



Dear friends of the CIC,

Happy Easter! While Easter Sunday may be behind us, much of the Easter season still lies ahead. It lasts a total of fifty days, longer than Lent, for good reason. Our Easter joy is always greater than Lenten repentance. We grow closer to the Lord during the season of Lent and then rejoice in that closeness with the risen Christ during the season of Easter.

Part of our celebration comes with flowers, those lilies we all love. And in this Spring season, we see the flowers sprouting in our gardens and neighborhoods. New life abounds in many ways during the Easter season.

Flowers of course require water. All new life requires water. At the Easter Vigil, we saw people poured with the water of baptism, the life-giving water that Christ alone can give us. We too receive the living-giving water at every Mass during this Easter season, during the sprinkling rite when the priest blesses the entire assembly with holy water. As a new priest, I admit that this is one of my favorite things to do, using plenty of water.

What's also abundant this Easter season is the richness of our Scripture readings. Each Sunday this month we hear a passage from the Acts of the Apostles. This story of the early Church has so much to say to us today. These early apostles showed us how communities can live in harmony together, how we can concern ourselves with those who need the most help, and how we can spread the word of God.

The apostles did a lot. They were given a special dose of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, but still they were human and we might imagine how exhausting it was for them. They needed to take care of themselves. So do we. In the upcoming class "Wholly Ourselves, Our Holy Selves," Father Ken Schmidt will share how we can take better care of ourselves by integrating the many parts of who we are.

Finally, this month is filled with graduations, first communions, weddings, and most importantly Mothers' Day. All celebratory occasions in which life is renewed in special ways. May these occasions remind us of the abundance of God, who makes all things new in Christ.

Thank you for your continued prayerful and financial support of the Center's programs. Together, we share with others the message of the new, abundant life that the Easter season announces. May God bless you and all those you love this Eastertide.

Blessings,

Rev. Mike Cuickshank, CSP

Fr. Mike Cuickshank, CSP
Associate Director of the Catholic Information Center
and Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Pray for :

Alonso Family
Doris Aurricchio
Sr. Katherine Chiara
Sheila Jennings
Meahgan Pear
Ernie Rabineau
+Van Searls
Norine Simmons
Aretta Williams
Connie Zimmerman
People of Ukraine
People of Russia

May Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, May 8
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral

*Please include your
prayer intentions with
your green envelope or
email them to
cicoffice@catholic
informationcenter.org*

Upcoming Programs

Wholly Ourselves, Our Holy Selves

Thursday, May 5, 7-8:30 p.m. EST
\$10 donation suggested
Join us in person or online



Each person is a "system" of mind/body/spirit, thinking/feeling/behaving, and past/present. They all impact one another. So, when we experience danger, harm, loss, or trauma, the whole system is impacted. We can learn and develop skills to care for our whole self, our holy self, so we can manage the present better, including our ongoing experience of the pandemic and its effects.

Father Ken Schmidt is the Advocate for Priestly Ministry and Support for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. He is also a Licensed Professional Counselor and co-founder of the Trauma Recovery Program in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Encore: Stages of Faith, Stages of Life

Tuesday, May 17,
10-11:30 a.m. EST
Presented by Fr. Bill Edens
\$15 donation suggested
Join us in-person or online



Our faith matures over our lifetime, just as we do mentally, physically, and emotionally as human beings. Explore aspects of growing as a faith-filled person as older adults. This presentation is part of the Encore series, sharing faith and wisdom in the second half of our lives.

Presented by **Father Bill Edens, CSP**, associate pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

A Heart for People, A Heart for Justice: the life and times of Bishop Francis Haas

Thursday, May 19,
7-8:30 p.m. EST

Presented by **Monsignor Gaspar Ancona**
\$10 donation suggested
Hosted at **St. Sebastian Church, Byron Center**
Join us in-person or online



Before becoming the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Monsignor Francis Haas was a professor and dean at the Catholic University of America and served on the U.S. Fair Employment Practices Committee, appointed by President Roosevelt. "He was an academic and an activist, a Midwesterner from Wisconsin. ...Social justice to him was the heart of the gospel. Those who knew him and admired him said that was what gave him such a great heart." (Where the Star Came to Rest) After the end of WWII, Bishop Haas seized opportunities to create new apostolates and ministries to strengthen the faith of his diocese. One of these apostolates was the mission of the Paulist Fathers, who were invited in 1947 by Bishop Haas to establish an outreach ministry and working people in downtown Grand Rapids. Join Monsignor Gus Ancona for a reflection on the life and times of Bishop Francis Haas and the beginnings of the CIC

Monsignor Gaspar Ancona is a priest of the Diocese of Grand Rapids and author of the book, "Where the Star Came to Rest: Stories of the Catholic People in West Michigan." He is a regular columnist for FAITH Grand Rapids.

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Friendship Corner

Longtime friends of the CIC: Phil Haack and Karen Ruple



When did you get involved with the CIC? We began attending the CIC back in the 80's when it was on Ionia. It was the preaching of the Paulist's that drew us in and kept us there. We both got involved with teaching marriage prep and parish activities like gathering for coffee after Mass, holding Road Rallies, and BBQs on the roof. We were involved with inaugurating the Fr. Joe Gallagher series. He was such a presence at the CIC and we were honored to be involved in that.

What are some of your experiences with being a participant in CIC classes? Although we have moved out of town, we still participated in CIC classes. Since we have retired, we have enjoyed attending the Encore classes. Topics have been varied and so very interesting. What is also fun about those classes is that we can see some of the veteran CIC folks from Ionia.

Why is the CIC important to you? It seems like so many Catholics stop their faith development once they stop CCD classes or graduate from a Catholic school or college. I appreciate the classes that the CIC holds and the readings it recommends in the newsletters. It seems that my faith development has matured because of my participation at the CIC.