event in observance of Earth Day as well. More information to follow!

Every other month, volunteers of **All Saints Soup Kitchen** prepare a hot meal for over 80 individuals. Our dedicated USDA volunteers distribute food every third Friday of the month. We recently offered local government employees who were not getting a pay check to come to our parish pantry and/or USDA distribution.

Our **Pantry** provides approximately 80 families/individuals with food every Wednesday. We can do this because of your donations of money and food. Our pantry clients are very appreciative. Recently, one of our pantry clients said, "you can

(Continued on next page)

Call to Holiness

The call to holiness and ongoing conversion is being lived and embraced at St. Cyprian Church again this year through our RCIA program, adult faith formation opportunities and our weekly Bible study. Our parish is blessed to have 9 catechumens and candidates in our RCIA program who are actively seeking to enter into a personal relationship with Christ and identify with a community of faith. They, along with their sponsors, have begun to pray, study and reflect upon the teachings of the Catholic faith with the desire to know more about who Jesus Christ is, why He came and what He has to offer them. Our RCIA class will be attending the Rite of Election at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit on Saturday, March 9 at 2:00 p.m.

This Lenten season we will be bring new speakers and organizations to our parish. Hopefully our Lenten series of speakers and events will provide ample opportunity to really experience conversion over the forty days of Lent, so that each of us can experience the fullness of the Easter season with the new life it promises to each of us. Our focus will be providing parishioners diverse opportunities to deepen their faith in God through Jesus Christ and to be equipped to joyfully evangelize as His disciples for the building up of the Kingdom of God. Each of us is called to ongoing and lifelong faith education and formation, in order to become more and more like Christ.

Denise Gorski
Pastoral Minister
734-283-1366 x112
dgorski@stcyprian.com



Our weekly Bible Study class provides a wonderful opportunity for the examination and deeper study of the Word of God. Everyone is welcome to join us to pray, study and reflect on the Word of God as we learn how to live our Catholic faith in our daily lives. We have been focusing on the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians since the beginning of this new year and will continue to focus on the books of the Bible in order to discover how our Catholic Christianity is based in Sacred Scripture, Tradition and our Catholic faith.

Let's keep asking God for His abundant graces to make our parish a powerful and loving witness as we seek to *Ignite the Gospel!*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time." 1 Pt. 1: 3-5

Denise

tell the heart of a parish by the smiles and generosity, and I definitely see it here at St. Cyprian." What a great testament to all who support and participate in this ministry.

Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound is a weekly ministry. Thank you to the dedicated communion ministers who bring this very important ministry to those who cannot make it to mass. Our parishioners use their talents in many ways!

We have a wonderful Care Card team that makes and sends beautiful handwritten cards to those in need of comfort.

I am thankful to you, the parishioners, who make all this happen! You give, you volunteer, you lead ministries, you show up! I LOVE working with you! I cherish our times serving together that are filled with many laughs!!

Kim

Worship & Music Ministries



Mason Koch
Director of Worship & Music Ministries
734-283-1366 x120
mkoch@stcyprian.com

After finally getting through the Christmas season, I can't believe how fast time has gone! Time flies when you are having fun!

Here is a little update on the Music & Worship side of the Parish.

The *Liturgical Choir* has been going strong and still welcoming new members, which is such a great feeling. Having so many wonderful voices to assist with the liturgy is a tremendous help and spiritually uplifting. I hope more of you join



this wonderful group of people. There is no musical background needed, just a love of singing — and a sense of humor helps!

Along with the choir, our instrumentalists section has grown and added a nice dynamic effect to the music at Mass. Anyone who plays an instrument and has the ability to read music may join this wonderful ministry! We are always looking for more people to share their gifts and talents. I would like to get more instrumentalists to help accompany at the 5pm Mass, so if you or someone you know is interested please contact me for more information.

The *Hand Bell Choir* had a delayed start. We are now working on rehearsals and making



music ring! The goal is to have them play and accompany at Easter Sunday Mass and a few of the weekend Masses up to Pentecost. Next year we plan to start our rehearsals in the fall as usual.

Also, our *Cantor Ministry* has grown! We have gained a few new cantors to help assist with singing and leading our congregation in song at all weekend Liturgies. This is a big help. Although this requires a little more musical background and rehearsal, this is another great way to serve the parish community.



Hymns, Homilies & Hospitality is a simple way to describe the Worship Commission. The Worship department oversees a lot of what goes on in the church, including: art & environment, music, lectors, ushers, greeters and all other liturgical ministries of the

parish. This is a wonderful, vibrant group of people. They enjoy sharing new thoughts and ideas on how to enhance our weekend liturgies and place of worship! We meet on Tuesdays, about 6 times a year. This is a great way to get involved and help your parish grow! We are always looking for additional members to join this team.

Aside from all the details about Music & Worship, we have improved the sound system in our church. We have had a new speaker system designed and installed. This project included new amplifiers, new speakers, new sub-woofer, removal of the old speakers, new wiring and updated wireless microphones for Fr. Bill, Deacon Jim and a couple of extras for visiting priests and guest speakers. With

this new system we can achieve a much higher quality for not only the spoken word but our Music Ministry program as well.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has stepped up in any way shape or form to serve in Ministry in our parish. Whether you have volunteered in the choir, handbell choir, as an instrumentalist, Worship Commission, Art & Environment or another Liturgical Ministry, your service is greatly appreciated!

See you in church!

Mason

A graphic for Lent featuring a purple cross and the word "Lent" in a purple script font, with "40 DAYS OF PREPARATION" in bold black text below it.

Lent
40 DAYS OF PREPARATION

MARCH 6

Ash Wednesday

Mass at 9:00am and 7:00pm, Liturgy of the Word at 12:00 noon; ashes will be available for self-imposition throughout the day

MARCH 8, MARCH 22 and APRIL 5

Stations of the Cross with Deacon Jim and the Riverview Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm

MARCH 10

St. Paul Street Evangelization (10 Great Ways to be a Catholic Evangelist) at 4:00pm

MARCH 17

Opioid Addiction in the Family with Christopher Nixon, LMSW Director of Maplegrove Center for Addiction Medicine, West Bloomfield at 4:00pm

MARCH 24

Soup Supper & CATHOLICISM VIDEO at 4:00pm

MARCH 31

5th Sunday Rosary at 12:15pm

Adoration at 1:00pm

TaizÉ Evening prayer at 4:00pm

APRIL 7/8/9

Parish Mission WITH Paul Koleske from 7:00—9:00pm



Stacey Sutowski-Shurtz
Director of Elementary Catechesis & Youth Ministry
734-283-1366 x118
sshurtz@stcyprian.com

Welcome Winter!

What a difference the weather is here in Michigan compared to the heat of Panama. The teens and I completely enjoyed the time we spent during the World Youth Day events. We were challenged in ways that we have never been before. The heat and language barrier was a constant struggle. Walking while carrying a backpack weighing 10-20 pounds became the norm; we can now relate with the life of a turtle. We overcame all the struggles by the constant support of our group and the excitement of meeting others from all over the world. Counting our blessings at the end of each day made us realize the struggles were not quite as bad as we initially thought. Most struggles ended with a wonderful experience of meeting a stranger, helping a friend, seeing wonderful creatures or waving at the Pope. God is Good. Keep your eye on the *Connection* for details and reflections from the pilgrims about our trip.

Our Monday evening program is going well and the children and catechists have been busy with lessons and activities. They also helped decorate the pantry boxes for the Christmas distribution. I am always looking for catechists in the Middle School program. This program is done in sessions and can be worked around most schedules. We have 6-7 sessions on Mondays, 3 sessions on Saturdays or during the summer. Please consider sharing your faith with the future of our church. If you would prefer to teach a sacrament I am looking for someone to teach/co-teach the Confirmation class next year.

The Family Faith Committee held the annual Soup Bowl Painting on Feb 10. Pottery Creations in Wyandotte supplied all of the materials and will return the items once they

have been properly fired at their store. The items should be available for pick up at the Soup Supper on March 24.

The Children's Liturgy of the Word is in need of catechists. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who want to be a catechist but can't commit to the schedule of the Monday or Middle School programs. Your commitment is only a few times on Sunday either at the 9 or 11:00 am masses. The time you are with the children is typically about 20 mins or less on Sundays during the school year. The children vary in age between 4-10 years. Please consider this opportunity to spend time sharing God's Word with your child and others in the parish. You will be surprised at the blessings you receive.

We have 19 candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be held on March 2, 2019. There are also 19 children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. We ask that you keep all of them in your prayers.

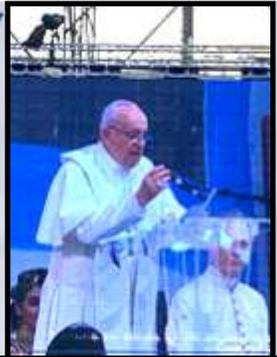
The Youth Group will be attending a retreat at Subiaco on March 22-24. This will be a wonderful Lenten experience for the teens. There will be time spent in individual and group activities and prayer, Adoration, Reconciliation and Mass. CYO Camp Cleanup will take place on the weekend of April 12-14. Regular meetings will begin on Sunday, February 17 from 6-8pm. All teens are welcome!!!!

If you ever have a question or suggestion, please feel free to call or email me at 734-283-1366 x118 or sshurtz@stcyprian.com

Stacey



WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA 2019



Youth & Young Adult Ministries





Denise Traeder
 Director of Finance
 & Administration
 734-283-1366 x113
 dtraeder@stcyprian.com

Given to St. Cyprian @ January 31, 2019 \$560,045

How that was used:

- ADMINISTRATION: \$219,051
- WORSHIP & MUSIC: \$55,638
- CHRISTIAN SERVICE: \$19,439
- RELIGIOUS FORMATION: \$43,468
- DIOCESAN/VICARIATE SUBSIDIES: \$29,702
- CAPITAL EXPENDITURES: \$80,085
- PLANT & MAINTENANCE: \$91,327

***Net Operating Gain
 after expenses: \$21,334***

As of January 31, the parish finances are at or near budget with the exception of Capital Expenditures. We are using our lease income to fund a variety of projects, including parking lot repairs, cement and landscaping around the new offices, etc. Our most recent purchase was an upgrade of the speaker system in the Church. If you've been to Mass recently, you have heard what a difference upgraded speakers have made. This project was undertaken initially due to some changes required by the FCC to our wireless microphones, and a decision was made after much research and comparison to purchase new speakers. Our previous system was installed over 20 years ago, and had sustained damage from the humidity problems we experienced about 10 years ago. (Anyone remember the mushrooms?)

We are in the planning process to develop Emergency Response Teams to be present at all Masses. These people will be first responders across a variety of fields to provide assistance in the event of a medical, fire, or weather emergency, bomb threat or active intruder situation. If you are interested in assisting with planning or being on a team, we will be having a preliminary meeting on Saturday, February 23 at 10:00am in the Social Hall.

After 47 years in existence, and 3 years at St. Cyprian Parish, Creative Montessori Center will be closing its doors at the end of the school year in June. We have greatly enjoyed having them in our facility and will miss the staff and children.

At this time, Riverview Community School District is planning to open a tuition-based pre-school utilizing those classrooms, in addition to the Great Start for Readiness Program that is already in the building. We look forward to a continued relationship with RCSD.

Denise

Website


 stcyprian.com

Stay Connected!

 Find us on
Facebook

 **St. Cyprian Church**

 Download on the
App Store

 **Google play**



**Follow Fr. Bill on
 Twitter:
 RevDrWJP**



**Listen to or download
 podcasts of Fr. Bill's
 homilies on the Media tab
 at stcyprian.com**

**Download our
 Mobile App**