

## 2018 Schedule

### **St. Martha Parish, Okemos, 517-349-1763**

1100 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos (Parish Hall)  
Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 (7:00 to 9:00 PM)  
**Contact:** Deacon John Finn **Email:** [dcnjohn@st-martha.org](mailto:dcnjohn@st-martha.org)

### **St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing, 517-484-5331**

219 Seymour Ave, Lansing (Parish Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Saturday, February 3 (9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, off-campus lunch)  
Saturday, June 2 (9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, off-campus lunch)  
**Contact:** Rebecca Rossi  
**Email:** [rossi.smclansing@catholicweb.com](mailto:rossi.smclansing@catholicweb.com)

### **St. Gerard Parish, Lansing, 517-323-2379**

4437 W. Willow Hwy, Lansing (Parish Adult Ed. Rooms)  
Sundays, February 11, 18, 25 & March 4 (1:00 to 3:00 PM)  
Saturday, May 19 (9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, one-hour lunch break)  
Sundays, September 16, 23, 30 & October 7 (1:00 to 3:00 PM)  
**Contact:** Dcn. Jim Corder **Email:** [jcorder@stgerard.org](mailto:jcorder@stgerard.org)

### **St. Michael Parish, Grand Ledge, 517-627-8493**

345 Edwards St., Grand Ledge (Siena Room)  
Wednesdays, February 21, 28 & March 7, 14 (7:00 to 9:00 PM)  
Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24 (7:00 to 9:00 PM)  
**Contact:** Dcn. Andy Tardif **Email:** [josephandretardif@gmail.com](mailto:josephandretardif@gmail.com)

### **St. Casimir Parish, Lansing, 517-482-1346**

815 Sparrow Ave, Lansing (in school room 106)  
Thursdays, February 22 & March 1, 8, 15 (7:00 to 8:30 PM)  
**Contact:** Fr. Bill Lugger **Email:** [lugger@stcas.org](mailto:lugger@stcas.org)

### **St. Therese Parish, Lansing, 517-487-0478**

102 W. Randolph St., Lansing (St. Francis Room)  
Tuesdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26 (6:00 to 8:00 PM)  
**Contact:** Deacon Dave Borzenski  
**Email:** [borzenskid@gmail.com](mailto:borzenskid@gmail.com)

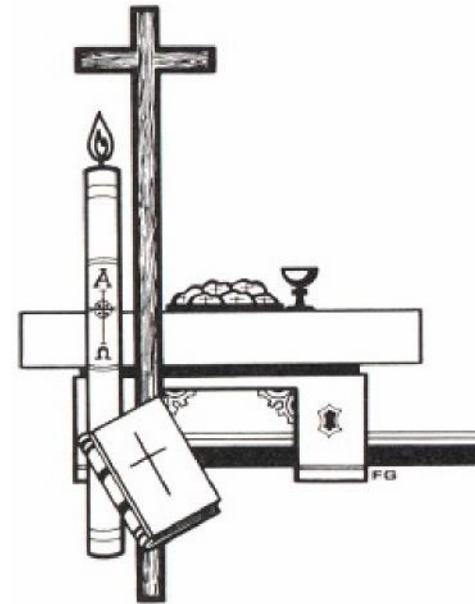
### **St. Mary Parish, Charlotte, 517-543-4319 ext. 31**

807 St. Mary's Blvd., Charlotte (Parish Office)  
Saturdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27 (10:00 AM to Noon)  
**Contact:** Dcn. Tom Fogle **Email:** [tfogle@stmarycharlotte.org](mailto:tfogle@stmarycharlotte.org)

### **St. James Parish, Mason, 517-676-9111**

1010 S. Lansing St., Mason (Conference Room in Church)  
Thursdays, October 25 & November 1, 8, 15 (7:00 to 9:00 PM)  
**Contact:** Deacon Tom Feiten **Email:** [tomfeiten@gmail.com](mailto:tomfeiten@gmail.com)

## The Catholic Information Series 2018



*Presented by Lansing-area  
Catholic parishes for couples  
preparing to celebrate  
the sacrament of marriage.*

## **What is the Catholic Information Series?**

The Catholic Information Series has been developed to provide Catholic couples with a brief refresher about the basics of our Catholic faith. For inter-faith couples, it provides the Catholic party with the same update and offers an overview of basic Catholic teaching for the non-Catholic party. The Catholic information Series is designed to inform, not to force the issue of conversion on the part of the non-Catholic.

## **How often does it meet?**

### **What topics will the Catholic Information Series address?**

The series will meet four or five times at each parish location. Each session will be two hours long. The series will cover the following elements that are part of our Catholic faith:

**The Creed** – that is, our basic beliefs as a community of faith that we pray each week in the prayer that begins, “*I believe...*”

**The Church** – what do we mean when we call ourselves ““Church”?”

How do we participate in the community of the Church, its mission, its mystery, and what is the call of all the baptized?

**Sacred Scripture** – how do we as Catholics make use of Scripture in both our public life of worship and our private life of prayer?

How do we understand both the Old and New Testaments?

**Sacraments and Morality** – Sacraments form one of the most basic realities of the Catholic Church. What are the seven sacraments and why does God give them to us? Morality is another way of saying how faith informs the decisions that we make (or don't make) or how we can use God's laws to govern and guide our own decisions.

**Introduction to Natural Family Planning** – the final

session at each parish location will be the required introduction to Natural Family Planning, presented under the auspices of the Diocese of Lansing's office for Natural Family Planning. A small fee for materials may be charged.

## **Where and when is the Catholic Information Series offered?**

The Catholic Information Series is offered at different parishes across the Lansing area, so that you may attend the series at the parish that is most convenient for you. The series is also offered on a variety of different days of the week and at different times of the day in order to make it as convenient as possible for you to attend the series.

## **How do we register for the Catholic Information Series?**

Once you have decided on the location, day of the week or times that are most convenient for you, simply call the contact number that is listed for each parish and let them know that you would like to register for the Catholic Information Series. Once you have registered, plan to arrive at the appropriate location on the correct day and time. The schedule for 2018 is located on the back page of this pamphlet. You will receive a certificate once you have completed the series. The certificate should be presented to the parish staff member who is assisting you with your marriage preparation.

## **What if we can't attend all the sessions at one location?**

Since each parish presents the series in slightly different ways using local parish staff, it is best to attend the series at a single location. Please contact the parish staff member who is assisting you with your marriage preparation if you are unable to attend all four sessions at your registered location; he or she may be able to suggest some alternatives.

## **How else will we prepare for our marriage?**

The Catholic Information Series is but one part of marriage preparation in the Diocese of Lansing. The other required parts (FOCCUS, We CARE, etc.) should be outlined for you in the guidelines you should have received from the staff member assisting you with your marriage preparation at the parish at which your marriage will be witnessed.

## **Something to keep in mind...**

At the present time in the United States, statistics tell us that where there is no presence of faith, one out of every two marriages end in divorce. One in six marriages that are witnessed in a church service ends in divorce. However, only one in 56 marriages in which the couple shares some type of faith-life will end in divorce. Why the difference? It's hard to say, but several possible reasons come to mind:

First, God does have an effect in our lives. God can give us more patience, deeper understanding, and greater perseverance than we thought possible.

Second, faith is a very important part of an individual's life. If we can learn to communicate better with our partner at this level of intimacy, then we will be able to communicate more effectively on other levels. Better communication builds stronger relationships.

Finally, for some these sessions may be the first steps in the process of conversion. For others, they will serve as a source of information, but for all they can serve as a means of deeper understanding of the sacrament of marriage.