



# Christ the King Parish

Acme/Williamsburg, MI

## CHRISTMAS 2014

When did the yard signs begin to show up and why? KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS seems to indicate something is being lost and a bit recent in time. Can the yard sign become obsolete?

### **If your first name is Christian, your second name would be your church.\***

Can one claim to be a citizen without a country on the passport?

We cannot claim to be on a life journey if there is no direction for the route. A compass without a needle is an ornament.

The star drew the likes of shepherds and wise men to the Light of the World. They became so much more than simply tending sheep, travelers, or star gazers. They began to belong.

Witness is only identified in commitment beyond self. Hard for all of us to say, but definitely true.

### **A lukewarm Christian, hurts the Church\***

We see the hurt the convenience store clerk creates in talking on a cell phone and ignoring a customer. A CEO of a large corporation was dismissed partly because he was spending too much time checking on his yacht under construction overseas. Not complicated.

The shepherds were not lukewarm during the cool of the night. They may have been tired, cold, but they stayed with the newborn and parents in the stable. They did nothing else.

Christian martyrs over the centuries, children of late, were obviously not lukewarm.

Our thermostats are set somewhere.

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And there you have it. Christmas can reach beyond the front porch, front yard, and the street. HIS road signs will do the rest. For a year long, eternal Christmas & Easter feast, "Do whatever He tells you". \*\*

Just stealing His light, Merry Christmas to all,

Fr. Raymond Cotter  
Pastor

\* Pope Francis

\*\*Wedding feast at Cana ; last recorded words of the mother from Bethlehem

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## **CHRIST THE KING PARISH – MOVING ALONG IN '14**

We got a new roof! Replaced the original one from 1985. Yes, we plan on staying. The financial status of parish is strong and that allows such needs to happen thanks to generous parishioners and parishioners of the past – surprise bequests!

Christ Renews His Parish – (CRHP). For all five parishes in the area, we remain the host in this national spiritual movement. A retreat, followed by several week formation, has put two women's groups in action and one men's. Retreats are scheduled through '15 of this highly charged spiritual initiative. The five parishes now have over 100 "graduates".

St. Vincent de Paul Conference under formation here will lead other parishes into their own conference. The initiative takes on this international movement to both assist and mentor those with personal struggles of need. (moving well beyond an existing store)

Grand Traverse Area Catholic School (GTACS) continues strong among area parishes at a total count of 1,000 students at three campuses, 99 from our parish (K-12). We support it strongly financially and continue to salute and engage its fervent Catholic identity. (many non-Catholic students attest to its wealth) Give it some thought!

Cursillo remains strong as a national movement for our parish and the Diocese. The pastor attended one as so much of parishes run heavy on its energies. He is now one of two spiritual advisors for the Diocesan wide undertaking. More retreats coming.

The Diocese of Gaylord brought in two international speakers to a grand reception: Matthew Kelly and Christopher West. Two different undertakings and books, programs, to be HIGHLY recommended.

Pope Francis sent a new Bishop in the person of Most Rev. Steven Raica of Lansing Diocese. With strong pastoral background, he is engaging quickly with the north country versus a different version of civilization down below. His predecessor, Bishop Bernard Hebda went on to become Archbishop of Newark, N.J.! (we have two track roads versus their parkways) Pastor concedes that all Bishops from these two and beyond will be younger than himself. It is part of the aging process.

And read the moving spiritual book you received at Christmas, ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT – His Five Loves. An awakening for a reader via a mystic and his stories within. Thanks to ten families who donate to make these annual gifts.

New parishioners from NC, AZ, OH, FL, (and around town) and bringing HIGH energy.

If any lukewarm conditions exist (see reverse), please step in and help us pick out the new carpet for lower level. Like the roof, original, and we plan on wearing out more.