



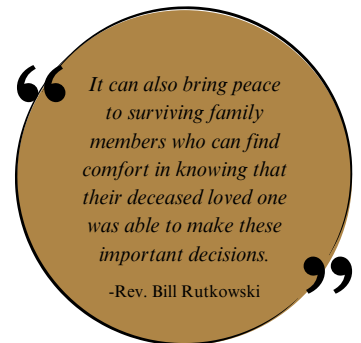
## A Catholic Perspective on End-of-Life Issues

The Catholic Community Foundation recently hosted a seminar called “End of Life with Christ” at St. John Paul II Parish to share a Catholic perspective on end-of-life issues. Rev. Bill Rutkowski, pastor at St. John Paul II, was one of the featured speakers at this seminar. He shared insight on pastoral care for the sick and dying and offered guidance on the Church’s role during end-of-life planning.

“Parishioners have a lot of questions regarding end-of-life matters,” said Fr. Bill. “It’s important to assist our parishioners in having correct answers to these questions and answers from a Catholic/Christian perspective, not a secular perspective.” This seminar not only helped parishioners navigate these difficult questions, but also talked about how to prepare for one’s end of life: creating a will, choosing appropriate funeral and burial arrangements, and establishing an endowment in support of one’s most cherished Catholic causes.

The Catholic Community Foundation regularly sponsors end-of-life seminars as free educational tools. This gives parishioners the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about end-of-life arrangements, and about how the Catholic Church can provide guidance and support.

Participants who attended this seminar were grateful for discussing tough topics like physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, burial versus cremation, and legal considerations. Attendees also learned they can leave a legacy of stewardship and faith by including the Catholic Community Foundation in their estate planning, ensuring that the parishes, ministries, or causes nearest to their hearts are sustained even after death.



“It can bring a sense of peace to the participants who take the presentations to heart and make their arrangements accordingly,” Fr. Bill said. “It can also bring peace to surviving family members who can find comfort in knowing that their deceased loved one was able to make these important decisions and have their wishes respected and accomplished.”



The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan will be hosting three End-of-Life Seminars for the Diocese of Saginaw in 2025. Follow our Facebook page using the QR code to learn more and stay up to date.

# Meet Grace!

*CCFMM Communications & Development Specialist*

The Catholic Community Foundation is proud to introduce the newest member of our team, Grace Giroux, as our Communications and Development Specialist.

Grace is a Saginaw native and she graduated from Nouvel Catholic Central High School in 2020. She has been a life-long member of St. John Vianney Parish in Saginaw and she is excited to support her community more directly through her work at CCFMM. In May 2024, Grace graduated from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, a minor in studio art, and work experience in writing, photography, and graphic design. In her free time, Grace enjoys participating in the Midland Community Orchestra as a violist and taking art classes at Saginaw Valley State University.



**Please join us in welcoming Grace to our team!**

## 2025 Calendar of Events



<b>April 1st</b> .....	Grant Window Opens
<b>April 30th</b> .....	Investment Forum
<b>June 30th</b> .....	Grant Window Closes
<b>October 1st</b> .....	Catholic School/College Scholarship Window Opens
<b>October 16th</b> .....	Hopeful Future Scholarship Dinner*
<b>November 7th</b> .....	Grant Recipient Luncheon
<b>November 8th</b> .....	End of Life with Christ Seminar
<b>December 15th</b> .....	Advent Gathering with Bishop Gruss*

*\*Tentative date*

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**Consider leaving a legacy gift through the Catholic Community Foundation!**  
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