



Dear friends of the Center,

Happy Advent! During this season, the Church invites us to prepare in expectation for the coming of Christ's Kingdom in its fullness. It is also a time to look back and reflect upon God's gracious actions in our lives over the last year.

Here at the Catholic Information Center, we are grateful for 75 years of Paulist ministry in west Michigan and our mission to help people learn, celebrate, live, and pray the Catholic Faith. In 2022, we hosted 59 classes and programs with close to 1,200 total enrollments.

Because our programs are offered online through Zoom as well as in person, attendees were from Toronto, New York, Columbus, Austin, Los Angeles, and places in between.

For example, Lynn Mills of St. Ann's Parish in Baldwin was able to participate from home in our Leadership Formation Institute for Biblical Studies this past summer. Through the Institute, she was able to meet and learn from various Scripture scholars from around the country and deepen her understanding of the Bible. Lynne writes, "Thank you for your class and for helping me grow my courage to start a Bible study." This fall, Lynne started a new Bible study in her parish with 12 participants.

Our Gallagher Talk this year addressed an issue we all face - toxic polarization. Exploring how blindness, fear, and anger contribute to a climate of toxic polarization, Paulist Father Steven Bell offered faith remedies, addressing ways that we can bring hope and healing to a weary and divided world. Because of our continued effort to offer programming simultaneously in-person and online, we extended our reach to 228 people online, in addition to the 100 plus attending in-person here in Grand Rapids.

We are grateful to God who has entrusted us with his mission to give the Good News of Jesus a voice in today's world. The joy and anticipation of Christ in Advent gives us much hope going forward to help people embrace the Catholic faith here and beyond the walls of the Center.

Your generosity and special year-end gift of cash or assets such as stock shares will help us expand our mission and ministry. You can designate your gift to help us upgrade our technology or to the general fund for the continuation of our mission. However you give, please know that your donation will have a great and wide impact on many people and their faith.

Thank you for your generosity and ongoing partnership in this mission. May God bless you and your loved ones this season.

In Peace,

fr. Dat

Very Rev. Dat Tran, CSP
Executive Director of the Catholic Information Center
and Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Pray for :

Mary Close
Tycen Daniels
Regina Fabbro
Rex & JoAnn Jones
Mary Pirrone
Rende Family
+ David Shoults
+Dr. John Walkowiak
Joe Witte

**December Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, December 11
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral**

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

Advent Art Exhibit

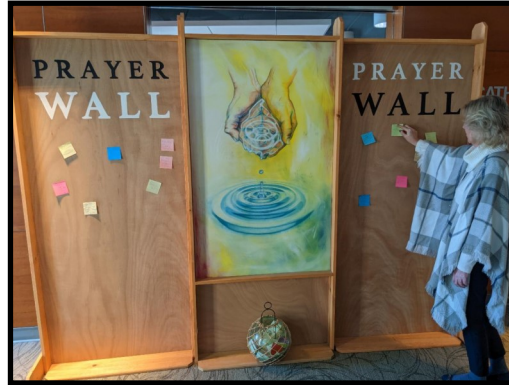
Art Exhibit: From Grieving to Joy

The Center is hosting a new art exhibit featuring the work of Rev. Timothy Chon. Spend time contemplating the relationship between grief and joy reflected in Timothy's artwork.

As an artist-pastor, Rev. Chon works with faith communities in their united journeys from grief into joy by prayerfully co-creating visual liturgies.

The exhibit includes a Prayer Wall, now stationed just outside the doors of the Center. We invite you to stop by, call, or email us to post your own prayers – whether a prayer of need or a prayer of gratitude.

The artwork and prayer wall will be on display until December 23.



Your gifts through the enclosed envelope make it possible for adults to learn, celebrate, live and pray the Catholic Faith.

Please consider signing up for recurring monthly donations through online giving at bit.ly/CICGive

Thank you!

Upcoming Programs

Combatting Toxic Polarization

The work of bridge building continues. We are hosting two workshops to strengthen our efforts in combatting toxic polarization.

Storytelling Through Difficult Topics Tuesday, December 13, 7-8:30 p.m.

It's tempting to remove people from our lives who have different opinions than we do. A interactive workshop to learn how to use storytelling to have productive, meaningful discussions with people who don't think, vote, or believe the same way you do.

The Science of Polarization

Thursday, January 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Understand the subtle inner workings of our brains and behaviors that influence how we perceive and interact with others— and how they perceive and interact with us. Understanding the neuroscience and social science behind polarization can help each of us become more resilient to toxic forms of division.

Kevin McIntosh is the Michigan Regional Outreach Manager for One America Movement, whose mission is to build a united American society by eliminating toxic polarization.



Follow us on Social Media for the latest updates and news.



Friendship Corner

Lynne Mills: Leadership Formation Institute for Biblical Studies Graduate

How did participating in the Leadership Formation Institute for Biblical Studies impact your spiritual journey? Our parish, St. Ann's in Baldwin, has been requesting a Bible study. When I saw the institute being offered, the Holy Spirit started encouraging me to participate. Hosting the class on Zoom in addition to in person made it possible for me to attend. It was a wonderful learning experience. The speakers were phenomenal and the experience was more than I could have imagined. But that is how our Lord works. I'm starting to trust that voice and follow His lead. Thanks to the program, we are having a great spiritual experience in our journey in faith. Thank you for the resources and encouragement to share the Word of God. It is helping us see, feel and live as Christ Jesus calls us to do.

Why is the Catholic Information Center important to you? Without these classes, I would not be facilitating a Bible study. I didn't see a way to do it, but the Lord did. Keeping us all together was a challenge and you exceeded my expectations. It was fun, I learned a lot and am sharing God's promises with my friends and faith family.

