OUR MISSION
With St. Philip as our patron and heavenly intercessor we, the parish family of St. Philip Catholic Church of Battle Creek, MI, are a community centered in the Eucharistic Christ. Together we strive to live in constant conversion, invitation, and prayerful anticipation of the heavenly kingdom that awaits us.

MASS SCHEDULE
Monday: 8:00 AM Mass or Communion Service
Tuesday: 12:10 PM
Wednesday–Saturday: 8:00 AM
First Friday: 12 noon in the Adoration Chapel
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM
Holy days & Holidays: Consult the bulletin

SACRAMENTS
THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor. In an Emergency, contact the Parish Office and follow the prompts.

MARRIAGE: Registered parishioners should contact the Pastor or Deacons at least six months before the desired date for appropriate marriage preparation instruction.

BAPTISM: Family must be registered at the Parish and attend a preparation class. Contact the Parish Office for further information.

RECONCILIATION: Wednesday & Saturday 7:00 AM
Saturday at 2:30-4:00 PM.

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

- Lk 3:21-22a

Dear Friends:

Today we celebrate this great feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is a great day to remind ourselves of the importance of our baptism, and the promises that were made. In a special way, I urge all godparents to remember the responsibility you have from the promises you made to assist the parents in making sure that their children are being raised in the faith. A good thing to remember today!

I want to share with you that I will be returning to the Mayo Clinic this weekend. I will undergo tests tomorrow and Tuesday. I will be admitted to the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at St. Mary’s Hospital, Mayo Clinic. I will be hospitalized for 3-5 days; although on a previous “admission” it took 7 days. (Basically, the hospital slowly takes away my medication which will probably “provoke” a seizure. That’s good, because they can see the severity and where it is coming from in the brain.)

I have felt very well the last number of weeks. But I was tested on some cognitive skills and, while many were normal, a few were a little “shy” of normal (on the low side). They noticed some “fidgeting” and tested my “impulsive” decisions...neither of which is new! I had a small focal seizure last Sunday. So with that and all of the steroids and a few seizures a number of weeks ago, they want me to be hospitalized again.

As you know, I have been alone at the parish since Fr. Marotti left for Rome to complete his studies. Just to remind you, I specifically asked Bishop Bradley to allow me to be alone and see how it goes. He agreed-- reluctantly-- concerned about my health, of course. I hope you will agree with me that things have gone well. The only major thing I have noticed is that it takes people a little longer to get an appointment with me. Beyond that, in part, thanks to the help of the priests at Saint Joseph’s and our parish staff, it has gone well.

However, over the next few months I envision times that I will need assistance either for health reasons or that I may complete a couple of major projects for the Diocese in my role as Episcopal Vicar for Education. Thus, I will have some help for the next six months or so. Archbishop John Nienstedt, retired Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul will be joining us to assist in various pastoral ministries during this time. He will celebrate some of the weekend and weekday Masses, visit the sick in the hospital, visit the sick and homebound, and celebrate Mass for the nursing home and assisted living facilities. He will also celebrate some Masses on Sundays around the Diocese when there is a priest who needs to be away. And we will continue to have Fr. Simon celebrate most Friday school Masses, in addition to me and Fr. Derda (occasionally). So that covers just about everything! While the Archbishop is not “assigned” to the parish, I’m grateful he will assist us in these next few months.

I want to be clear, though, that my occasional "absences" will be varied so that you won’t notice my "absences".

I have known Archbishop Nienstedt for about 20 years since he was Pastor of Shrine of the Little Flower Parish in Royal Oak. (Now called the "National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica). He served there as Pastor from 1994-1996 and then was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit. From there he was named Bishop of New Ulm, MN and later the Archbishop of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

After about six months, he anticipates moving on to a new ministry. If people need to reach him, he will maintain an office in the Seton Center (the one next to the Liturgy office) until his departure in the Summer. He will reside at St. Clare House at St. Joseph’s, but will have a temporary office in the Seton Center. We welcome him!

Have a good week, and Praised be Jesus Christ!

Fr. John
### Masses and Church Schedule

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**  
1 Jn 5:14-21, Ps 149, Jn 3:22-30  
8:00 am †Robert Garvey  
4:30 pm †Timothy Kane, Sr.  

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**  
Lk 3:15-22  
9:00 am People of the Parish  
11:30 am †Liza Gillis  

**MONDAY, JANUARY 11**  
1 Sm 1:1-8, Ps 116, Mk 1:14-20  
8:00 am Communion Service  

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12**  
1 Sm 1:9-20, 1 Sm 2:1-7, Mk 1:21-28  
12:10 pm †Geraldine Summers (birth date)  

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13**  
1 Sm 3:1-20, Ps 40, Mk 1:29-39  
8:00 am †Grace Bates  

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14**  
1 Sm 4:1-11, Ps 44, Mk 1:40-45  
8:00 am †Marie Slayton  

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15**  
1 Sm 8:4-22, Ps 89, Mk 2:1-12  
8:00 am †Phillip Rybka  

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16**  
1 Sm 9:1-19; 10:1, Ps 21, Mk 2:13-17  
8:00 am †Sheila Guerra  
4:30 pm †Loraine Brooks  

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17**  
Is 62:1-5, Ps 96, 1 Cor 12:4-11, Jn 2:1-11  
9:00 am †Sue Hayes  
11:30 am People of the Parish

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### Minister Schedule January 16/17

**Lectors**  
4:30 pm Phillis Killian, Judy Montych  
9:00 am Tim Wanner, Margie Lanko  
11:30 am Bethany Behrens, Al Spitz  

**Altar Servers**  
4:30 pm Tyler Fuller, Faith Sibert, Sebastian Scriber  
9:00 am Sam Fedele, Kylie Crandall, Zach Crandall  
11:30 am Caitlynn Dellinger, Aiden Moore, Genevieve Moore  

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**  
4:30 pm Sandy Bosrock, Rodger Eaton, Denise Pajak, Michael Scriber, Sandi Summers, Chris & Lisa Wemple  
9:00 am Michael Bauer, Len McCabe, Marcia McGrath, John & Vita Sajtar, Marcel Sirois  
11:30 am Bruce Behrens, Rodger Eaton, Katy Fox, Scott Scriber, Mary Jo Gaudrault, Bob Ward  

**Sacerstian**  
4:30 pm Lisa Wemple  
9:00 am Scott Thomas  
11:30 am Scott Scriber  

**Ushers**  
4:30 pm Eileen Hudon, Sean Hulsebos, Dee Eaton, Sandy Calderone, Richard Thurtle  
9:00 am Jim Huysentruyt, Tom Jacob, Ben Unger, Tom Unger, Andrew Giesen, Rob Beam  
11:30 am Michael & Julie Hughes, Stacey Hughes, Ben Bronson, John Lindsay, Jim Beavers
PARISH DIRECTORY

Father John Fleckenstein, Pastor 968-6645
frjohn@bcacs.org
Deacon Al Patrick 968-6645
Deacon Al Bell 968-6645
Debra Wawzysko, Director of Parish Operations
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Carla Behrens, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
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Janice Gray, Director of Faith Formation/Religious Ed
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Sue Bauman, Coordinator of Environment
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John Sebright, Director of Maintenance
jsebright@bcacs.org 601-1728
Ryan Anthony, RCIA
ranthony@stphilipbc.org 671-4332
Andrea Perry, Director of Youth Ministry
aperry@bcacs.org 788-7000
Jennifer Aurand, Asst. Director of Music
jaurand@stphilipbc.org 963-2584
Katie Burns, Wedding Coordinator
968-6645
Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Betty Dillard 962-8255
Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry

Saint Philip Thrift Shop
StPhilip.newsletter@yahoo.com
965-5568
Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools and Foundation
Cathy Erskine 963-1131
Saint Philip Catholic Central High School
Vicky Groat Principal 963-4503
Saint Joseph Preschool, Elementary School
Sara Myers, Principal
Saint Joseph Middle School
Marcy Arnson, Principal
965-7749
963-4935

Newly Baptized
Gwendolyn Claire Avery
Caeden Thelonious Martin
Niko Jameson Markos-Sackett
SUNDAY SUPPERS:  
For the past 25 years, volunteers have provided a nutritious hot meal to anyone who shows up hungry on Sunday afternoons between 4 and 5 o’clock at St. Philip Parish Center. There are 5 different crews of volunteers who are responsible for their assigned Sunday. Each crew, which is made up of 5-10 people, coordinates their meal including, ordering and picking up the food from the Food Bank, preparing and serving the meal, and cleanup of the space.

We are currently in need of a team leader to take over for the 4th or 5th Sundays of the month. If you are interested in volunteering for either of these Sundays please contact Steve Lewis at 269-629-3047 for more information.

St. Philip Parish News/Events:

PLEASE COME: and help remove Christmas trees, nativity, and décor from the church on Monday, January 11, beginning at 5:00 pm. Any amount of time you can give would be greatly appreciated.

ST. PHILIP THRIFT SHOP NEWS: Blessings: Hope and Joy in the New Year! Needs: Blankets, Quilts, Sheets (all sizes); Pots & Pans; Winter Coats and Boots for Men & Children, Winter Coats, Large to XXXLarge for Women, also Boots; Men’s & Children’s Clothing; Silverware, Household items, Lamps.

New Year’s Specials: Jan. 6-16 – CHRISTMAS PAST Sale: 60%-70% OFF Everything Christmas! Jan. 13-23 – HAPPY 2016 BOGO FREE! All Clothing (except Winter Coats/Boots/Shoes/Accessories)!

PLUS  Our Brown Bag Special – still ONLY $5 All Month in addition to Unadvertised Specials!! Stop in! Get warm! Find a “Real Deal!” Shop Hours: 10-4, WED., TH., FR.; 10-3, SAT. We gracefully accept donations during these hours.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 10-11:30 am in the BLTC room in the lower level of the Seton Center. Please bring your knitting needles or crochet hooks. If you have any questions contact Barb Bell at 269-965-0588.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP AT ST. PHILIP: Are you taking care of an aging parent, relative, or friend? We will have a meeting during Mid-Week Faith Lift on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 6 o’clock, for people interested in a support group for caregivers. We will use the model of St. John the Caregiver (http://www.fsjc.org) and will have the assistance of Senior Health Partners (http://www.seniorhealthpartners.com), a local organization. Over a lifetime, who we are at the foot of the cross will vary. Sometimes we will be the one providing care. At other times, we will be the one helping someone who offers care. And, at still other times, we will be the one in need of care. No matter which vocation God is calling us to at a particular time in our life, no matter the challenges it brings, we are never there alone. At the foot of the cross, we are with Jesus. St. John the Caregiver, pray for us. For more information contact John Grap at 269-213-7604 or johnnygrap@gmail.com.

Stewardship

An offering of Thanks to God

December 27, 2015

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<tr>
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St. Philip Preservation Fund: $8,966.12 Balance

Knights of Columbus sponsored events:

On Saturday, January 23 starting at 10:00 am there will be a Free Throw Championship for Boys and Girls ages 9-14 in the St. Philip High School Gym. To register or to get more information contact Steve Lewis at 269-629-3047.

The Knights of Columbus will serve a pancake breakfast this Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at our parish center. Our menu includes scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, hash browns, coffee, tea, milk and juice. Adults $4.50, Children under 12 - $2.00 and families with multiple children under 12, $12.00. Breakfast will begin at 10 am and will end around 11:15 am.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Thanks You

The St. Vincent de Paul Society wants to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas Giving Tree. This year, we adopted 110 families with 179 adults and 240 children, our largest number ever. People helped by providing money and gifts from tags on the tree and assembling gift baskets. Also, a large number of parishioners and community members helped deliver the Christmas Baskets on December 19.

Without this large outpouring of assistance from everyone, the effort could not have been successful. The recipients were very grateful, and it helped brighten their holiday.

Although the Giving Tree is our most visible form of assistance, help is not limited to Christmas. During the rest of the year, we help with needs such as Sunday Night Suppers, rent assistance, utility bill assistance. Christmas Giving Tree contributions and the money you contributed in the St. Vincent de Paul envelopes makes this possible.

We want to thank everyone for your assistance throughout the year. Your gifts help many people. Every night, the news is filled with stories of disasters and crimes. The help given to needy people in the community is an example of good people doing good deeds. These stories seldom make the news. But, it does show the world also has a good side.
Tiger Paws to….

…the Middle School students for doing a wonderful job collecting items for the non-profit, Alternatives.

…our Parish and Schools fantastic maintenance staffs. We appreciate your hard work in keeping the parking lots safe and clear, and keeping our buildings warm.

St. Joseph Middle School student Elsa Mullis, for sharing her artistic talents for our BCACS and Foundation Christmas card.

… Cathy Erskine and our Principals – Vicky Groat, Marcy Arnson, and Sara Myers – for all your hard work to make our schools run smoothly.

…Father John, Father Derda, Father Simon, and Father Gomez for your pastoral leadership for our schools and all you do to make weekly Mass for our students a priority.

Fourth Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser To benefit the BCACS Band Programs Friday, January 15, 2016, 5pm-7pm at St. Philip Parish Center. $10 per person or $30 per family. Tickets are available from your favorite band student or the parish office. Terrific raffle baskets will be part of the event. Enjoy a great meal, listen to student performances, visit with parish and school friends and support the bands. With the proceeds from last year’s pasta dinner, the Band recently ordered new marching band uniforms to debut fall, 2016. This year we are fundraising to purchase needed instruments, including a marimba, and refurbishing our chimes.

For more information, contact Helen Guzzo at 269-967-3868.

Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation

Thank you for supporting the BCACS Foundation 2016 Annual Fund Drive with your tax deductible contribution! We are currently at over $168,000 or 67% of our $250,000 goal. Please support this excellent Catholic education we have for our youth here in Battle Creek! For more information, contact Louanne McIntyre at 963-4771 or lcmintyre@bcacs.org. Online gifts can be made at www.bcacs.org.

In Loving Memory of John Bogosoff

Youth Ministry News:

NEW HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY program starting in January. Youth Alpha. Got questions about life? Join us on January 10th, today at St. Jerome church starting at 6 pm for the start of a New program. For more information contact Andrea Perry at 788-7000.

A WEEKEND ENCOUNTER WITH THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST: Everyone wants to know who they are and where they are going in life. The Presence helps young people on this journey. Open to high school students. It is held at Hackett Catholic Central Prep, February 26-28. Only $80 for the entire weekend. For more information and registration forms visit http://thepresencekalamazoo.org

Hurry – Registration deadline is February 10th!

Diocesan & Other Area Happenings

NINE DAYS OF PRAYER, Penance and Pilgrimage: January 16-24, join Catholics across America in a nine-day period of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage. The simple novena, prayer intentions that span a variety of life issues, recommended readings, brief reflections, and suggested acts of reparation can be received directly each day by email, text message, smart phone app, or download from the website. Go to www.9daysforlife.com to subscribe or find more information and resources. Join us in prayer for a culture of life.

SACRED MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL: Dr. Thomas Fielding, organist in recital, with members of the KSO strings, and Dr. Barry Ross, Concertmaster. The concert will be held at St. Augustine Cathedral on Friday, February 5 at 7 pm. Featured will be works by Purcell, Mozart, Handel and Fielding. The event is open to the public with an offering of $10.

alt...eratives because LIFE is good!

Prayer is powerful, and we are often blessed in ways we don't anticipate when we pray! Please join us beginning Friday, January 15 at 5 PM - Saturday, January 16 at 5 PM for a 24 hour Prayer Vigil to pray for Alternatives. To sign up for a 1 hour time slot, or for more information call 269-288-2890 or email susan@alternativesofbc.org. Bring a friend, your spouse, prayer group, etc.

Alternatives: Father John, Father Derda, Father Simon, and Father Gomez for your pastoral leadership for our schools and all you do to make weekly Mass for our students a priority.

In this DVD series Jeff Cavins provides a comprehensive teaching and commentary on the book of Acts. Facilitator, Barb Cummings.

Winter SESSION January 6—March 16

Adults

Symbolon II: The Catholic Faith Explained is a vibrant, relevant and complete program to re-evangelize and re-invigorate you. This unique video and discussion experience will help transform your life. Facilitator, Victoria Unger.


Students

Religious Education for Grades 1-8.