

Blessed Sacrament Parish | November 2026

Our mission is to help everyone **recognize** & **experience** the presence of God.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:00am Scout Sausage Sale After Masses Youth Ministry - 6:00pm **Food Collection Weekend**	**2** Sharing Trees Available Faith in Action - 7:00pm	**3** Ladies of Blessed Sacrament (LBS) - 1:15pm Story of Salvation - 2:30pm 	**4** Mass – 8:30am Little Rock Scripture Study (LRSS) - 9:30am Afternoon Bible Break (ABB) - 12:30pm Grave Blanket Making - 5:00pm All Souls Evening Prayer - 6:30pm Pastoral Council - 7:00pm	**5** Mass – 8:30am Social Justice - 6:30pm	**6**	**7** Rosary - 8:30am Reconciliation - 2:30pm Mass - 4:00pm Wreath Sales After All Masses Liturgical Minister Training After All Masses (Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers)
8 Mass - 8:30am Season of Giving - 9:00am OCIA - 9:30am Mass - 11:00am Youth Ministry - 6:00pm	**9** Youth 2 Youth - 6:00pm	**10** Faith in Action - Cooking for Cleveland Manor & Shelterhouse Franciscan Reflections - 6:00pm **Wreath Sales End**	**11** Mass – 8:30am LRSS - 9:30am *Mass with Nottingham Residents - 9:30am* Catholic 101 - 6:30pm	**12** Mass – 8:30am CARE - 7:00pm	**13**	**14** Rosary – 8:30am Mass - 4:00pm KoC Soup Supper - 5:00pm
15 Mass – 8:30am OCIA - 9:30am Elementary FF - 9:30am Mass w/ CLOW – 11:00am Youth Ministry - 6:00pm	**16**	**17** Story of Salvation - 2:30pm	**18** LRSS - 9:30am *Prayer Service with Stratford Residents - 10:00am* ABB - 12:30pm	**19** Caring Card Ministry - 1:30pm & 6:30pm	**20** **Cereal Collection Ends**	**21** Rosary – 8:30am Mass - 4:00pm
22 Mass – 8:30am Whole Parish Advent Event - 9:30am Mass – 11:00am Youth Ministry - 6:00pm	**23** Youth 2 Youth - 6:00pm	**24**	**25** Thanksgiving Mass - 6:00pm	**26** **Parish Center Closed** *Happy Thanksgiving!* 	**27** **Parish Center Closed**	**28** Rosary – 8:30am Mass – 4:00pm
29 Mass - 8:30am OCIA - 9:30am Mass - 11:00am	**30**					**PARISH CENTER HOURS:** **MON - THURS: 8:00a - 8:00p** **FRI: 8:00am - Noon** **SAT & SUN:** **Scheduled Events Only**

Pope's Prayer Intention for November: For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Scan the QR code to see all the events happening at Blessed Sacrament!

Italics denotes off-site | www.blessed-midland.org | 989-835-6777

Blessed Sacrament Wreath Sales



22" Wreath with bow $20

32" Wreath with bow $30

Online wreath sales October 23 - November 10.
High School Youth will take in person sales after all Masses on November 7-8.

Pick-up after all Masses Dec. 5-6 or in the parish center Monday, Dec. 7, 9am -5pm.

Proceeds go to HSYM programming

focus
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MICHIGAN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



Our Faith in Action

The seven principles of Catholic social teaching show us how to live the Gospel

The Good News of Jesus Christ is meant to be shared, as our Lord commissioned his first disciples—and us today—to "go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

Some may assume this is merely a spiritual endeavor. However, when it comes to the "social question"—addressing the issues in our world—the Church founded by Christ boldly states there is no solution apart from the Gospel. As members of the body of Christ living in the world today, we are each called to live out the Gospel not only in words, but in action.

Catholic social teaching provides a blueprint to do just that. In other words, Catholic social teaching is how we put our faith into action.

The social doctrine of the Church—originating from the same rich Tradition as its teachings on faith and morals—provide criteria for judgment and guidelines for action,[1] particularly in public affairs. Catholic social teaching is meant to serve the common good, or as the Church defines it, "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily."[2]

Promoting the common good is the work and mission of Michigan Catholic Conference as the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan. The nine advocacy principles that make up MCC's *Blueprint for the Common Good* used to assess public policies in this state are grounded in the tenets of Catholic social teaching.

This edition of **focus** presents the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and encourages reflection and prayer within the minds of individual readers. While the Church continues advocating for these principles in public policy, the first place they must take root is in our own hearts.

As Pope Benedict XVI taught, "Charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine," and charity, love of God and neighbor, "according to the teaching of Jesus, is the synthesis of the entire Law."[3]

Photo: A wood carving by Pierre Bataille depicting the seven principles of Catholic social teaching. Displayed in the Michigan Catholic Conference lobby, its location reflects the integral role these principles play in MCC's work.

Every Person's Life Has Dignity

As Catholics, we can and should recognize and embrace the God-given dignity that exists in every person, which "prevails in and beyond every circumstance, state, or situation the person may ever encounter."[4] Recognizing every person's dignity shapes how we treat the people God places in our lives.

For reflection

Who are the people or groups of people in my life that I may struggle to see as equal in dignity to those I am otherwise fond of? Do I see Christ in the stranger, the unborn child, the homeless person, the immigrant, the elderly, or those suffering from mental illness or a physical handicap?



"We don't have to give them any dignity, they have it."

Karen Bussey, founder of Mother Teresa House in Lansing, which provides home-based hospice care to individuals and their families free of charge.

Photo courtesy Valaurian Waller

Every Person is Called to Participation

Rather than living in isolation from one another, we are expected to participate in our personal responsibilities—marriage, family, jobs—and in the public life of our community to the extent we are able.[5] The Church's teaching on subsidiarity guides this participation, meaning the decisions that impact a particular group should be made at the lowest competent level.[6]

For reflection

How much time is spent on distractions such as frequent scrolling or excessive consumption of political commentary, when instead I can be more present and engaged with those around me and in my nearby community?



"How did you get your feet dirty today?' Jesus' feet were dirty... because he [served] people. Every day, our feet should be dirty."

Nikki Bakos, coleader of Youth Encounter Service (YES), which provided high school students in the Diocese of Saginaw opportunities to serve those in need.

Photo courtesy Diocese of Saginaw (saginaw.org)

Every Person Has Rights & Responsibilities

Each of us has a right to life and its necessities—food, water, clothing, shelter, and medical care—as well as a responsibility to recognize and respect the rights of others.[7] We are called to protect these rights and meet these responsibilities, particularly with each other, our families, and broader society.

For reflection

American culture and public debate are often split between personal responsibility and social responsibilities. Have I been too focused on myself without being attentive to others and their needs, particularly those who are struggling?



"If we deprive the weakest among us of the right to life, how can we effectively guarantee respect for every other right?"

Pope Francis[8]

A statue of Jesus comforting a grieving mother, located at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield and dedicated to remembering children lost during pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion.

Photo courtesy Valaurian Waller

We Prioritize Care for the Poor & Vulnerable

Jesus links our eternal salvation to the extent that we care for the needs of "these least brothers of mine." In addition to material poverty, the Church calls us to remember those suffering the "many forms of cultural and religious poverty."[9] At the Michigan Legislature, MCC speaks for the poor and their needs through state budget advocacy.

For reflection

While praying with the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (*at right*), am I mindful and loving toward "the least of these" in or around my life? How can I be more attentive to the material or spiritual needs of others?



"On the wounded faces of the poor, we see the suffering of the innocent and, therefore, the suffering of Christ himself."

Pope Leo XIV[10]

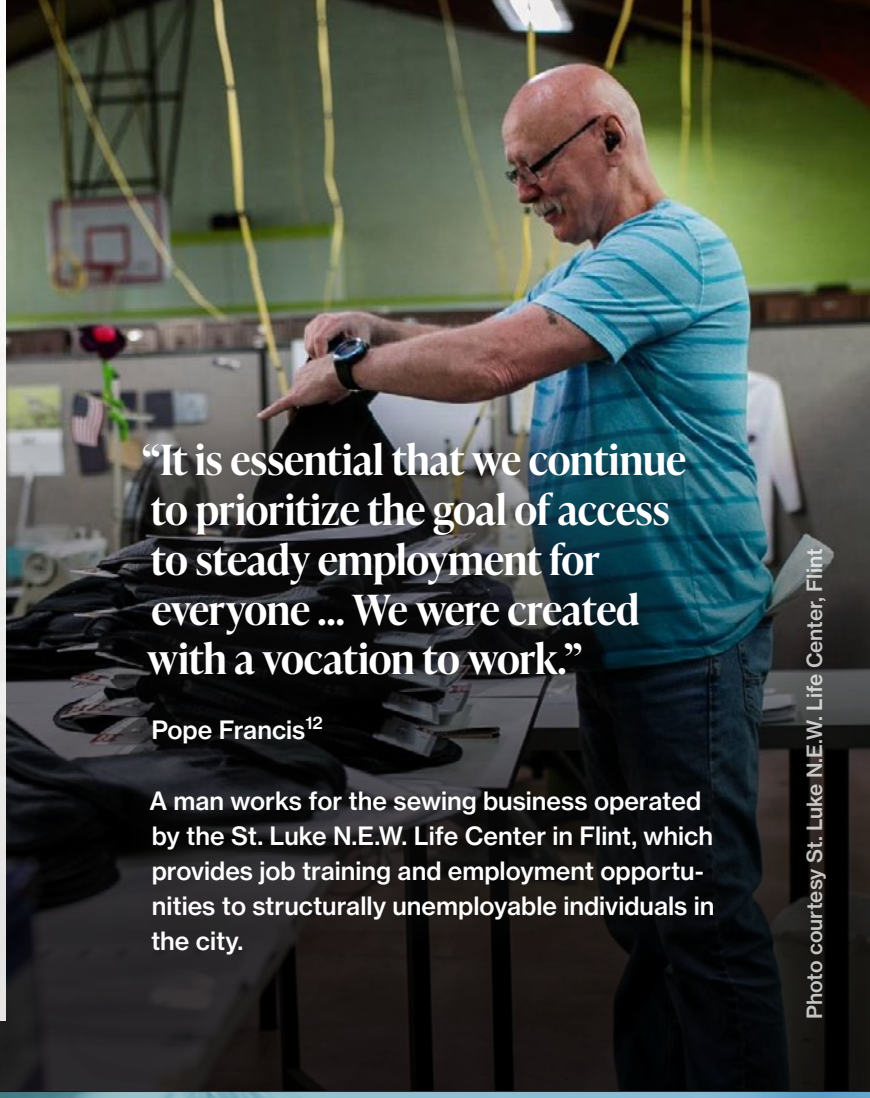
Photo courtesy Valaurian Waller

Our Work Has Dignity & Workers Have Rights

Work provides dignity along with the material necessities to care for ourselves and our families. Because the economy must serve people rather than the other way around, workers have rights that include access to employment, private property, receiving a just wage, and organizing and joining a union.[11]

For reflection

Do I give glory to God in my work by being attentive to my tasks and treating others with respect and dignity? As an employer, do the teachings of Jesus Christ help to guide my business practices and relationships with my employees?



"It is essential that we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone ... We were created with a vocation to work."

Pope Francis[12]

A man works for the sewing business operated by the St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center in Flint, which provides job training and employment opportunities to structurally unemployable individuals in the city.

Photo courtesy St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center, Flint

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Clothe the naked

Shelter the homeless

Visit the sick

Visit the imprisoned

Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Counsel the doubtful

Instruct the ignorant

Admonish the sinner

Comfort the sorrowful

Forgive offenses

Bear wrongs patiently

Pray for the living and the dead

Photo courtesy Catholic Charities West Michigan

We Belong in Solidarity to One Human Family

In the book of Genesis, Cain infamously asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The answer, as revealed throughout all of Scripture and Tradition, is a resounding yes! We are called to solidarity—or friendship—with all our sisters and brothers, wherever they live, regardless of our national, racial, ethnic, economic, or ideological differences.[13]

For reflection

Are there steps I can take to improve a relationship with another person in my life, whether at home, work, or elsewhere? How can I commit intentionally to practice peace and kindness with others I encounter, regardless of their status?



"They're just like you. The things that you want in your life, it's the same thing, what they want ... so it's not some 'other.' It's us."

Lesley Glennon, director of the immigration law clinic for the Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties, on her experiences working with immigrant clients.

We Care for God's Creation

Because the Earth and all that is in it was created by God, the Church calls for greater attention to and care for the environment. Our God-given dominion over the Earth's resources is not absolute—it is limited by concern for the quality of life of all, particularly those on the margins adversely impacted by significant environmental shifts.

For reflection

Pope Benedict wrote, "our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person."[14] How does this connection impact my perspective regarding the duty to care for creation?

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole."

Pope Benedict XVI[15]

Photo courtesy Jason Whalen/Fauna Creative for The Nature Conservancy

Pope Leo's Name Inspired by Author of Church's Social Teaching Document

Catholic social teaching has deep roots in Scripture and the Church's Tradition, but it was the previous Pope Leo who defined it as we know it today.

The papal encyclical *Rerum Novarum* was "groundbreaking" in acknowledging the struggles of workers during the height of the Industrial Revolution, says Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP), a Vatican foundation that promotes Catholic social teaching.

According to a summary of the document by CAPP, *Rerum Novarum* explored the tensions between labor and capital, criticizing both socialism and unregulated capitalism. The document "provided a balanced, moral vision that rejected extreme ideologies and emphasized the protection of human dignity."

The encyclical was published in May 1891 by Pope Leo XIII. In May 2025, Cardinals elected as pope Robert Cardinal Prevost, who took as his papal name Pope Leo XIV, directly connecting himself to the previous Pope Leo and his social teaching document. The Holy Father said:

"I chose to take the name Leo XIV. There are different reasons for this, but mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic encyclical *Rerum Novarum* addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. **In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching** in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour."

A digital version of this edition of *Focus*, along with footnotes and additional resources not presented here, is available at micatholic.org/socialteaching



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