

Feeding Our Faith

Jan./Feb. 2026

A newsletter brought to you by the **Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** OF MID-MICHIGAN

“Your Giving Ensures the Future”

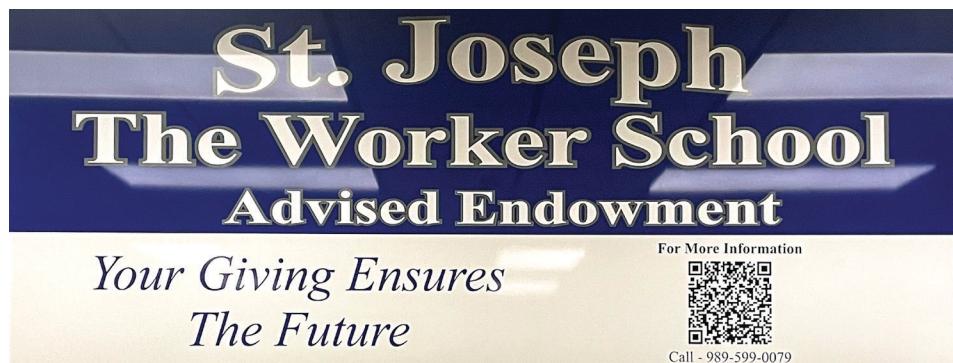
As the Catholic Community Foundation begins celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2026, we are already looking forward to the next 20 years of serving our community and growing the Catholic faith. The Foundation is committed to generously supporting the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our Catholic community. We strive to meet those needs by stewarding funds like the *St. Joseph the Worker Catholic School Advised Endowment*, which was established in 2024. In fact, the fund’s “motto” perfectly describes the Foundation’s commitment to long-term prosperity: ***Your giving ensures the future.***

“We believe in stewardship and giving to support our school,” said Henry Block, a grandparent of seven grandchildren currently attending St. Joseph the Worker School in Beal City. Amanda Schafer, a mother whose three out of four children currently attend St. Joseph, agreed that their school is a community that truly supports one another. “I just love that everyone knows everybody,” Amanda said. “Everybody looks out for everybody.”

Amanda and Henry both believe in the importance of Catholic education and emphasize how St. Joseph the Worker School is a force for good in the Beal City community. Amanda notes how the educators at St. Joseph have provided a good foundation for her kids. From having small class sizes to attending a school-wide weekly Mass, Amanda sees the impact of Catholic education. Even her youngest child, now in preschool, interacts with older grades through programs like Reading Buddies and attending weekly Mass. “It’s helped us going as a family to Mass on the weekend,” said Amanda. “I feel like she’s more involved with the structure of the Mass.”

As a grandparent, Henry sees that impact with his grandkids as well. “It is my foundational belief that the lifeblood of St. Joseph the Worker Parish is through St. Joseph the Worker School,” he said. “I think the school is vital to the community.”

One of the things Amanda and Henry like most about the endowment with the Catholic Community Foundation is their involvement as advisors. They have the ability to decide how the fund’s annual disbursement will be used. As parents and grandparents, Amanda and Henry have a unique perspective on how that disbursement will most help the school.



Henry’s sign at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Beal City says “Your Giving Ensures the Future.” Courtesy photo.

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2026 Quarter-At-A-Glance

January 31
2026/2027 Scholarship
applications due

March 10, 11:30 a.m.
Board Meeting
Center for Ministry
5802 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48603

April 1
2026 Grant applications open

“Your Giving” (continued)

“That’s why I got involved,” said Henry. “We have some discretion. That could go directly to teachers’ salaries, technology, [or] books.”

“The biggest thing I really hope to see this endowment improve is to keep our teachers,” said Amanda. “Our teachers aren’t paid like public school teachers,” she continued. “We’re trying to close that gap.”

Part of paying teachers a better salary is to increase enrollment at St. Joseph the Worker School—with more students per classroom, the more teachers can be paid. That’s why another goal of the endowment is to help with tuition. “Our tuition is very reasonable,” said Henry. “Our goal is to keep it very reasonable.”

Right now, St. Joseph the Worker School is trying to raise funds to help their endowment grow even more so they can receive their first disbursement. Henry even designed a donation sign for Beal City’s Knights of Columbus Hall, which hosts a lot of funeral luncheons. Henry hopes to encourage guests to consider giving in their will or making an immediate donation. His sign proclaims: **Your Giving Ensures the Future.** “That’s how simple it is,” Henry says.

Amanda and Henry both hope their community will donate in honor of the school that provides a great educational foundation. They want to ensure that St. Joseph will be able to serve future generations. “I just love that we have this opportunity for our community to donate to this fund to keep our school going,” says Amanda.

“No donation is too small. And, definitely, no donation is too large,” says Henry with a laugh. “That goes without saying. It all counts and it’s very important.”

As the new year begins, please consider making a donation to *St. Joseph the Worker School Advised Endowment*. To donate, scan the QR code or visit www.ccfmm.org to make an online donation. To donate by mail, send checks to:

The Catholic Community Foundation
5800 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48603

To donate gifts of stock or real estate, or leave a legacy gift in your will, call Executive Director Kristin Smith at 989.303.9201.

