

**Saint Philip Neri Church (Reed City)
Saint Anne Church (Paris)**

Pastor: Fr. Michael G. Hodges
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Hours: 9 AM to 3 PM Mon. –Thur.
9 AM to Noon Friday
Prayer Chain: (231) 832-9453

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 1, 2021

Sunday, August 1

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

8:00 AM Mass at St. Anne

10:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri

Monday, August 2

St. Eusebius of Vercelli, St. Peter Julian Eymard

Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21

6:30 PM – Knights of Columbus Meeting

1:00 PM - AA Meeting/Al-anon Meeting

Tuesday, August 3

Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-26

9:00 AM Mass-St. Philip Neri

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 4

St. John Vianney

Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35

Matthew 15:21-28

9:00 AM Mass-St. Anne

†Don and Diane Cunningham by David and Mary Jaques

Office Closed

Thursday, August 5

The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23

9:00 AM Mass-St. Philip Neri

Friday, August 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19;

Mark 9:2-10

9:00 AM Mass–St. Philip Neri

†Fr. Ron Schneider by Tom Eichenberg

Saturday, August 7

St. Sixtus II and Companions; St. Cajetan

Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20

3:00 PM Reconciliation-St. Philip Neri

4:00 PM Mass at St. Philip Neri

Sunday, August 8

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30-5:2; John 6:41-51

8:00 AM Mass at St. Anne

10:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri

Father Mike's Musing

How are we to live out the first corporal work of mercy, the command to feed the hungry. How do we feed the hungry? Even if we are convinced, and perhaps even obsessed, by Jesus' command to do this, how, in fact, can it be done today? The world is a big place and millions upon millions of people live in hunger. Moreover, we live a situation of compounded complexity of every sort, political, social, and economic. There is no simple way to get resources from the rich to the poor, from your table to the table of someone who is hungry. How can you live out Christ's command to feed the hungry, given the complexities of today's world? Generally speaking, rightly and wrongly, we look to our governments, to the United Nations, relief organizations, social services, welfare, and other such agencies to do this for us. Given the scope and complexity of poverty and hunger in the world, the tendency is to look over our shoulders to something massive, to some big government or agency, to feed the hungry. We tend to feel too small and individually overpowered in the face of hunger's enormity.

But this can be a rationalization, an abdication, a way of escaping Jesus' command. Ultimately we cannot use the excuse that things are too complicated, that we are too small and powerless, and that only huge organizations can do anything for the hungry. The Gospel call to feed the hungry is uncompromising and eminently personal. Each of us is called upon personally to do something real and this must be something beyond the normal corporate things we are involved: paying taxes and giving charity monies to governments and big agencies to enable them to do this for us. We must do something ourselves.

There are a couple of possible approaches. St. Theresa of Calcutta takes one approach. Each of us should personally, beyond government and other agencies, reach out concretely and touch some poor person or persons. There should be times when we are, literally, taking food to hungry people, working in soup kitchens, giving aid to individual street people, and having a poor person eat at our table. This approach is individual, personal, and concrete. Each poor person has a face, and we do not, at least not all the time, ask questions regarding where they will eat tomorrow or what social problems are causing this hunger. In this view, the demand that we feed the hungry challenges us precisely to reach out beyond ideologies and social theories and irrespective of social structures.

There is also another approach. In this view, it is less important to feed this or that individual person on a given day than it is to change the social, political, and economic structures that are responsible for that particular person being hungry. This approach is less personal and it is slower, but it can, at the end of the day, be more far-reaching. In it, one attempts to feed the hungry by involving oneself in legitimate social justice efforts that are trying to change the conditions that produce poverty.

Which is the best approach? As Catholic Christians, our task is not to pick between being a Mother Theresa or being a social justice advocate. The Gospel demands for us to be both. We need to work at transforming the conditions that create poverty even as we reach out personally, beyond the economics and social issues involved, to feed the individual persons.

Faith Formation News

This weekend the readings continue with the theme of the Eucharist. The conversation between the crowd and Jesus is interesting to reflect on. The crowds are following Jesus because they ate their fill of bread. Remember last week was the multiplication of the loaves and fish. But Jesus talks to them about “to work for food that endures for eternal life” which God the Father has sent Jesus to be.

The crowd asks, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?” Jesus tells them “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.” But the crowd wants a “sign” from Jesus. Trust, it is something I know in my life I deal with all the time. However, Jesus is clear here. That we must believe. Not keep asking for signs, to “see and believe.” We are asked to simply, faithfully to believe. Believe in the goodness of God, love of God. That all that happens in our life God is with us. Through suffering, illness, broken relationships, addiction, abuse, divorce and the list goes on. Through the good times also, love, joy, laughter, the birth of a baby, the wedding of a child, vacations. We are asked to believe, that God is always with us, always has a plan and a purpose for good in our lives.

In the Eucharist, we receive Jesus himself! Body and blood, Soul and Divinity. That is our food for the journey. I need the Eucharist every week. It was so horrible during the pandemic lockdown not to receive the Eucharist for me. I have never fasted from the Eucharist. I need that nourishment ever weekend, as I am sent out into the world to be Christ to others. To live in community with family, friends and other members of the Body of Christ. To deal with the fragileness of our human condition. Our bodies get ill sometimes, we sin, and we need to be reconciled. The Eucharist strengthens me for all this. And it does for you as well. Come to the Table of the Lord. Receive the Bread of Life, the Eucharist, Jesus Christ himself!

I humbly asked for your prayers this week. On Tuesday August 3, I will be having surgery. I have a large hiatal hernia and a strangled esophagus. I will be off the rest of the week for recovery.

In peace,
Beth Dake
Director of Faith Formation

Upcoming Events

August 15th: “Parish Picnic” in the K of C pavilion following the 10:00 AM Mass. Bring your table settings, a favorite dish to pass, and a hearty appetite. Drinks and meat will be provided.

Sunday Obligation for Mass Attendance

The general dispensation for all Catholics in the Diocese of Grand Rapids expired on February 17, 2021. A dispensation remains in place for any individual who cannot, for health or mobility issues, physically attend Mass. A Catholic’s Sunday obligation may only be fulfilled by attending Mass on Saturday evening (vigil) or on Sunday. Weekday liturgies do not fulfill the obligation for Sunday.

Weekly Contributions

July 24-25

	<u>St. Philip Neri</u>		<u>St. Anne</u>
Offering Env. (36)	\$2,345.00	(11)	\$309.00
Loose	<u>106.00</u>		<u>95.00</u>
Total	\$2,451.00		\$404.00
Wkly. Budget	\$3,596.15		
O/ (U) Budget	(\$741.15)		
YTD Budget	\$14,384.60		
YTD Collection	<u>13,133.00</u>		
	(\$1,251.60)		

St. Philip Neri: August 7, 4:00 PM

Eucharist: None at this Time
Word: Karen McKinney
Hospitality: Steve Leporowski

St. Philip Neri: August 8, 10:00 AM

Eucharist: None at this Time
Word: Sue Maskill
Hospitality: Tom Fabus
Susan Fabus

St. Anne: August 8, 8:00 AM

Eucharist: None at this Time
Word:

Please Help

We are in need of one or two people to take over for the funeral lunch committee coordinator. They would be responsible for making calls to the team leaders, doing the shopping for some items needed for the lunch, scheduling some workers to help out at funeral. If interested please call the office at (231) 832-5544. Please prayerfully consider this as the need is great.

Knights of Columbus



Msgr. Victor Gallagher
Council 12668

After Mass Social

Thanks to everyone who attended our coffee & treats held last weekend at St. Philip Neri and at St. Anne. If you were unable to attend last week do not fear, we are planning to hold this gathering on the last weekend of every month. If you have a favorite homemade treat you’d like to share, bring to the next coffee and treats social which is being planned for the weekend of August 28 & 29. Come join your fellow parishioners after Mass for good food and fellowship.