

OUR FAMILY NEWS

JUNE 30 | 2025



THE GOAL

To renew our parishes so they become places where individuals and families encounter Jesus and grow as missionary disciples

THE PLAN

To respond in faith to the challenges we face and to take the necessary steps to better equip our parish communities for mission.

OUR RESOLVE

To advance with unshakable conviction of the truth of the Gospel and a love that compels us to share the good news with those around us

Booming growth at Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry, St. John Fisher highlights importance of ministry to college students

Gabriella Patti • June 24, 2025

DETROIT — In an effort to capitalize on the ever-growing fruits of Catholic campus ministries across the Archdiocese of Detroit, a closer bond is being forged between the Catholic presence at Oakland University in Auburn Hills and Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry in Wayne County.

The two campus ministry programs, which each have seen an increase in student participation in recent years, will share priests and collaborate more closely moving forward, strengthening each community.

Starting July 1, Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger has appointed Fr. Matthew Hood, the current chaplain of Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry — which serves students at Wayne State University in Detroit, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn — as administrator of St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish in Auburn Hills, in addition to his current responsibilities.

At the same time, the archbishop has appointed Fr. Steven Mateja, an in solidum priest who currently serves St. John Fisher, as co-chaplain of Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry as well as parochial vicar of St. John Fisher.

St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish, which serves students at Oakland University and its campus ministry program, Grizzly Catholic, will no longer be a part of the Bald Mountain Family of Parishes — which also includes St. Joseph and Christ the Redeemer parishes in Lake Orion — but will partner more closely with Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry.

Both campus ministry groups will remain independent, but will share priests and resources, Fr. Hood and Fr. Mateja said.

Continued on page 18

MEET OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES ALL ARE WELCOME

Holy Family
24505 Meadowbrook Rd.
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 349-8847
www.holyfamilynovi.org

St. James
46325 Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48374
(248) 347-7778
www.stjamesnovi.org

St. Joseph
830 S Lafayette St.
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 446-8700
www.stjcc.org

St. William
531 Common St.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
(248) 624-1421
www.stwilliam.com



WHAT IS A FAMILY OF PARISHES?

A Family of Parishes is a group of three or more parishes that collaborate in deeper and more intentional ways than parishes have ever done before. Each parish in a Family will retain its own unique identity, similar to how each sibling has his or her own unique roll in the family.

[CLICK HERE](#)
To Read the Archbishop's Letter

Growing Catholic campus ministries to collaborate more closely, share priests



Fr. Matthew Hood, right, speaks with students during a Mass and event for Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry in this file photo. Starting July 1, Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry will collaborate more closely with St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish in Auburn Hills, which serves as a home base for Oakland University's campus ministry program, Grizzly Catholic. Fr. Hood and Fr. Steven Mateja, who currently serves at St. John Fisher, will serve both communities. (Valaurian Waller | Detroit Catholic file photo)

OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Family
24505 Meadowbrook Rd.
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 349-8847
www.holyfamilynovi.org

Monday	12:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	12:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am
Friday	9:00 am

St. James
46325 Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48374
248-347-7778
www.stjamesnovi.org

Monday	9:00 am
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	7:00 pm
Thursday	None
Friday	None

St. Joseph
830 S Lafayette St.
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 446-8700
www.stjcc.org

Monday	None
Tuesday	7:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am
Thursday	None
Friday	9:00 am

St. William
531 Common St.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
(248) 624-1421
www.stwilliam.com

Monday	None
Tuesday	8:00 am
Wednesday	8:00 am
Thursday	8:00 am
Friday	None

OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Saturday 9:00 am
or by appointment

Wednesday 6:00 pm
Saturday 2:30 pm

Tuesday 6:00 pm
*First Tuesday
of the Month Only*
Saturday 3:30 pm

Announced Weekly



Holy Family
 24505 Meadowbrook
 Novi, MI 48375
 (248) 349-8847
www.holyfamilynovi.org
June 30, 2025

Weekend Mass Times

Saturdays
4:30 pm
6:30 pm **Spanish**

Sundays
8:30 am
10:30 am
12:30 pm

Fr. Bob LaCroix
frbob@hfnovi.com

Janet Díaz
 Pastoral Formation Dir.
jdiaz@hfnovi.com

Gabriela Vázquez
 Hispanic Ministry Dir.
gvazquez@hfnovi.com

Katie Luther
 Evangelization Coord.
kluther@hfnovi.com

Dan Czarniecki
 Faith Formation Dir.
dczarniecki@hfnovi.com

Fr. Bob LaCroix



Let's join



Knights of Columbus

to pray together
in the Chapel

ALL ARE WELCOME!



5th Sunday Rosary

YOUNG ADULTS

SATURDAY

July 19

10AM

KENSINGTON PARK

QUESTIONS? CONTACT KATIE, KLUTHER@HFNNOVI.COM

HIKING

Waltonwood Presents

Senior Bingo & Mingle

Wednesday
July 23, 1 pm
 Family Center





SUNDAY, JUNE 29, AFTER 10:30 AM MASS

You are invited to join the Knights of Columbus in praying the Rosary on Sunday. Let us come together in faith and fellowship to seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother and strengthen our bonds as a community.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 10:00 AM

Young Adults, join us as we head outdoors!

Local Deacon Chris Booms, will lead us in a meditation using scripture as we hike through the nature trails in Kensington Park.

Check the complete season calendar online at:

holyfamilynovi.org/young-adults

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1:00 PM

Waltonwood Twelve Oaks invites all Seniors for an afternoon of light bites, socializing, and bingo games & prizes for a summer day of fun!

Limited Seating

Please RSVP to Katie at 2248-349-8847 Ext 232

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, AFTER 12:30 PM MASS

You are invited to join the Knights of Columbus in praying the Rosary on Sunday. Let us come together in faith and fellowship to seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother and strengthen our bonds as a community.

Holy Family
24505 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 349-8847
www.holyfamilynovi.org

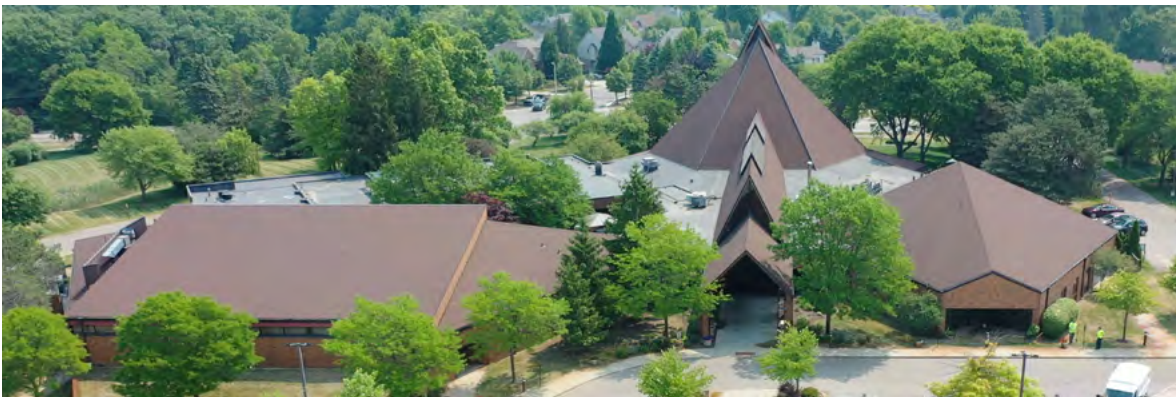
June 30, 2025

Daily

Mass Times

Monday	12:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	12:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am
Friday	9:00 am

Fr. Bob LaCroix



EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

for the Feast of Corpus Christi

It was a hot but beautiful day on Corpus Christi this year. Roughly 100 people joined Fr. Drew and Fr. Bob as they walked with Jesus through the streets and neighborhoods of Novi. There were many opportunities to encounter people in their driveways and on their porches as we joyfully sang music led by Santiago. After Fr. Drew gave us the final blessing, everyone enjoyed ice cream and the victory of having marched with Jesus. Guest speaker, Sharon Amaya, gave a talk on Blessed Carlo Acutis and explained a few of the many Miracle Display boards from the Exhibit we have been hosting for the last week. Thank you to everyone who helped make this glorious day possible!!





St. James
46325 Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48374
248-347-7778
www.stjamesnovi.org

June 30, 2025

Weekend Mass Times

Saturdays
4:00 pm

Sundays
8:00 am
9:30 am
11:30 pm

Fr. Ed Zaorski



PrimeTimers

The PrimeTimers is a group of parish members, singles or couples, who are 50 and up. Our goal is to meet the spiritual, educational and social needs of our community. All family of parishes members are welcome to join. Meetings are held once a month, October - May, in the St James Parish Hall.

July 14th at 1:00 pm **Ice Cream Social**

As a result of our hugely successful Ice Cream Social last summer, we are making this an annual event. We will serve sundaes and cones in the St James Parish Hall while our members enjoy each other's company. Thanks to the generosity of the 50/50 contributions, this event is free.

We welcome back the Beyond Belief singers and dancers to entertain us.

August 14th at Noon **Detroit Institute of Arts**

Please join us on a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts. We will be at the DIA from 1:00 - 3:00 and depart from the St James parking lot at 12:15. We will have a guided tour with some time to roam, shop and eat. While there is no charge for this outing, seating on the bus is limited. You can sign up at the Ice Cream Social. You may also call Pat Fallis at 248-982-5422 to sign up or if you have any questions.



August 25th at 9:30 am **Island Queen Boat Tour**

Join us at Kensington Park for a relaxing boat tour. There is no charge for the boat ride but there is a \$10.00 per car entry fee if you do not have a Metro Park pass. There are limited seats available so please sign up at the Ice Cream Social. You may also call Kathy McDonough at 248-890-4004 to sign up or if you have any questions. We will meet at Bakers in Milford for lunch following the tour.

Coats for Kids Campaign

This year's recipients will be students at Village Oaks Elementary School in Novi. The price per coat is \$20.00. Please send your check payable to 50+ to: Marge Jonesku, 234 Winslow Circle, Commerce Township, 48390. You may also pay at the Ice Cream Social or the picnic.



**DETROIT
INSTITUTE
OF ARTS**

**Any questions - call Pat Woody
at 847-217-0515**



St. James
46325 Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48374
248-347-7778
www.stjamesnovi.org

June 30, 2025

Daily Mass Times

Monday	9:00 am
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	7:00 pm
Thursday	None
Friday	None

Fr. Ed Zaorski



**Religious Education Registration
2025-2026**

Open Enrollment Begins - May 15, 2025
Classes begin - September 21, 2025

Visit our website for
more information!



St. James Religious Education Programs

- FaithBuilders - Grades 1-5
- Faith On The Go - Home Program (Grades 1,3,4,5)
- Encounter - Grade 6
- Ignite - 2 Year Confirmation Prep



Annual Backpack Ministry Coming Soon!

Our annual Backpack Ministry will get underway next weekend! Again, this year, you will be able to choose needed school supplies from the SignUpGenius or the board of sticky notes in the church narthex. Detailed information will follow in the July 13th bulletin.

Note: Large, sturdy (teen size) backpacks are always in demand! If you see a great deal in the stores, no need to wait to purchase them. You can update SignUpGenius with your purchases when it becomes available.

Thank you!





St. Joseph
830 S Lafayette St.
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 446-8700
www.stjcc.org

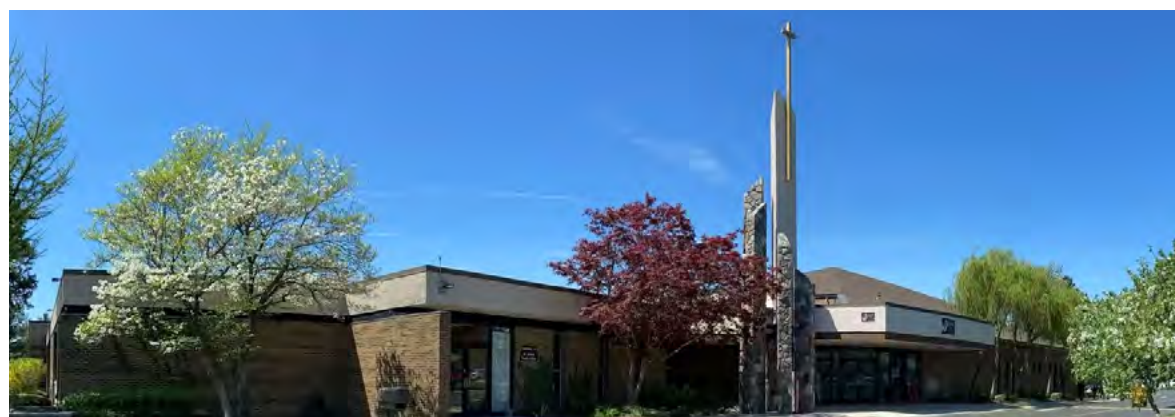
June 30, 2025

Weekend Mass Times

Saturdays
5:00 pm

Sundays
8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 pm

Fr. Stan Tokarski



Women of Mary Prayer Blanket Ministry Update

The Women of Mary Prayer Blanket Ministry creates lap-sized blankets for those facing illness, surgery, or loss—offering comfort, prayer, and parish support.

We thank Jan Kampsen for founding and faithfully leading the ministry since 2019. Over 350 blankets have been given since its start!

Welcome our new facilitators:
Sue Laity –
(248) 563-8709

Karen Marceau –
(248) 921-8637



Support the Summer Lunch Program

First United Methodist Church is providing 300 free lunches weekly to local children in need.

You can help by donating:

- Wrapped snacks & cookies
 - Canned chicken/tuna
 - Mini cereal boxes
 - Mac & cheese cups
 - Canned ravioli/soup
 - Pretzels & fruit cups
 - Kroger/Sam's gift cards
- Drop donations at the
St. Joseph Parish office.

Free picnic lunches served
Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon
through Aug. 14 at FUMC.

Questions? Email:
slp@southlyonfirstumc.org



JULY 5TH THRU
AUGUST 9TH

HELP US SUPPORT THE ACTIVE FAITH BACKPACK COLLECTION

This July and August, we're collecting
back-to-school supplies for children
supported by
Active Faith Community Services.

Suggested items include backpacks, pens,
pencils, notebooks, and more.

Please bring items to St. Joseph Parish
and place in the bin inside of Entrance B.

St. Joseph

St. Joseph

830 S Lafayette St.

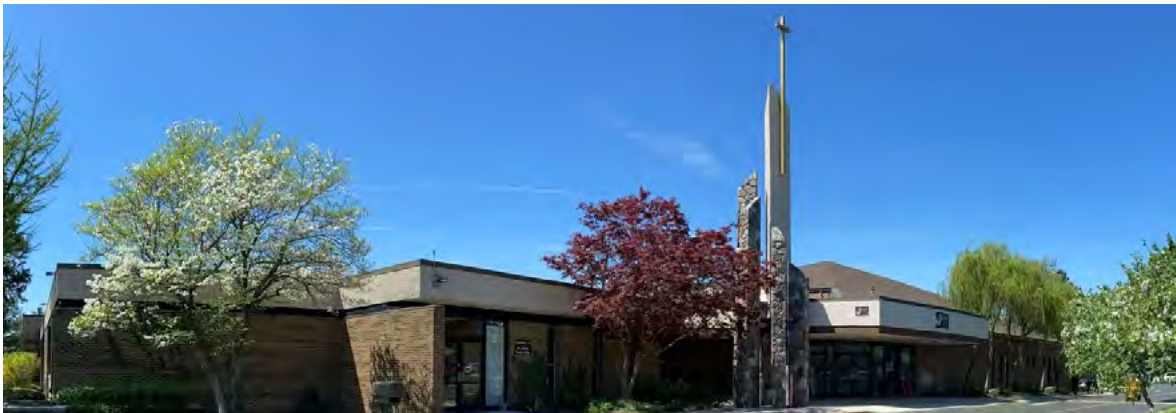
South Lyon, MI 48178

(248) 446-8700

www.stjcc.org

June 30, 2025

Fr. Stan Tokarski



Daily Mass Times

Monday	None
Tuesday	7:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am
Thursday	None
Friday	9:00 am

COUPLES ON FIRE

Luanu Style

July 19th

after 5 PM Mass

featuring Lenny Earls on guitar

tropical attire recommended!

Join us for a fun night gathered around the church fire pit! Bring a lawn chair, B.Y.O.B. & potluck. RSVPs appreciated. stjcc.org/mcg
Rain plan: inside
HOSTED BY MARRIED COUPLES GROUP (MCG)

Save THE Date

4TH ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH PARISH POLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SAT | SEPT 6

1-9 PM

SUN | SEPT 7

1-7 PM

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #7586

BEGINNING THE WEEKEND OF JULY 26TH - 27TH AFTER ALL MASSES:

• Purchase Tickets

• Register to Volunteer

• Sponsorships Available

ST. JOSEPH PARISH | 830 S. LAFAYETTE | SOUTH LYON, MI 48178 | STJCC.ORG/PHF25

May 2025

St. William

St. William
531 Common St.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
(248) 624-1421
www.stwilliam.com

June 30, 2025

Weekend Mass Times

Saturdays
4:30 pm

Sundays
10:00 am
12:30 pm

Fr. Michael Savickas



3rd Annual St. Vincent de Paul - St. William Conference

BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Where: All Star Lanes
When: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025
Time: 6:30-9:30pm
Cost: \$40/person (bowler)
\$30/person (non-bowl)

Includes:

- Bowling for 2 hours/shoes
- Appetizers
- Drinks can be purchased
- Adult event - must be at least 21



TO BUY TICKETS OR SPONSOR THIS EVENT - USE ABOVE QR CODE



If you want to sponsor - contact: Peg Convery at 248-866-4951 - peg@converyfamily.com or Cindy Dillon at 248-842-8920 - stwmsvdp@gmail.com

Men of Ignite St. William

June 15 -
Holy Trinity Sunday

"... and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy



Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5

Our ministry is committed to spreading the love of God to all and to witnessing the power of the Holy Spirit.

-The Men of Ignite St. William-Come Join Us!

ST. WILLIAM CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

ALL GIRLS IN THE SCHOOL OR PARISH
IN GRADES 2ND-8TH GRADE



WWW.SAINTWILLIAM.NET

Any questions or interested in coaching?
Contact Jared Ianczkowski, Athletic Director
jd@stwilliam.net

Family Eucharistic Adoration

First & Third
Sundays
of the month
2-4 p.m.



2-2:30 p.m.: Small, restless & fidgety children welcome!

The first 1/2 hour is designed for parents with small children.

Borrow a "busy hands" coloring and activity bag to help little ones focus.

2:30-4 p.m.: Adult adoration.

Silent adoration time and group prayers. Worship aids available.

St. William

St. William
531 Common St.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
(248) 624-1421
www.stwilliam.com


June 30, 2025

Daily Mass Times


Monday	None
Tuesday	8:00 am
Wednesday	8:00 am
Thursday	8:00 am
Friday	None

Fr. Michael Savickas






SCHOOL LIFE




A Community of Faith, Family, and Learning
www.stwilliam-school.com



SWCS Teachers and Staff make
'A World of Difference'



Thank you for all you do...



NOW ENROLLING!

Call the School Office or
visit us on our website

www.stwilliam-school.com | (248) 669-4440

A Community of Faith, Family, & Learning

Join Us! Experience the
CRUSADER difference.

3 YR PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE



Sisters In Christ
Introducing a new Women's Ministry at St. William Parish. Walking together, sharing joy and supporting each other along the journey as brides of Christ, growing in faith through spiritual books and other activities

2025 Has Been Declared a Jubilee Year of Hope

In the Archdiocese of Detroit, throughout the coming Jubilee Year 2025, twelve churches will serve as official sites of pilgrimage for the faithful in Southeast Michigan to visit.

Archbishop Vigneron said "At these archdiocesan pilgrimage sites, the faithful will be able to pray the official prayer for Jubilee Year 2025 and unite themselves spiritually to all who will journey as pilgrims to Rome physically." Pilgrims can receive a plenary indulgence by making a pilgrimage to any of the sites during the jubilee year, as well as by performing certain works of devotion, mercy or penance.

Sisters In Christ, along with the Legion of Mary invite you on pilgrimages to the various sites. All are welcome to attend. These pilgrimages will be one Saturday morning per month with the first one to the Shrine of St. John Paul II on Saturday morning, June 21. To meet the requirements of the plenary indulgence, the following activities will be available:

- Confessions 8 - 9 a.m.
- The Holy Rosary 8:30 - 9 a.m.
- The Holy Mass 9 a.m.
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet (after Mass)
- Tour of the Shrine

Rosary Altar Society

Thank you to all that baked or bought from our Spring Bake Sale. Proceeds from our fundraisers pay for flowers on the altar, and this year we were able to give Fr. Michael and Dcn. Mike new vestments and also contributed to the building project. If it weren't for your support, we would not be able to do all of this. Thank you for supporting the Rosary Altar Society. God bless 🙏.

Mothers Day cards will be for sale again this weekend, May 3rd and 4th. The cost of a card is \$1.00 and you will get 5 (five) Masses said throughout the year for both living and deceased.

Our next membership meeting will be on May 7th at 6:30 pm in Zepf Lower Hall.

If you are not a member and are interested in finding out more about the Rosary Altar Society please join us on May 7th. Looking forward to meeting you. God bless 🙏.

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June 30, 2025

Upcoming Events



Tell Me
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Light up
YOUR MARRIAGE

APPLY AT WWME.ORG

worldwide marriage encounter

*Aug. 1-3 Petoskey - Augustine Center
Oct. 3-5 Petoskey - Augustine Center
Nov. 21-23 Detroit - St. Paul of the Cross
Jan. 16-18, 2026 St. William - Walled Lake
Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2026 Grand Rapids -
Country Inn & Suites*

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Upcoming Events

St. Joe's young adult Group

COME JOIN US AS WE JOIN IN COMMUNITY
TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL AT THE SOUTH LYON
PUBLIC PARK.

WHEN: 2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS 7:00-9:00PM
WHO: YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-30

Please text or email Lucy Chavey at lucychavey6@gmail.com
or
734-802-8848 for more details!

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Upcoming Events



SHRINE OF JESUS
THE DIVINE MERCY

WELCOME PILGRIMS!

THIS JUBILEE YEAR, LET US BE
OPEN TO A JOURNEY WITH GOD!

the
JUBILEE
OF HOPE
2025

el
JUBILEO DE LA
ESPERANZA
2025

Shrine Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday (2nd and 4th of each month): 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed



Spend an Hour with the Lord - Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday - Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday Holy Mass Schedule

10:00 a.m. - Confession

10:20 a.m. - Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy

11:00 a.m. - Holy Mass followed by Prayer Ministry for Healing and
Holy Hospitality Lunch

3:00 p.m. - Chaplet of Divine Mercy



SHRINE OF JESUS
THE DIVINE MERCY

33826 Beaconsfield St, Clinton Twp., MI 48035
586-777-8591 | SJDivineMercy.org



Scan to plan your
pilgrimage today!

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Summer Camp

A poster for FGR Theater Camp. At the top center is a circular logo for Father Gabriel Richard High School, established in 1868, with a green and white color scheme. The background features red curtains on the sides and a dark stage floor with a spotlight effect. The text "FGR" is in large white letters, and "THEATER" is in even larger white letters. Below "THEATER" is the word "Camp" in a yellow cursive script. Underneath, it says "FOR RISING 6TH - 9TH GRADERS". The dates and times are listed as "AUGUST 11-15, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM" and "FINAL SHOWCASE SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 12:00 NOON". At the bottom, it states "\$90 INCLUDES CAMP T-SHIRT". On the right side, there is a green "REGISTER NOW" button with a white arrow pointing down to a QR code.

Join us for a fun, Christ-centered week of theater with FGR Drama Club alumni Thomas McClelland '23 and Audrey Lang '24. Campers will have the opportunity to improve their stage skills with scenes from Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker* and music and dances from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Through detailed scene work, vocal guidance, and dance instruction, campers will grow in their confidence and love for performing. The week will culminate in a final showcase to demonstrate what the campers have learned to family and friends.

Please email communications@fgrhs.org with any questions.

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Summer Camp



SUMMER CAMPS

In total, Marian offers 23 camp sessions as of this release across six sports, including volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, field hockey and lacrosse.

From youth beginners to advanced players, there is something for everyone. All camps are girls-only and no matter the age group, the focus is on FUNdamentals. Not only will our coaches strive to help your daughter obtain sport-specific skills, but will also help instill confidence and a love for the game!

Marian varsity coaches and their staffs operate the camps. Once registered, parents & guardians only need to redeem their child's camp ticket with the sport check-in table on the first day of the camp. Go Mustangs!

Register at marianmustangs.com/SummerCamps

Questions? Contact AD Molly Campbell at mcampbell@marian-hs.org

MORE AT MARIAN

Check out the [latest news](#) at Marian, including alumnae profiles, recent student accomplishments in DECA, Forensics, Robotics, and updates regarding our \$7M campus transformation!

ADMISSION

Marian is accepting applications for grades 9-11 on a rolling basis. For more information, contact:



Tina Malloy Pedersen '96 / Director of Admission

Marian High School / 7225 Lahser Road / Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
dir: 248.502.3033 / tel: 248.644.1946 / fax: 248.502.3034
web: www.marian-hs.org / Email: tpedersen@marian-hs.org



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June 30, 2025

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Summer Camp

SUMMER CAMPS

June
July

1st - 9th
Graders

Join Us for an Unforgettable
Summer Camp Experience!
at St. Catherine Academy

Field Hockey
Softball
Soccer
Basketball
Running
Volleyball

Baking
Cooking
Art
Drama
STEM

Register Now

www.saintcatherineacademy.org

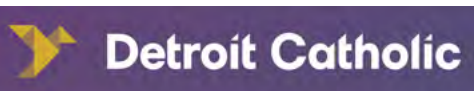


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News From Around the Archdiocese of Detroit



Continued from page 2

"It is an incredible honor that the archbishop has asked me to be at the front end of this endeavor for the Archdiocese of Detroit, to pour more resources into Catholic campus ministries," Fr. Mateja told Detroit Catholic.



Fr. Steven Mateja, center, poses with Oakland University students in front a sign for Grizzly Catholic at St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish in Auburn Hills. (Courtesy of St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish)

Fr. Hood said the new arrangement emphasizes the importance the Archdiocese of Detroit places on campus ministry.

"The archbishop is saying that he wants two priests to be dedicated full time to this mission, which is a huge sacrifice, especially today, as we look at the priest shortages," Fr. Hood said. "I am deeply convinced that campus ministry is the epicenter of the renewal in the Catholic Church, especially in the United States."

At Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry and at St. John Fisher, both Fr. Hood and Fr. Mateja say they have experienced firsthand the significant growth of the Catholic Church on college campuses, both Christian and secular.

While many U.S. dioceses have reported a general increase in the number of converts entering the Church, many of the hubs of Catholic activity are centered on college campuses.

"(Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry) started after the pandemic with maybe four or five students," Fr. Hood said. "This past year, we had over 180 students in Bible study; we had 10 students received into the Church — sometimes there are not very many parishes with 10 people being received into the Church — we have two guys who have

entered seminary, and even more young people being sent out as disciples who are seeking to live out the mission of the Church for the rest of their lives."

Similarly, Fr. Mateja said St. John Fisher currently has 95 students in Bible study, an increase in young people attending daily Mass, and seven college students enter the Church this Easter.

Campus ministry plays an important role in this faith boom because young people are hungry for authenticity and truth, Fr. Mateja said.

"Young people want authentic faith — they want authenticity, they want truth and reality, goodness and beauty, and so hard truth is so important for young people," Fr. Mateja said. "They don't want the squishy stuff. They want the hard truth. They want the fullness of the faith, and when you water it down, the young people aren't interested in a product that isn't lasting."

Fr. Hood said he and Fr. Mateja remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they pray about how the two campus ministry programs — and they as priests — can collaborate more closely.



Left to right, Victor Fentil, J.P. Ledermann, Jocelyn Reiter and Anna Picasso distribute bottles of holy water to new and returning students during the involvement fair Aug. 26, 2024, at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. Members of Detroit Catholic Campus Ministry distributed holy water at the start of the academic year at local colleges and universities. (Photos by Valerian Waller | Detroit Catholic)

"We are working to figure it out together as we discern the way forward, and we are trying to be responsive to the gift of the Holy Spirit and the newness of this assignment," Fr. Hood said. "But I also think that it is an opportunity to focus on the growth that has happened for campus ministry — it has borne a lot of fruit. Campus ministry is such a bright light on the Church today."



[Click Here
To Subscribe](#)