

St. Cyprian Church

Winter 2020 News



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It's mid-January. Winter has finally turned cold and snow is covering the ground. Since I prefer summer heat, you might think I'm feeling downcast. But I take comfort in knowing that spring is less than 60 days away. Soon the days will warm, the trees will sprout, and the flowers will be in bloom. This acknowledgement of the present situation while holding on to hope is a central part of our Christian faith.

Are you currently facing trial or distress? Is it your physical health or the health of a loved one failing? Is it the struggle of depression or other mental illness? Are you experiencing a spiritual darkness and feeling as if God has abandoned you? Are you emotionally empty? Is your job, finances, relationships or anything else overburdened with pressure and anxiety? Is school too hard? Are you overburdened, stressed-out and used up?

If that's your present, anticipate an amazing future! Just as surely as winter turns to spring, our belief in the suffering and dying of Jesus Christ is preparing him and us for a glorious resurrection.

In a few weeks we will begin Lent on February 26 by being marked with ashes as a sign of our need for improvement and purification. If you identify one or more areas of your life that need sacrifice, then you'll join millions of people throughout the world who will suffer through six weeks of discipline. At the time it's happening, we can be miserable. But when we've conquered our poor habits and choices, we start to experience the new life that Jesus wants to share with us.

Let's not lament the cold too much, for winter's chill brings greater appreciation of the warm spring winds that are less than two months away!

All the Lord's best,

Fr. Bill

UPCOMING Events

FEBRUARY

- 9 Anniversary Mass
Soup Bowl Painting
- 19 Pivotal Players
- 21 Volunteer
Appreciation Party
- 26 ASH WEDNESDAY
- 27 Book Club
- 28 Stations of the Cross

MARCH

- 1 Blood Drive
- 8 Intervention Speaker
- 13 Stations of the Cross
- 15 Soup Supper
- 18 Pivotal Players
- 19 Book Club
- 22 Pancake Breakfast
Taizé/Adoration
- 27 Stations of the Cross
- 29 5th Sunday Rosary

APRIL

- 5 PALM SUNDAY
- 9-11 TRIDUUM
- 16 Book Club
- 23 LG Salad Luncheon
- 25 First Eucharist
- 29 Pivotal Players

MAY

- 3 Pancake Breakfast
- 9 Knight out w/Fr. Bill
- 21 Book Club
- 30/31 Pentecost Hospitality
- 31 Confirmation
5th Sunday Rosary



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This Lenten season we are inviting the parish and surrounding community to enter into this transformative season of conversion to new. Our parish is offering a robust variety of guest speakers, prayer opportunities and fellowship events to deepen your personal relationship with Christ and equip you to fully enter into your mission as a joyful disciple with vibrant faith. Enclosed is a copy of our 2020 Lenten Schedule so that you can intentionally include these events into your schedule. Hopefully you will then be inspired to make the most of your preparations for your Lenten season in order to experience the most joyful Easter season you can. In addition, St. Cyprian parish will be offering our parishioners Lenten reflection and activity guides for adults, families and children this year to develop each person's daily prayer life and empower each person to fully live out the Gospel in their daily lives. Look for these resources which will be available at the Ash Wednesday services and after all Masses the First Sunday of Lent.

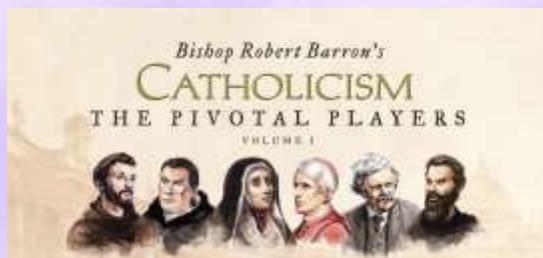


This February we continue in our new bible study, *Jesus Revealed: Encountering Christ In His Biblical Names*, providing people with a wonderful opportunity to deepen their relationship with Jesus

Christ through the study of Scripture, Church teachings, the Catechism and the lives of the saints. This enriching program will continue to be offered in the evening, in response to many parishioner's requests, and is allowing many new people to participate. This bible study will feature personal study, small group discussion and teaching videos to aid the participants to mature and develop in their discipleship with Christ. We will study the second nine names of Jesus that are featured in this wonderful bible study series. We look forward to welcoming many new people to the bible study as well as those retuning from the initial class.

Another faith enriching online course for Lent is being offered through Sacred Heart Major Seminary to everyone. This free six week online course is titled *Encountering Christ* and will run March 2 – April 5. Each week participants will view dynamic teaching videos by a member of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary faculty as they guide each participant to encounter Christ more fully in sacrament, prayer and scripture as well as through suffering and service in the events of daily life. Enroll and learn more at equip.shms.edu today. Many of our parishioners enrolled and benefited from the last online course offered during Advent.

In addition, our parish will be offering Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire*



series *The Pivotal Players Volume 1* in continuation of the program we began in the fall. We will feature the remaining three players once a month, beginning on February 19 with St. John Henry Newman, then Michelangelo the Artist on March 18 and concluding with St. Catherine of Siena on April 29. The response to the initial fall series has been wonderful, with many people attending and enjoying the visually rich movies, as well as the small group sharing and discussion afterwards. This engaging and dynamic series illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization. Through this series people have been able to journey with holy men and women toward a deeper intimacy with the Lord Jesus and find insights about Him, prayer, the Church, virtue and more.

Our Intercessory Prayer Group attended a day of encouragement and training on Saturday, January 25 with Bishop Battersby down at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Four intercessors were in attendance and were blessed by the teaching of Bishop Battersby on the importance of intercessory prayer for the world-wide Church and for the mission of *Unleashing the Gospel* underway in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The theological and

Scriptural basis for intercessory prayer was discussed and how this vital ministry is essential for seeking God's blessing upon the work and service we undertake for the fulfillment of God's will in our Church, parishes and families. As Archbishop Vigneron has stated in the letter, "Intercession has always been the hidden engine of the Church's mission....Intercessory prayer cultivates the soil for the sowing of the Word. It can stir up spiritual hunger in a whole city or region, so that the hearts of even those who are far from God are prepared to hear the Gospel when it is preached to them." Our Intercessory Prayer Group is always seeking to welcome new intercessors, so please prayerfully consider joining us in this anointed ministry. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Teresa Calcutta room in our social hall.

May we as a parish community continue to encounter Jesus Christ anew and be strengthened in our hearts to live out our faith in love and gratitude. When we discover our gifts and charisms, faithfully participate in the liturgy and sacraments then we will be truly empowered by His love to become a Body of Christ that is vibrantly alive in our witness of the Lord Jesus!

Abundant blessings to you,

Denise



Worship & Music Ministries



Mason Koch
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After finally getting through the Christmas season, I can't believe how I have been a part of this wonderful parish for almost 3 years already! Time flies when you are having fun!

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 great 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 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 Weekend Masses and Holy Days, so if you or someone you know is interested please contact me for more information.

The *Hand Bell Ensemble* had a delayed start. We are now working on rehearsals and making music ring! The goal is to have this ensemble accompany Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday Masses and a few of the weekend Masses up to Pentecost. Next year we plan to start our rehearsals in the fall as usual.

Also, we were blessed to purchase our own set of Orchestra Chimes for the music program here, thanks to all who made

donations. These chimes are a very nice addition to the instrumentalists and handbell ensemble. This instrument will complement the many different music pieces and liturgical seasons throughout the year.

The worship and music ministry will be a part of **Adoration** during Lent. We will be putting together some **Taizé** music for a nice spiritually enriching evening on Sunday, March 22 from 12pm – 5pm. We will also be holding our **Soup Supper** on Sunday March 15 at 4pm in the social hall. Come enjoy a wonderful afternoon of delicious soups, fellowship and small group faith sharing.

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.

Thanks to everyone here at St. Cyprian parish, and to all of the volunteers in Worship & Music as we continue to improve and grow!



Mason

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There were so many 'God' moments throughout the Christmas season. A need would pop up and then someone came to me with a donation that met the need. It still brings tears to my eyes. Throughout the holiday season, we encounter so much need and desperation, and on the other hand we see those needs met. Thanks to the generous hearts of our parishioners. It is inspiring to see the Lord's love in action through the amazing people in this parish. For Thanksgiving, many turkeys were donated and given. A total of 578 gifts were given from the Giving Tree Project, as well as parishioners and staff who adopted families not on the Giving Tree. Thank you so much for your support to Christian Service and helping those in need. Your kindness is incredible!



There were so many people who helped and gave their time towards the Giving Tree Project and the Pantry holiday distributions. It could not have been done without you. You all responded so generously with your time and came with smiling faces and loving hearts. I am so grateful for all our volunteers! Whether you serve with the Parish Pantry, USDA, Crafters, Welcome, Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound, Care Cards, All Saints Soup Kitchen, Christian Service events, Blood Drive, Mercy Event, or the Christian Service Commission you are greatly appreciated! Many encountered God's love through you. That is what Christian Service is all about. I love working with you all!

Welcome Ministers distributed books to all who attended our Christmas masses. These

ministers also greet and welcome all who enter our doors, and also ensure that our new members are given a special "welcome to our parish family".

Our Crafters continue to use their skills donating items to the Mercy Education Project, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Karmanos, Domestic Violence Shelter, Paragon Support Services, and Interim House to name a few. They also made hats for the Riverview Community School Program. The children loved receiving your handmade items. Thank you, Crafters.

We participated in the 9 Days of Prayer led by the USCCB in January. Over 40 luminaries were given out to support life. Thank you for not forgetting about the vulnerability of unborn children.

As we enter the Lenten season, we will have the opportunity to donate blood and give the gift of life. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, the day Jesus was resurrected from the dead after pouring out His life and His blood for us. On March 1st, the American Red Cross will be in the Social Hall. Please come and donate. Giving blood may seem like such a small gift, but for the recipient who receives that gift of life it will mean the world. Please pray about donating blood this Lent.

There are no other people I'd like to share that journey with than you all. Thank you!

Kim



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"How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose, if there were no winter in our year!"

--Thomas Wentworth Higginson

I love this quote because it makes me realize that even though winter is cold and dreary it often brings out the best in people. The snowy and icy days give opportunities for family, friends and neighbors to help one another by shoveling, running errands, and fixing meals for those who need it. It is also the time of the year that we donate more items and food to the homeless. Most of the trees are bare but the evergreens stand tall and strong as a sign of God's love for all and that there is always hope.

Formation Classes Grades 1-8

The formation classes this year have been incredible. Our catechists are very creative in teaching the lessons and sharing their faith with our youth. I truly enjoy watching the different classes and seeing the smiles on the student's faces as they are learning. It has been a great pleasure for both Fr. Bill and I to see so many family members and parishioners at our Formation Masses. If you haven't been able to join us, we have two more Masses scheduled for the year. Please mark your calendars for March 23 and April 27. Mass begins at 6:30pm in the church.

On March 30 at 6:30pm St. Cyprian will be hosting a Communal Reconciliation. This will be a great opportunity for our Formation Program Students and their families to participate in this Sacrament of Healing during Lent.

Sacrament Preparation

On December 7, the students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Eucharist received the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** at St. Joseph in Trenton. It was a very nice prayer service with

time for individual confessions for the students from St. Joseph, St. Cyprian and Sacred Heart Parishes. This is a great way to have our neighboring parishes come together in celebrating the sacrament and liturgy. Our students will receive the **Sacrament of Eucharist** for the first time on Saturday, April 25 at the 5pm Mass at St. Cyprian.

The Confirmation Candidates are continuing their studies. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they get closer to being confirmed. The candidates and their Sponsors will be going on an all-day retreat in March at the Solanus Casey Center where they will have a tour of the facility and learn all about this wonderful, soon to be canonized man. They will also have time for private prayer, reconciliation and to celebrate Mass. The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on May 31 at the 11:00am Mass here at St. Cyprian which is also Pentecost Sunday. What a great day to be confirmed!

Youth Group

This year the Youth Group has been struggling a bit. It is very hard to

compete with all the school and extracurricular activities that our teens are involved in. We have offered several opportunities throughout the year and will continue to do so. Youth Group is a place for teens to be able to gather together and be in a safe and judgment-free place.

"Youth group is an amazing place for young teens to further their relationship with God. It is also a great place to meet new friends. Teens get several opportunities to go outside their comfort zone and help others. In the past we've helped at the soup kitchen, gone to youth conferences, made blankets, and so much more. Every year is different, as we learn more about the youth and what they want. This year is the perfect year to join and gain new experiences". Youth Group Assistant, Sydney Kowalczyk

We will be having a meeting in the Youth Room located in the basement of the Parish Offices, on February 9 immediately following the Soup Bowl Painting Event. It would be awesome if you could come and paint a bowl, plate or mug, enjoy some good food and spend the evening with friends. All 8th-12th grade teens are welcome. If you can't make it to the painting come join us 6:30pm. We will have snacks and fun activities until 8:00pm. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact me.

The **Education Commission along with the Family Faith Committee** will be hosting several events before and during Lent. On February 9, we will have our **Annual Soup Bowl/Plate/Mug Painting** and Dinner. The doors will open at 4pm and the cost will be \$12 per item painted. We will be serving meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and/or green beans and of course

dessert. This is a wonderful family event. On March 8 at 4pm in the Social Hall, we will be hosting Jeff Jay, a certified Interventionist who will be discussing "Hope for New Life: Understanding Intervention". On March 29 at 4pm there will be a Healing Prayer Service in the Church. This will be an opportunity to experience the healing love and mercy of Jesus Christ. These and other wonderful opportunities that will be offered during Lent can be found in the Lent and Easter Pamphlet.



Book Club

The Book Club has been meeting in the Hospitality Room on the Third Thursday of the Month at 1:30pm. We meet for an hour or more and discuss the selected book of the month. On February 20th we will be discussing the "The Good Neighbor: The life and work of Fred Rogers" by Maxwell King. In March will be reading "A Week in Winter" by Maeve Binchy with discussion on March 19. All the books we read are selected by the group. We read all types of genres and authors. Several of our members have said that they probably would have never read some of the books if it wasn't for the group, and it turns out they have enjoyed them. All are welcome to join us at any time. Please keep an eye on the *Connection* for updates.

Stacey



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Given to St. Cyprian @ December 31, 2019 \$501,140

How that was used:

- ADMINISTRATION: \$184,934
- WORSHIP & MUSIC: \$50,941
- CHRISTIAN SERVICE: \$18,286
- RELIGIOUS FORMATION: \$33,302
- DIOCESAN/VICARIATE SUBSIDIES: \$24,927
- CAPITAL EXPENDITURES: \$76,252
- PLANT & MAINTENANCE: \$92,695

Net Operating Gain
after expenses: \$19,803

As of December 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, most notably, the social hall restroom renovations. Those restrooms were original to the building, and had been designed for children of our parish school in the 1950s. What began as a redecorating project (installing new porcelain tile) quickly became something else as we discovered major plumbing issues that could have been disastrous. These restrooms are now set for at least another 25 years — and they are GORGEOUS! Shout out to Nicola Construction and Deacon Jim for the great work.

We were able to do some maintenance on the office garage over the summer, replacing rotted soffits and fascia boards. With the new roof that was installed two years ago, this building is now in great shape for the next 20 years. Over the fall months, the chairs and kneelers in the Church were reupholstered and padding was replaced. This was another project that was long overdue. We also replaced the stage lighting in the church, which became a safety issue as they were overheating. The new lights also give us the ability to do color washes on the altar. You may have noticed during Advent we were able to use purple/pink lighting to enhance the worship space.

We are in the study/planning phase of replacing the parking lot. The last time a complete replacement was done was in 1998. We have been patching and resealing for years, but we can no longer continue long term. We are anticipating summer of 2021 at this time, but I will keep you informed.

At this time, Riverview Community School District leases the entire former Education Wing. There are three Great Start for Readiness Program classes, one Developmental Kindergarten, and the Virtual Academy. This fall, we anticipate they will be opening the new Cosmetology School in the former junior high wing. Exciting times!

Denise

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stcyprian.com

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