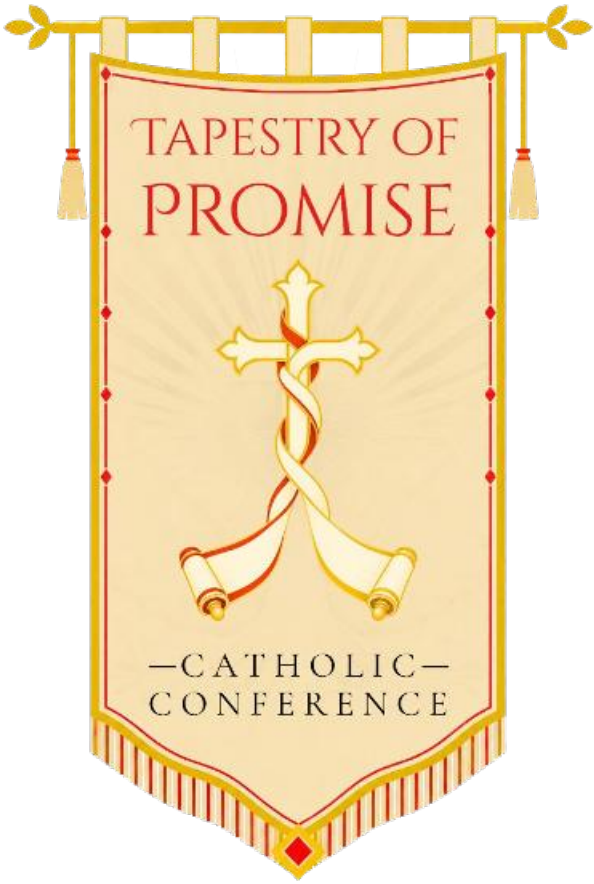
CONFERENCE



PROGRAM

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WELCOME

As pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish it is a great joy to welcome you all to our Conference, entitled *'Tapestry of Promise.*' From the very beginning of creation, the Lord has been sharing with us in a myriad of ways his salvific plan for all of humanity. In the pages of the Old Testament he foretold the coming of his Son and how that salvation would unfold and be revealed in his life, death and resurrection.

This conference seeks to break open that revelation and to remind us that what was once foretold in the old covenant has now been fulfilled in the new. I pray that as you attend each session your knowledge, understanding and sharing in that divine plan will grow.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten us in these days of learning and may St. Francis, patron of our parish, in this jubilee year intercede for us that our hearts might be open to God's holy Word.

Welcome and may the Lord bless you!

Fr. James Conlon
Pastor

Volunteers

Tapestry volunteers are wearing red t-shirts, and are happy to answer your questions and help you navigate.

The Accessibility and Quiet Room

The **Accessibility and Quiet Room** is located in the narthex (the "Gathering Space") of the Church.

Accessibility

If you have any accessibility questions or concerns, please come to this room.

Cushioned chairs are available on request for those who have difficulty sitting on pews for long periods of time.

The Church has a **wireless system for hearing aids**. If you would like assistance integrating your hear-aid into this system, please ask at this room.

Quiet Room

We have places in this room where you can take a break from the noise and bustle.

First Aid

Medical personnel are available to help with first-aid.

Lost and Found

This room also functions as our "Lost and Found" area.

THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

4:00	Gathering, Registration, Welcome
4:45	*Opening Prayer*
5:00	Keynote: *The Church as the People of God in Exodus, New Davidic Kingdom.* Marcus Peter
6:00	Keynote: *The Church as the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the New Tabernacle.* Tim Staples
7:00	Dinner
8:00	Keynote: *The Church as the Body & Bride of Christ.* Karlo Broussard

All keynote addresses are located in the church building. Lunch is served in the Assisi Center (AC).

Eucharistic Adoration will begin after Mass on Friday in the Adoration Chapel.

Group Rosary will start in the Adoration Chapel on Friday and Saturday at 10am.

The **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** will be chanted in the Adoration Chapel on Friday and Saturday at 3pm.

Please see the center of the Conference Program for a map of the St. Francis Campus.

FRIDAY

7:00	Holy Mass
8:00	Registration; Coffee & bagels
8:45	Opening remarks, prayers, music
9:00	Keynote: *Mary as the New Eve.* Karlo Broussard
10:00	Breakout sessions; Workshop sessions
11:00	Keynote: *Mary as the New Daughter of Zion.* Dr. Mary Healy
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Plenary Session*:* Catholic comedian's conversion story. Shayne Smith
2:00	Keynote: *Mary as the Ark of the New Covenant.* Tim Staples
3:00	Breakout sessions
4:00	Keynote: *Mary as the New Queen Mother.* Joe Heschmeyer.
5:00	Keynote: *The 12 Unknown Sorrows of Mary*. Steve Ray.
6:00	Vespers with the St. Francis Chorale
7:00	Limited tickets (275): Gala Dinner. Book signing with the speakers, open bar, and comedy with Shayne Smith

SATURDAY

8:00	Registration; Coffee & bagels
8:45	Opening remarks, prayers
9:00	Plenary: *Men of Grit and Grace – Rules for Manliness*. Bear Woznick
10:00	Breakout sessions; Workshop sessions
11:00	Keynote: *Jesus as the New High Priest*. Joe Heschmeyer
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Keynote: *Jesus as the New Adam*. Tim Staples
2:00	Keynote: *The Tapestry of Promise. Bringing all typology together*. Marcus Peter.
3:00	Breakout sessions
4:00	Keynote: *Discovering the Real Presence in the Eucharist, Old and New Testament*. Steve Ray
5:00	Holy Mass
6:00	Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
7:00	Limited tickets (275): Gala Dinner. Book signing with the speakers, open bar, and music with Donna Cori

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Location	Fri 10am	Fri 3pm	Sat 10am	Sat 3pm
Church	The Scarlet Thread	Theology of Sound	The Grail Singers	Chant Bootcamp
AC1	Killing is Not Healthcare	PURGATORY	RELICS	Fetomaternal Microchimerism
PAC	What Counts as Evidence of God?	Freedom and Responsibility	Correcting the Narrative	Entering the Spiritual World of Christ
AC2	The Poetry of Augustine's *Confessions*	Typology in the Venerable Bede	Excellence is Never an Accident	Dilexi Te and Loving the Poor
Gym	The Lamb Who Sings the Psalms	Parish Transformation	The Catholic Novel	Life of Francis
AC3	Is Jesus the Messiah?			

AC1, AC2, and AC3 are in the Assisi Center. Please see the conference map in the center of this program for the location of these areas.

WORKSHOPS

Location	Fri 10am	Fri 3pm	Sat 10am	Sat 3pm
6A	Missionary Disciples	Art of Noticing	Peace in Our Hearts	AI for Good
6B	Fully Alive in Family Life	Lectio Divina	Jesus in Disguise	Religious Art is Folk Art
8A	Scripture, Sacrifice, Strategy	Men, This Fight Needs You	Scripture, Sacrifice, Strategy	Truth in Love
8B	Who Do You Say That I Am?	Reading the Bible with Kids	Stephen Ministry	Scripted by Scripture
8C	AWS Sculpture Studio		Knights of Columbus	

The Workshop rooms are located in the classrooms, just beyond the PAC. Please see the conference map in the center of this program for the location of these areas.

BREAKOUT TALKS

ON THE LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS



Mary Bittner, OFS

Gym Saturday 3pm

Sister Mary Bittner will talk about St. Francis.

IS JESUS THE MESSIAH?: 33 PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN JESUS



Freisy Bobadilla

AC3 Friday 10am

We will journey through the books of the Old Testament to show you 33 prophecies fulfilled in Jesus that demonstrate He is the Messiah. The price of thirty pieces of silver, the Messiah's birth to a virgin, the adoration by three kings from the East, His betrayal by a friend, and many others will serve as biblical evidence for our faith.

THEOLOGY OF SOUND



Laura Kempa Bogan and Jonathan Hasey

Church Friday 3pm

Theology of Sound: Composers use a rich vocabulary of musical techniques to illuminate and meditate upon sacred

texts. This session will reflect on the repertoire sung at Vespers and Mass at the conference to enable deeper listening, reflection, and prayer.

GREGORIAN CHANT BOOTCAMP

Laura Kempa Bogan and Jonathan Hasey

Church Saturday 3pm

Intro to Gregorian Chant: How + Why we sing. Chant offers a unique way of meditating and praying with the Scriptures in our liturgies- we will explore this idea as we learn the basics of reading and singing chant notation.

PURGATORY - PROMISE, FULFILLMENT, AND THE GOD OF LOVE, FIRE AND LIGHT



Kenny Burchard

AC1 Friday 3pm

From the beginning of the Biblical story, after the fall of humanity, nearly every encounter between humans and God involves fire. From the flaming sword of the cherub in Genesis, to John's Encounter with the Ascended Fiery-Eyed Jesus in Revelation, God meets even his friends in, with, through, and even as Fire! But as we'll learn in this walk through the promise and fulfillment of Purgatory, it's not "hell fire." It's "heaven fire!"

RELICS - TOUCHPOINTS OF GRACE

Kenny Burchard

AC1 Saturday 10am

The Biblical witness is clear. When God makes contact with human beings who live in the world of time, space, and matter, he does it through physical objects time and time again. The ultimate fulfillment of God's re-pairing of creation to Himself is the incarnation of Jesus, the Son of God. As we'll learn in this walk through the biblical typology of "touch," God continues now -- and more than ever -- to reach out to us, meet us, and convey his own presence to us through physical things.

Typology in the Commentaries of the Venerable Bede



Christian Casper

AC2 Friday 3pm

In this breakout we'll do some close reading of typology in a homily and a Biblical commentary by the Venerable Bede — the eighth-century monk and scholar in the northeast of England who was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1899. The two readings will be from texts that now appear in the Liturgy of the Hours: Bede's homily on the martyrdom of John the Baptist and his commentary on the First Epistle of Peter.

Killing is Not Healthcare: Defending Human Dignity Across the Lifespan



Dr. Kristin Collier

AC1 Friday 10am

In this talk, Dr. Collier will explain how physician assisted suicide violates the intrinsic dignity of the human person and puts the vulnerable at risk as it shifts our understanding of what lives are valuable and which lives are worthy of protection and public support. She will discuss that when physician assisted suicide is understood as "health care" this undermines the very nature of any coherent understanding of a profession of medicine geared toward certain ends.

Fetomaternal Microchimerism and Relational Biology

Dr. Kristin Collier

AC1 Saturday 3pm

God is creator and author of all things, including our science. If God is relational in his very person (which he is) and given he is the author and creator of all things, should we then not be surprised that we were created to be in relation with each other and that our health should be ordered around and understood as relationship? In this talk Dr. Collier will explain the cellular relationships that exist between mother and child, understand and appreciate how the relational biology that exists between mother and child benefits them both and discuss what it might mean to think about health as relationship.

What counts as evidence of God?



Cameron Gibelyou

PAC Friday 10am

You don't have to look far to find people saying that there isn't any evidence that God exists. Some people don't believe in God at all because they think the evidence is lacking, and some people who do believe in God nevertheless think that belief is based entirely on a "leap of faith," where that phrase is understood to mean a kind of blind faith divorced from reason and evidence. Yet if you ask someone who believes in God why they believe, there is a good chance they can answer that question with a set of reasons, perhaps several different kinds of reasons. This talk will challenge everyone to ponder the question of what should "count" as evidence for God, reflecting on how the character of evidence for God differs from the character of evidence in the natural sciences and considering what makes different forms of evidence for God compelling, contestable, or both.



The Grail Singers

Church Saturday 10am

A concert of medieval music: John Dunstable, Magnificat; John Taverner, Missa Playnsong; Pérotin, Sederunt Principes; A selection of Gregorian chants dedicated to holy women

Eternal Books of Earth: The Poetry of Augustine's Confessions



Katie Hartsock

AC2 Friday 10am

A discussion of the musicality and meaning of Augustine's work, with readings of poems from Hartsock's sequence written after the Confessions.

Entering the Spiritual World of Christ



William Kangas

PAC Saturday 3pm

Reading the Psalms symbolically is not about "making them metaphorical"; it's about recognizing how the Holy Spirit uses symbols to reveal realities that transcend literal description.

THE LAMB WHO SINGS THE PSALMS

William Kangas

Gym Friday 10am

Christ not only fulfills the sacrificial imagery but prays the Psalms as He becomes the sacrifice they anticipate.

THE CATHOLIC NOVEL



Scott Lyons

Gym Saturday 10am

What makes a novel Catholic? Is it the faith of its author, the beliefs of its characters, or something deeper? From Georges Bernanos and Graham Greene to Flannery O'Connor and Walker Percy, Catholic writers have filled their fiction with sinners, doubters, failures, and unlikely encounters with grace. This session will explore what makes their work distinctly Catholic. The session will be led by a University of Michigan professor who regularly teaches a course on the Catholic novel.

Freedom and Responsibility: 7 Key Takeaways from Magnifica Humanitas



John Pinheiro, Ph.D.

PAC Friday 3pm

Numerous times in his first encyclical, Magnifica humanitas, Pope Leo XIV speaks of “freedom and responsibility” together and how the digital revolution can sever their connection in seen and unseen ways. In light of this, Dr. Pinheiro will highlight seven major points about Magnifica Humanitas that pertain to truth and human dignity in the age of AI.

Dilexi Te and Loving the Poor

John Pinheiro, Ph.D.

AC2 Saturday 3pm

Dilexi Te, issued by Pope Leo XIV on the Memorial of St. Francis in 2025, exhorts Christians to show special concern for the poor and vulnerable and to measure societies by how well they do this. Dr. Pinheiro will look at Dilexi Te, asking exactly who "the poor" are, where they are, and why they are poor. What kind of economy is it that allows people to create prosperity rather than condemning them to poverty?

Parish Transformation - A New Springtime in the Church



Craig Pohl

Gym Friday 3pm

This talk covers the basic elements of cooperating with what God is doing in the Church today in renewing His Church at the parish level.

Excellence is Never an Accident — Forming Disciples on Purpose

Craig Pohl

AC2 Saturday 10am

This talk covers the vital need of shifting from simply "teaching" disciples to actually "training" disciples.

Correcting the Narrative: What the Bible Says About Men, Women, and Marriage



Colleen Vermeulen

PAC Saturday 10am

Explore the God's design for men and women revealed in the Sacred Scriptures. Throughout history, many have distorted the Bible's message. Gain a fresh perspective, textual-based apologetics, and new insights on God's original, 'very good' plan for us all.

About the Speakers



Bear Woznick (emcee) is a bestselling author of 12 Rules for Manliness, Deep in the Wave, and Deep Adventure. A two-time World Tandem Surfing Champion, ninja black belt, skydiver, pilot, and adventurer, he hosts EWTN's *Long Ride Home* TV show and *Bear Woznick Adventure* radio program.



Karlo Broussard is a staff apologist and speaker for Catholic Answers with a Doctorate in Philosophy. A dynamic and engaging presenter, he travels nationally giving talks on apologetics, biblical studies, theology, and philosophy. He is an adjunct professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville and Holy Apostles College and Seminary, and a regular guest on Catholic Answers Live.



Dr. Mary Healy is Professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, a bestselling author, and an internationally sought-after speaker. She is a general editor of the *Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture* and the author of multiple volumes in the series. One of the first three women appointed to the Pontifical Biblical Commission,

she also serves as a member of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.



Joe Heschmeyer is a staff apologist for Catholic Answers and the host of the popular podcast and YouTube channel Shameless Popery. A former litigator and former seminarian, he brings sharp reasoning and deep theological insight to his presentations on Catholic doctrine. He is the author of several books, including *The Eucharist Is Really Jesus*.



Dr. Marcus Peter is a Catholic biblical theologian, author, and EWTN radio host of *Ave Maria in the Afternoon*. A former militant atheist and Assemblies of God leader, he converted in 2010. He holds a doctorate in biblical studies and serves as Director of Theology for Ave Maria Radio, speaking worldwide on Scripture and the Catholic faith.



Steve Ray is a Catholic convert, author, apologist, and pilgrimage leader. Raised in a devout Baptist family, he was active in Protestant ministry before an extensive study of Scripture and the early Church Fathers led him and his wife Janet to enter the Catholic

Church on Pentecost 1994. A certified Holy Land guide, Ray leads pilgrimages to biblical sites and appears frequently on EWTN, Catholic Answers, and other outlets.



Shayne Smith is a Utah-born comedian, writer, podcaster, and musician whose raw, story-driven comedy has earned him a devoted following. After launching his stand-up career in 2014, he quickly amassed accolades including runner-up in wiseguys' 2015 "Funniest Person in Utah" contest and Best Alternative Comedian of 2016 by City Weekly. Alongside his specials, Shayne contributes to One Blade Magazine and fronts the band Painted Devils all while touring sold-out venues nationwide.



Tim Staples is a Senior Apologist and Director of Apologetics and Evangelization at Catholic Answers. A former Southern Baptist and Assembly of God youth minister, he converted to Catholicism after an intense study of Scripture and Church history. With over 30 years of experience, Tim is a highly respected speaker, author, and radio host known for his powerful conversion story, deep biblical knowledge, and passionate defense of the Catholic faith.



Kenny Burchard served for twenty years in full-time Protestant ministry, including twelve years as the founding pastor of a Foursquare Gospel church in California. He holds an M.A. in New Testament Biblical Theology from Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (Fresno Pacific). In 2019, he and his family were received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Kenny currently serves as Director of Development for *The Coming Home Network International* and co-hosts their podcast *On the Journey* with Matt Swaim and Ken Hensley. He is the creator and host of *Catholic Bible Highlights* on YouTube, where he demonstrates the biblical foundations of Catholic teaching. Kenny is co-author of *God of Love, Fire, and Light: A Biblical Defense of Purgatory* (with Dave Armstrong) and has appeared twice on EWTN's *The Journey Home*.



Laura Kempa Bogan serves as the choir director at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Ann Arbor. She leads the adult Chorale in singing weekly Sunday Mass, where they sing sacred choral repertoire ranging from chant to contemporary compositions. Ms. Bogan also directs the children's choir program at St. Francis school, where over one hundred young singers serve at school and parish liturgies throughout the academic year. The school

choirs actively participate as members of the American Federation of Pueri Cantores, hosting the Michigan festival and travelling to regional and international Pueri Cantores festival events, including the International Congress in Rome.

Ms. Bogan is a proud alumna of the University of Michigan (B.M. Choral Music Education) and Boston University (M.M. Choral Conducting).



Freisy Bobadilla is a Catholic speaker, preacher, and author. Of Hispanic heritage, he is a Spanish-language Bible study teacher and a member of the leadership team for **Made for Joy** and the **Rescue Project** at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ann Arbor. He has authored over eight books and possesses more than 18 years of experience in evangelization, faith formation, and the management of ministries, prayer groups, and religious education programs.



Colleen Reiss Vermeulen serves as a director, teacher, and speaker with Catholic Biblical School.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Cornell University, Vermeulen served on active duty in the US

Army. She earned a master of divinity degree and a master of nonprofit administration from the University of Notre Dame, and has served in parish ministries including children's faith formation, young adult ministry, music ministry, and evangelization.

A contributing writer to the Living the Word Catholic Women's Bible and author of Simply Scripture, Colleen Vermeulen has taught children and adults the Bible for more than fifteen years. An officer in the Army Reserve, she lives with her husband and four sons in southeastern Michigan.



Christian Casper teaches rhetoric and argumentation in the College of Engineering, and serves as a faculty affiliate of the Kateri Institute for Catholic Studies. He worships at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.



John C. Pinheiro, Ph.D., is director of research and publications at Acton Institute. He was professor of history and the founding director of Catholic Studies and the Semester-in-Rome Program at Aquinas College. He is author or editor of five books, including the award-winning *Missionaries of Republicanism: A Religious History of the Mexican-*

American War (Oxford, 2014). His 2019 book, *The American Experiment in Ordered Liberty* (Acton, 2019), examines the compatibility of America's founding principles with Catholic Social Teaching. His newest book, edited with Dylan Pahman, is *The Christian Roots of American Liberty: A Reader* (Acton Institute, 2026).

John Pinheiro is on X as @DrJohnPinheiro. His Substack is Liberty & Order.



Craig Pohl is a Michigan native living in Westphalia with his wife, Allison, and their six children. He holds bachelor's degrees in Philosophy and Catholic Studies, a master's degree in Theology, and is a trained life and leadership coach through the Professional Christian Coaching Institute.

With over 25 years of extensive and diverse ministry experience– including 14 years leading diocesan renewal alongside Bishop Earl Boyea in the Diocese of Lansing– Craig is passionate about walking with Church leaders and parishes to mobilize for the mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Throughout his ministry, he has trained and formed disciples for effective evangelization and leadership.

Currently he works with Amazing Parish as a Parish Transformation Coach, coaching Catholic pastors and their

teams from around the country through a process of renewal.



Mary Ann Bittner, OFS, is a Secular Franciscan who was professed in 1990 and currently serves as the minister of St. Joseph Fraternity, the local fraternity that meets at St. Francis. She previously served as the vice-minister and minister of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity (2000–2010), and on the OFS National Executive Council as Councilor and Vice-minister (2010–2022). She is currently collaborating on an Initial Formation Procedures Manual for the Order in the U.S.

She is a long-time member of St. Francis Parish (42 years) and has been active in various ministries, including Problem Pregnancy Help, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, the Adult Ed Committee, leader for Renew and other Small Group experiences, and the Confirmation prep team.

She is now retired from her research faculty position in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Michigan Medical School.



Scott Lyons is an English professor at the University of Michigan, where he teaches courses in Native American literature, literary theory, the Catholic novel, and the thought of René Girard. He is the author of *X-Marks: Native Signatures of Assent* and *The World, the Text, and the Indian: Global Dimensions of Native American Literature*, and his forthcoming book is *Peacemakers: Violence and Desire in Native American Myth and Fiction*. He was the founding director of the Kateri Institute for Catholic Studies in Ann Arbor.



Dr. Kristin Collier is an associate professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor Michigan where she serves as the director of the University of Michigan Medical School Program on Health, Spirituality, and Religion and as an associate program director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program.

She completed medical school, residency, and chief residency at the University of Michigan. Her academic interests center on human dignity and the ways this concept grounds moral obligations at the margins of life. Her peer reviewed work has been published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, the *British Medical Journal*, the *Annals of Internal Medicine,* and *The Journal of General Internal Medicine*. She has had writings published in *Notre Dame's*

Church Life Journal, Theopolis, America Magazine, Public Discourse, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. She is also a wife and the proud mother of four sons.



Jonathan Hasey is director of music at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and has been a full-time director of music in the Diocese of Lansing for more than 15 years. He studied piano and organ at Eastern Michigan University, where he also sang with the Chamber Choir. He previously released an album of piano compositions, Añoranza (2017), and is currently active as a composer and arranger of liturgical music, including Mass settings, Psalms, and hymns. He publishes music and writings on liturgy and art at www.jonathanhasey.com.



William Kangas is the CEO of Ave Maria Communications, a Catholic media apostolate dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ across the world through radio, television, and digital media. He is leading the organization toward an ambitious ten-year goal: reaching 10 million people on each platform with the hope of the Cross and the transforming message of Christ.

After entering the Catholic Church in 2013, William

dedicated his life to strengthening communities capable of proclaiming Christ and making Him known in a world hungry for hope. His work since then has spanned nonprofit leadership, community development, and innovative service models for vulnerable populations.

In addition to his executive leadership, William is a frequent instructor and lecturer on Scripture, liturgy, and Christian spirituality, and is an international speaker and author known for connecting theological depth with pastoral clarity and practical mission.



Katie Hartsock is an associate professor of English at Oakland University in Rochester, MI, and a faculty affiliate of the Kateri Institute for Catholic Studies. The author of two poetry collections, Wolf Trees (2023) and Bed of Impatiens (2016), her poetry appears in journals such as Threepenny Review, Kenyon Review, Poetry, Image, Dappled Things, and elsewhere. She and her family are parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.



Cameron Gibelyou is a Teaching Professor at the University of Michigan and a faculty affiliate of the Kateri Institute for Catholic Studies. He has taught at UM since 2007, first as a GSI while completing a PhD in the Physics Department and

TOP

St. Fra

Legend

- 1 Assisi Center
- C Check-In
- 2 Church
- B Bathrooms
- 3 PAC
- P Parking
- 4 Classrooms
- S Shuttle
- 5 Gymnasium
- Entrance
- Important Doors
- E Emergency Exit

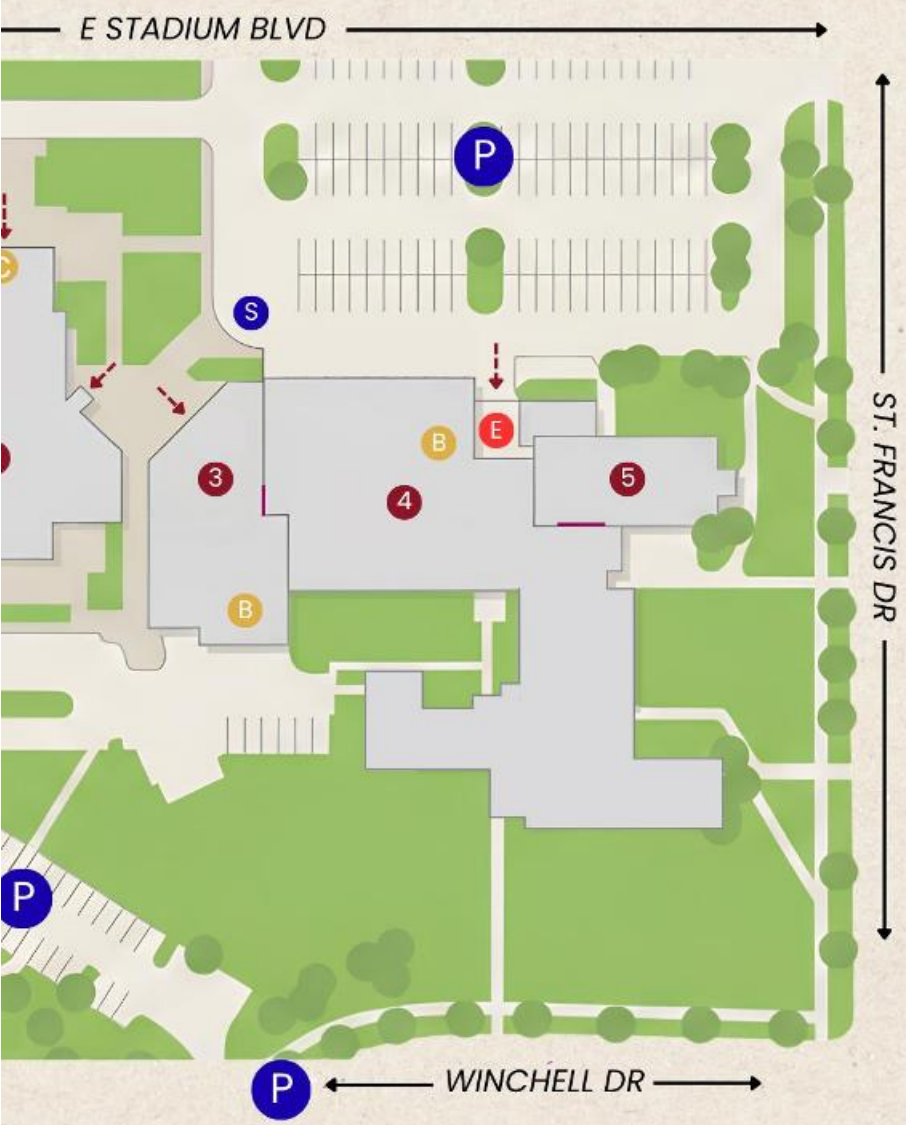
Look for signage or volunteers for nagivation help!



P
NEIGHBORHOOD

CONFERENCE MAP

ncis of Assisi, Ann Arbor



then as a lecturer. He has taught in the Departments of Physics, Astronomy, Psychology, English, and History, as well as for the School of Education, Wolverine Pathways, and LSA's University Courses and Applied Liberal Arts. His loves in life include the One "in [Whom] all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17), his wife and son and family, and UM and its people--who played a prominent role in his conversion to Catholicism.



Workshops

Peace in Our Hearts: A Journey of Peace Within and Justice Around Us

Moe Nagpal and Kelly Gauthier

Classroom 6A Saturday 10am

Peace in Our Hearts: A Journey of Peace Within and Justice Around Us / We will reflect on how peace begins in our hearts and flows into the way we live our faith. We will discern concrete ways God is calling us to be peacemakers—standing for truth, practicing charity, and serving others—and leave with practical spiritual practices and actions to bring the peace of Christ into our families, relationships, and communities. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." —Matthew 5:9*

AI for Good: Safeguarding Human Dignity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Moe Nagpal and Kelly Gauthier

Classroom 6A Saturday 3pm

In a world that pulls families in every direction, God calls the domestic church to abundant life. This workshop explores how Catholic families can build a home rooted in love, prayer, and intentional culture. Drawing from Scripture, Church teaching, and real-life experience, Dan Dirkes will unpack the foundations of a strong marriage,

love, prayer, and intentional culture. Drawing from Scripture, Church teaching, and real-life experience, Dan Dirkes will unpack the foundations of a strong marriage, the daily practices that shape family life, and the spiritual authority parents carry in their homes. Participants will learn practical ways to cultivate “rich soil” for their children, guard against modern threats, and invite the Holy Spirit into the messiness of everyday family life. Come be encouraged, equipped, and renewed in your mission as a Catholic family.

Jesus in Disguise: St. Vincent DePaul Service Ministry

Scott Wright and Chris Mollo

Classroom 6B Saturday 10am

Treat others, as if they were Christ Jesus in disguise. Serve those who know the experience of being poor and needy! / At St. Francis Parish, our St. Vincent de Paul Service ministry organizes community service projects and "charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs” called "works of mercy" ... 1.) Feed the Hungry; 2.) Give Drink to the Thirsty; 3.) Shelter the Homeless; 4.) Visit the Sick; 5.) Visit the Prisoners; 6.) Bury the Dead; 7.) Give Alms to the Poor / Clothe the Naked. You will learn how we organize community service projects to respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life. Our webpage: https://www.stfrancisa2.org/svdp"works of mercy"

Stephen Ministry – From Crisis to Compassionate Care

Bob Ferris

Classroom 8B Saturday 10am

Stephen Ministry provides high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care and support to people in our parish and community experiencing life difficulties.

Learn more about how our Stephen Ministers help people going through challenging times and see if you might have a calling as a Stephen Minister.

Scripture, Sacrifice, and Strategy to End Abortion

Haili Gusa

Classroom 8A Saturday 10am

Drawing from Scripture and the example of Christians who helped transform society, we'll explore what history can teach us about ending abortion today. Discover practical ways you can put your faith into action in the fight for life.

Men, This Fight Needs You: St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Defense of Life

Jonah Lyon

Classroom 8A Friday 3pm

Inspired by St. Maximilian Kolbe's example of courage and self-sacrifice, this workshop challenges men to step up for

the vulnerable. Discover practical ways to use your strength, courage, and influence to protect and defend your unborn neighbors.

Truth in Love: A Biblical Approach to Pro-Life Conversations

Haili Gusa

Classroom 8A Saturday 3pm

Learn practical tools to confidently talk about abortion. Utilizing scripture and the example of Jesus, you'll learn to ask effective questions, craft compelling analogies, and respond to common pro-choice arguments with clarity and compassion.

Reading the Bible with Actual Kids

Colleen Vermeulen

Classroom 8B Friday 3pm

Practical tips for prayerfully reading the Bible with kids at home or faith formation settings.

Scripted by the Scriptures

Colleen Vermeulen

Classroom 8B Saturday 3pm

Inspiration and practical guides for jumpstarting your time with Sacred Scripture as an individual or group.

Knights of Columbus

Wallerend Ezin

Classroom 8C Saturday 10am

Talking about the work of the Knights of Columbus.

The Art of Noticing

Valerie Hendrickson

Classroom 6A Friday 3pm

Through examples of her photography, Valerie Hendrickson reflects on how cultivating an eye for beauty can draw us closer to God and become a means of evangelization.

Religious Art is Folk Art: Local Sanctuaries in a Globalized World

Benjamin Stenlund

Classroom 6B Saturday 3pm

I will explore historical examples of local craftsmanship, contrast that with the modern approach of outsourcing everything to a remote and disinterested "professional" class, and argue for a return of homegrown talent in parish beautification.

Lectio Divina: A Generative Creative Writing Workshop

Katie Hartsock

Classroom 6B Friday 3pm

Participants will be encouraged to bring a sacred text and given a writing prompt, based in lectio divina. After writing together, participants can choose to share their work.

"Who do you say that I am?": An Encounter with the Shroud of Turin

Paola Conti Puroger

Classroom 8B Friday 10am

The Shroud of Turin bears the Image of the sufferings endured by Jesus of Nazareth during His Passion, and science in 2026 cannot still explain the formation of the Image in all its characteristics, especially at the microscopic level, or replicate it. With this Image shining upon it, the Shroud brings to mankind the presence of the Risen One and reveals to all the profound love with which every person is loved. / Paola Conti Puorger, director of the Othonia Permanent Exhibit at St Thomas the Apostle Parish in Ann Arbor, will go through some main aspects of the Shroud of Turin challenge to our intelligence and mirror of the Gospels (St. John Paul II).

AWS Sculpture Studio

Andrew Wilson Smith

Classroom 8C Friday 10am

Andrew Wilson Smith, a sculptor with 20 years of professional experience working in the field of sacred art will share his experiences and lessons learned through images and conversation. Anyone with an interest in sacred art would benefit from this workshop.

About the Workshop Presenters



Moe Nagpal is an intentional Catholic and servant leader who previously served two terms on the Pastoral Council and remains an active member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ann Arbor. He currently is the servant leader of the Dignity of Life, Peace and Justice ministry, helping advance its mission to educate, advocate, and reach out to the broader community.



Kelly Gauthier is a lifelong Roman Catholic who has been an active member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Ann Arbor for 25+ years. A licensed social worker, Kelly practiced social work for 10 years, in both interpersonal and administrative capacities, before moving into the technology field. Currently, she works for IBM, writing and editing sales proposals for the State & Local Government and Education (SLED) division of IBM Consulting.



Elvira Ramirez is a native of Mexico, raised in the San Joaquin Valley of California. She graduated from Cal-Poly in San Luis Obispo with a BS in Agricultural Science. She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. She

currently serves as the executive director for the Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Elvira was a Maryknoll Sister for eleven years, serving eight of those years in Tanzania, East Africa. Her life-long career in providing services to the poor and marginalized comes from a deep gratitude for many blessings, and from a desire to put faith into action.



Dan Dirkes has served in Parish and Music Ministry since 1997, shaped by his Ann Arbor roots and his involvement with Renewal Ministries, Christ the King Catholic Church, and LIFE TEEN. A gifted speaker and anointed worship leader, he has ministered at Soulfest, Catholic Underground, Renewal Ministries' Annual Gathering, and numerous diocesan conferences. Dan serves on the Board of Pentecost Today USA and ministers at St. Thomas the Apostle and Christ the King in Ann Arbor, MI. He and his wife, Caroline, founded 2Tim4 Ministries, offering parish missions and family-focused retreats across the United States and Canada. When not ministering, Dan works as a Director of Territory Operations for a national insurance company and loves serving alongside Caroline and their five children.



Haili Gusa is the Speaking and Training Coordinator at Protect Life Michigan. With a bachelor's degree in communication from Central Michigan University, she is using her unique skill set to equip the next generation of life defenders. Haili travels the state, conversing with thousands of Michigan students on the injustice of abortion and what young people can do to make a difference. As a seasoned activist who has personally changed pro-choice minds on the issue, Haili wants to equip others to use truth and compassion to do the same.



Jonah Lyon is the Internship Program Coordinator at Protect Life Michigan, where he helps train the next generation of passionate pro-life leaders. He's a former teacher and evangelist, but his favorite role by far is being a husband and dad to his daughter, Gemma. Jonah's love for life comes from his love for Jesus—he believes our deepest purpose is to grow closer to Christ and become who He created us to be. When he's not working, you'll find him playing soccer, writing music, or writing a book.



Scott Wright joined the CBSM team in 2018 as in instructor in Year D. His love of the Word of God inspires him to approach teaching with CBSM in an actively prayerful way, seeking to learn more about the Faith.

He lives in the beautiful Prospect Park neighborhood in Ypsilanti along with his wife and five children. Serving as the outreach ministry coordinator at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ann Arbor since June 2000 has given Scott the experience of seeing Christ alive in both his faith community and in its evangelization efforts. In addition to assisting with coordinating the parish pilgrimages and trips, he develops education and training programs for parishioners to work in social needs areas, including through the St. Vincent Service Committee, Stephen Ministry, Tax Filing Program, Giving Tree Gifts, Jail Ministry and many other programs.



Chris Mollo was raised in the Catholic faith at Our Lady of Victory church in State College, PA. He has been a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi since 1994.Chris has been involved with the St. Vincent Service Committee at St. Francis Parish for over 15 years. Together with his wife, Lynette, they raised one child, Anthony, at St. Francis Parish.



Valerie Hendrickson is a Catholic photographer, wife, and mother based in Jackson, Michigan. Through her documentary approach to photography, she seeks to reveal the beauty already present in the life of the Church. From the sacramental life of the parish to the ordinary rhythms of family life, her work is rooted in the conviction that the beauty we encounter draws us closer to God.



Benjamin Stenlund is a Catholic artisan living in Dewitt, Michigan. His specialty is wood carving, though he dabbles in painting and calligraphy. When not carving, he fills his time with homeschooling his many children and tending fowl and gardens. You can see a sampling of his work at www.benjaminstenlund.com

Paola Conti Puorger, director of the Othonia Permanent Exhibit at St Thomas the Apostle Parish in Ann Arbor, will go through some main aspects of the Shroud of Turin challenge to our intelligence and mirror of the Gospels (St. John Paul II).



Andrew Wilson Smith has devoted his career of over twenty years to connecting architecture, history, craftsmanship, and the human experience.

AWS's deep understanding of Catholic tradition meaningfully blends with the classical traditions and innovative fabrication techniques he has come to be recognized for.

His most prized role is that of Dad to his three children: Jonah, Sarafina, and Sampson. Often they accompany their father to the studio and dabble in their own creative endeavors.



Bob Ferris is a retired Project Management Consultant. Throughout his career, he has managed large scale projects in the Telecommunications, Automotive and Nuclear industries. He is a long-time parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Ann Arbor. He has served as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader since 2006.

SACRED ART EXHIBITS



Claudia Burns
Sacred Painter



A retired art teacher, Claudia is now a painter and mosaic artist. After teaching in Catholic and Ann Arbor public schools, she retired in 2013. Art became healing after her husband's death; she created a church mosaic and turned to oil painting. Her works depict Michigan, travel, and sacred themes.

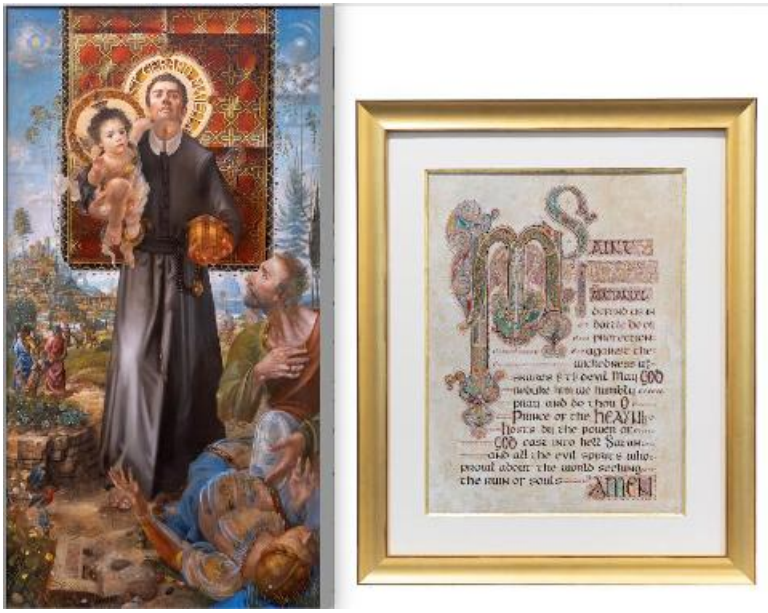


Joseph Macklin
Instrumentum Dei Studio

The Instrumentum Dei Studio (Instrument of God) was founded in 2021 to serve the Catholic Church through sacred-based artwork. Liturgical artist Joseph J. Macklin works across a variety of artistic styles with fidelity, ensuring that each piece harmonizes with the visual program of the lead architect or the architecture of the church in which it is installed.

While his deepest hope is to create works for parishes

close to home in the Diocese of Lansing, Joseph remains

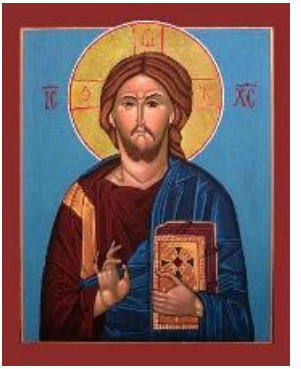


St. Gerard and the St. Michael Prayer

open to commissions beyond, wherever sacred art is needed to enrich the life of the Church.



Madeline Chenet
Icon Writing



Madeline Chenet resides with her husband outside of Ann Arbor, MI where they both teach at Father Gabriel Richard High School and attend Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic church. She brings the Eastern

tradition to her home by praying through iconography, and in her spare time she enjoys classic books and films, working on house renovations, and gardening.

This exhibition explores the sacred art of Byzantine iconography. Icons form an important place in the liturgical life of the church, and even the painting of them is infused with prayers. Each of these icons was created for a specific person and their intentions were prayed for throughout the entire process. The layered building of both the surface of the board and the light on the face reflect the gradual illumination (theosis) of us by Christ throughout our lives. May these icons draw you closer to the hearts of the Theotokos and Christ our Savior, the Lover of mankind!



Valerie Hendrickson Sacred Photography

Valerie's bio can be found in "About the Workshop Presenters."





Benjamin Stenlund
Sacred Wood-Carving

Benjamin's bio can be found in "About the Workshop Presenters."



Vendors

Be Still and Know Rosaries by Meg

Hi, my name is Meg, a young Catholic Rosary artist local to the Ann Arbor area. I make high-quality rosaries, chaplets, rosary bracelets, Christmas ornaments, and other Catholic items. Making beautiful things that encourage people to pray is my favorite part of what I do. Each item is hand-made by me. If you are from the Ann Arbor area you may have seen my rosaries at Our Lady of Grace Book and Gift store in Domino Farms. Come check out my table, I'd love to meet you!

The Grail Singers

The Ann Arbor Grail Singers is a women's chamber ensemble that specializes in music from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods and in contemporary compositions with an early music sensibility. By offering inspired, high-quality performances, director Jacob Carroll and the Grail Singers bring the beauty of early sacred music to life for the audiences of today.



The Grail Singers six CDs are available at the TOP Catholic Conference. They include Gregorian chant, the Michigan premiere of Francesco Gasparini's *Mass in G* (one of the few masses written for high voices), and the first complete recordings of William Byrd's *Seven Penitential Psalms*.

Please visit our table or see ww.AnnArborGrailSingers.org.

TRADITIO DESIGNS

Traditio Designs combines traditional Catholic artwork with meaningful sacramentals dedicated to the salvation of souls, striving to bring people closer to God through sacred art. We offer the largest selection of handcrafted Catholic holy cards with over 1,000 unique designs. Our collection features 3rd-class relic items—including healing relic oils crafted with imported Jerusalem spikenard oil, relic cards, and relic rosaries featuring authentic contact relic fabric touched to 1st-class bone/flesh relics, 2nd-class clothing relics, and holy sites. We also showcase olive wood rosaries from Bethlehem, restored medal jewelry, custom magnets, and our saint-focused family board game, *The Holy Quest*.



Holy Land Bible Gifts

We are missionaries representing Holy Land Bible Gifts. Our mission is to support Christian families in Bethlehem and throughout the Holy Land. These families handcraft all of our products, depending on these sales as their primary source of income—especially during the current hard times and challenging situations they face. Today, Christians make up only 2% of the population in the Holy Land, and our goal is to sell these crafts to help sustain their community.

Our products include handcrafted olive wood crucifixes, rosaries, Nativity sets, and many other items suitable for all occasions. Some of our crafts even feature soil, holy water, holy oil, from holy sites across Jerusalem and churches in Bethlehem.





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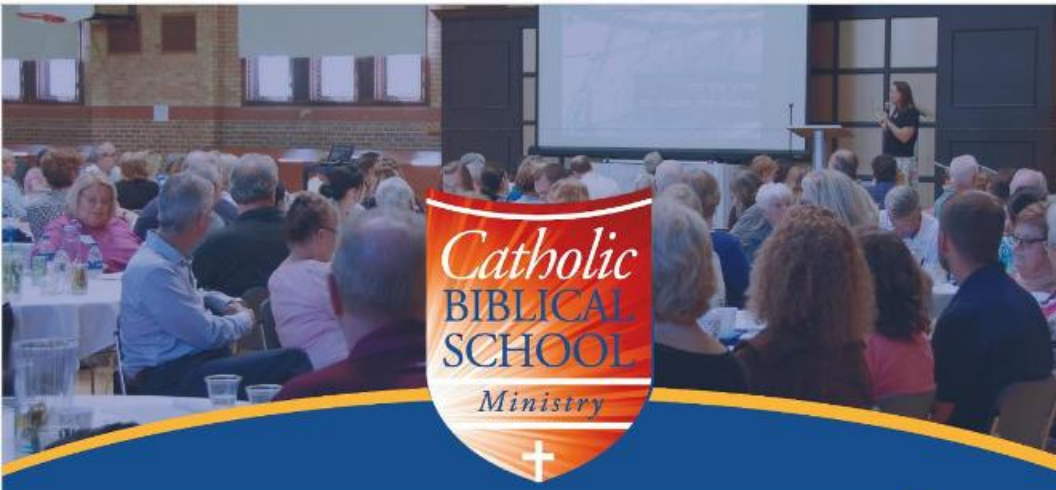
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