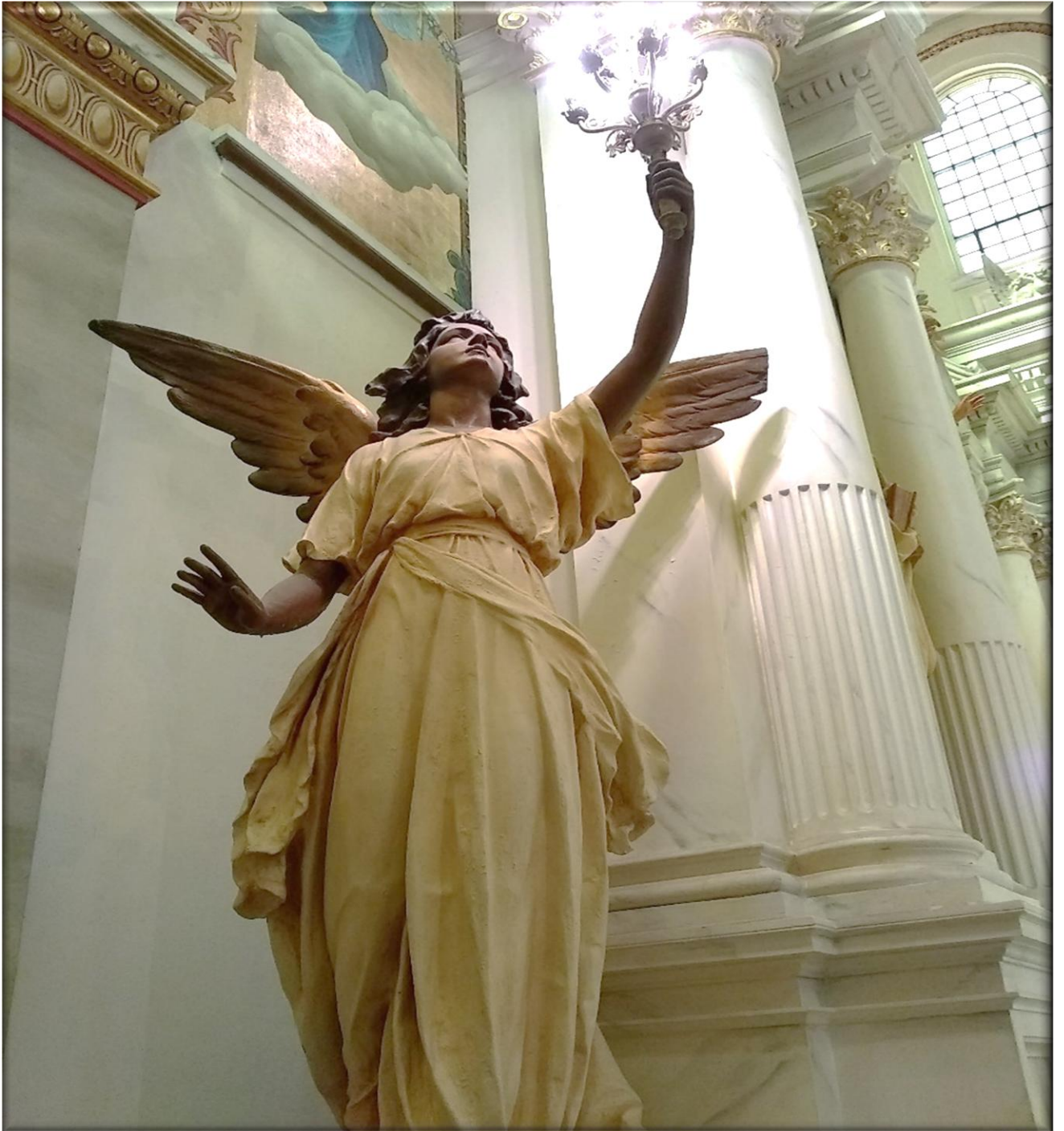

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
THE VIGIL

Sunday, January 04, 2026 (Year A)

The Epiphany of The Lord



Thoughts for Today's Readings "With a Prayer..."

Sunday Food for Your Soul

King

The Wise Men, or "Magi," cross into one more kingdom in their long journey. Courteously they visit the monarch of that kingdom, not knowing he was the infamous Herod, whom they could have avoided. I suppose every amenity took place: formal welcome, diplomatic over-do, huge meals, fine drinks. Such excesses had to take place even in a commonplace kingdom. Finally, when the moment arrives, they pose their question. "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have read the signs and know of his birth." They trust Herod for truth, since, obviously, this infant will be the next in line from Herod.

What seems to them like a sincere question strikes terror into the Herodian heart. He maintains his diplomatic balance, temporizing, but with a promise to find the answer. He skillfully ends the meeting for that night. But, within him are the words, Newborn King? NO, NO, NO! I AM THE KING! My lineage is the answer to this menacing child. Herod's insides shout for him to do something!

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

What seems to them like a sincere question strikes terror into the Herodian heart.

Do something!

He goes to the chief priests and scribes and charms them with what he presents as an idle interest, an "honest" question. Do you experts, busy studying day and night, do you know anything about the predicted Messiah figure we used to hope for? I wonder, if he were to be born today, where that would be?

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they respond, where the great King David was born. These experts know the scriptures well, as Herod does not. This Messiah will be David's successor, shepherd of the people Israel, fulfillment of everything the Hebrew people had awaited for centuries.

The Herodian head swirls. At last he forms a plan. Find him and kill him.

Herod will designate the town for these Magi and they will search out and find the baby!

He makes his way across the halls and utters the words, "Bethlehem is the place! The child is in Bethlehem! All you have to do is find him. Oh, and of course, let me know where he is. Why? So that I too may do him homage."

The homage Herod has in mind is death. His lust for power will banish the command of love in order for him to stay in control. He is most willing to compete directly even with God and with the newborn Christ. *Notice, he is accepting the same deal Satan will offer to Jesus in the desert thirty years later. That offer was, "you can control the whole world if you will only fall down and worship me. Help me defeat God." Satan too was a power-monger.*

The funny thing is that, for Jesus, "power" is not at all the same thing Herod and Satan are grabbing for. For their part they want to become bigger and bigger, to stretch beyond infinity. His goal is to become less and less, to become transparent, just as love is.

Heavy selfish greed is being offered, but it cannot demolish this heavenly plan. It surely can seem to. To Herod it certainly seems to.

The child's weakness shows what God has in mind as an answer to evil: *tender, unfearing openness to love.*

In our sinfulness, we scoff at such a plan. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus will never win, will they? Evil will triumph in the end, won't it? The cross will do what Herod could not, but that Satan could.

Will it?

Maybe Christmas is our down-payment on the cross!

John Foley, SJ
St. Louis University

Sunday Community Dinners... As one of our most important ministries to our members and neighbors, we have been blessed. We are in need of more. If you and your group would like to sponsor a meal, please contact Georgia Kingsley via the rectory. **Today Sunday, January 4, 2026: The Villanueva, Caplan, and Bell Family; January 11, 2026: Angie Kadowaki & Family; January 18, 2026: Parish Council; January 25, 2026: St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans; February 1, 2026: The Rosary Group; February 8, 2026: Patty Gillis and Crew; February 15, 2026: Kim & Steve Llorens**

Nativity Pantry News: We are so grateful for your continued support of the pantry. Next week we add more items again, but for now, Family Size Peanut Butter is our greatest need.



Prayer for Epiphany Sunday

“God of surprises and gifts, you revealed yourself as a newborn baby and, with a star, you led the peoples of earth to worship Jesus, your only Son: lead us to see you face-to-face, and help us to discover our gifts and talents so that we may offer them up to you and your service. Let us be Jesus’s light in the world today.

Amen.”

****Please pick up an Epiphany House Blessing Bag after mass from the back table.****

Epiphany Sunday in the Catholic Church

What do we celebrate at Epiphany?

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, also known as Three Kings Day, falls on Sunday, January 4, 2026. In the Catholic tradition, Epiphany was always celebrated on January 6, beginning with the 1970 liturgical year (which commenced on November 30, 1969), the feast was moved in the United States (and elsewhere in the Latin-Rite Church) to the first Sunday following January 1 (i.e., from January 2-8 inclusive).

How Long Is Epiphany?

Epiphany occurs during the Christmas season. It begins on January 5th and lasts until the following Sunday, January 12th. So, keep your trees up!

How Does Epiphany Relate to the Three Wise Men or Magi?

Although little is known about the Three Wise Men, tradition provides us with their names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The Epiphany celebrates the moment Christ, the ultimate gift, was made known to the Three Wise Men and thus the Gentiles. Their journey is central to the Feast of the Three Kings 2025, highlighting the global acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah.

Catholic Epiphany Tradition

Tradition venerates the Three Wise Men as saints, including because they not only recognized Christ but also revealed him to the world. Their visit symbolizes the Gentiles finding Jesus (Isa. 11:10; Matt. 28:18-20) and expressing, through their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, who he is: King, God, and Savior (Isa. 60:6; Matt. 2:11). In doing so, they show that Christ himself is the greatest gift to all humanity.

What Does “Epiphany” Mean, and What Do the Gifts Brought to Jesus Symbolize?

The term “Epiphany,” based on the Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “revelation,” commemorates key events in the life of Christ: the visitation of the Three Wise Men, the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, and Christ’s first public miracle at Cana. Each reflects a moment of divine revelation.

The Magi and the Star of Bethlehem

The Three Wise Men or Magi, often depicted as kings, witnessed the sudden appearance of a new and brilliant star (the Star of Bethlehem). This bright light indicated to the Magi the birth of an important person: in fact, a king. They didn’t literally follow the star as legend repeats. Rather, they journeyed to Jerusalem and asked Herod, “Where is the newborn king?” They were told Bethlehem. So the Magi then headed toward the star.

Gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh which symbolize:

Gold: Christ’s kingship.

Frankincense: His divinity.

Myrrh: His future sacrifice and death on the cross.

**PRAY FOR THE
HEALING PRESENCE**

Jean-Marie Allion
Anderson and Miller Family
Paul Andrecovich
Kathy Ayoub
Mary Canaday
Jane Colombo
Kyle Duker
Jim Dutkiewicz
Doris Franklin
Anna Grabowski
Nancy Hayes
Jim Howard
Evelyn Hughes
Bertha Jackson-Hyde
Michelle Koss
Steve Lamendola
Michael Martin
Jacqueline Morant
Gloria Parham
Ronald Parham
Vertis Park, Sr.
Earlene Park-Williams
Orlando Richardson
Aaron Scott
Cherise Sweeney
Jonathan Taylor
Tommy Traylor
Anna Tyler
Guillerma Villanueva
Eldora White

Please call the rectory at 313-331-0253 to let us know when a name should be added to or removed from the list. Names will stay on the list for 3 months, but can be continued if we are notified of the wishes to do so.

MASS INTENTIONS

January 4, 2026
Dr. Robert Preuss

January 11, 2026
**Patricia Sweeting
Carolyn Loring
James Callahan**

January 18, 2026
Michael Ayoub

January 25, 2026
**Fr. Dan Trapp
Joyce Carson
Carolyn Carson**

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 60: 1-6
(Glory of God's Church)

Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
(The Messiah-King)

Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6
(Good News for All)

Matthew 2: 2
(Leading Star)

Matthew 2: 1-12
(Magi with Gifts)

**The Holy Father's Intentions
for the Month of
January 2026**

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Jan. 05: First John 3: 22 – 4: 6; Psalm 2: 7bc-8, 10-11; Matthew 4: 23; Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25

Tues., Jan. 06: First John 4: 7-10; Psalm 72: 1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Luke 4: 18; Mark 6: 34-44

Wed., Jan. 07: First John 4: 11-18; Psalm 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13; First Timothy 3: 16; Mark 6: 45-52

Thurs., Jan. 08: First John 4: 19 – 5: 4; Psalm 72: 1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Luke 4: 18; Luke 4: 14-22

Fri., Jan. 09: First John 5: 5-13; Psalm 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Matthew 4: 23; Luke 5: 12-16

Sat., Jan. 10: First John 5: 14-21; Psalm 149: 1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b; Matthew 4: 16; John 3: 22-30

Sun., Jan. 11: First John 5: 14-21; Psalm 149: 1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b; Matthew 4: 16; John 3: 22-30

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Stewardship Gratitude

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”
MATTHEW 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called in Stewardship to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

**COLLECTION INFO
12-28-2025**

Collection \$9,228.58
Online \$1,617.00

TOTAL \$10,845.58

Parish Nurse News and Notes December

2025 Keeping Healthy Hands During the Holiday Season

As we enter the busy month of December, our hands are everywhere—preparing meals, wrapping gifts, greeting loved ones, and serving in our church community. It's a joyful season, but also a time when colds, flu, and other infections spread easily. One of the simplest and most effective ways to protect ourselves and those around us is **good hand washing**.

Why it matters:

Clean hands help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory and stomach illnesses. Many infections are passed when we touch shared surfaces—doorknobs, pews, hymnals—and then touch our faces. Hand washing interrupts that cycle.

When to wash:

- Before eating or preparing food
- After using the restroom
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose
- After visiting someone who is ill
- When you return home from church, school, or shopping

How to wash well:

Use warm water and soap, scrub all parts of your hands for **20 seconds** (the time it takes to pray the Lord's Prayer or sing "Happy Birthday"), rinse thoroughly, and dry completely. When soap and water aren't available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

As we celebrate the light of Christ this Advent and Christmas season, let's keep our hands clean and our hearts open—caring for our health and for one another.

Blessings on a healthy and hopeful December! God Bless.

Mary Catherine Wright RN
Parish Nurse

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

We guide children in their faith journey through engaging lessons, Sacrament preparation, Scripture stories, prayer, and meaningful activities rooted in Catholic life.

Christmas Season

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us. (Taken from USCCB)

Please Note

Liturgical dates for Christmas Season:
Dec. 24, 2025 - Jan. 4, 2026.

Key Dates:

- **Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025**
10:45am before Mass, Family Formation Meeting with Parents & children
 - Youth Mass at 11:30am
- **Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026**
 - YFACT SERVICE DAY for MLK day
- **Sunday, February 1, 2026**
 - RISE Detroit 2026 Mercy High School for teens

Contact Info

- Interested in Registering?
- If you would like to sign up or need sacraments
please contact:
Barbara Taylor



"BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!
DO NOT FEAR NOR BE DISMAYED,
FOR THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO."
JOSHUA 1:9

UNAFRAID RISE

A GATHERING OF HIGH
SCHOOL YOUTH

DATE:

**Sunday, February 1, 2026
8:15 a.m. – 7:15 p.m.**

COST:

\$35

Merch available for \$5-10

FEATURING:

Chika Anyanwu

MASS WITH:

Archbishop Weisenburger

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI
[AOD.ORG/RISE](https://aod.org/RISE)



Christmas Eve Mass



St. Charles Youth







Christmas Eve Mass

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our St. Charles Church Christmas play possible.

We are especially grateful for the dedication, creativity, and support of our Religious Education program, our Dearing Detroit Dancers, and our generous church parishioners that helped provide our children with the gifts they received. Your time, talent, and commitment helped bring the joy, meaning, and spirit of Christmas to life for our church community.

We are truly blessed by each of you.



Detroit Eastside Family Parish Information and Mass Times

St Charles Borromeo Detroit
1491 Baldwin
Detroit, MI 48214
313-331-0253

www.stcharlesborromeodetroit.org
stcharlesborromeodetroit@yahoo.com

Sunday: 11:30am
Friday: 11am in rectory
Live Stream & YouTube

Nativity of Our Lord
5900 McClellan
Detroit, MI 48213
313-922-0033

www.nativitydetroit.org
nativityol@sbcglobal.net

Sunday 9:30am
Thursday: Holy Hour 8am; Mass 9am
Live Stream and YouTube

St Augustine & St Monica
4151 Seminole
Detroit, MI 48214
313-921-4107

www.saintamparish.org
office@saintamparish.org

Sunday: 10am
Wednesday: 9am

St. Jude
15889 Seven Mile E ·
Detroit, MI 48205
313-527-0380

stjudedetroit.org
Sunday: 10:30am
Saturday: 4pm

Sacred Heart
1000 Eliot St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-831-1356

www.sacredheartdetroit.com
info@sacredheart.com

Sunday: 8am and 10am
Tuesday: 5pm
Saturday: 5pm

St. Elizabeth
3138 E. Canfield St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-921-9225

www.stelizabethdetroit.org
saintelizabethchurchofdetroit@gmail.com

Sunday: 12:00pm

St. Raymond – Our Lady of Good Council
20103 Joann
Detroit, MI 48205
313-527-0525

www.straymondolg.org
Sunday: 10:30am
Tuesday: 8:30am
Thursday: 8:30am

Our Lady Queen of Heaven/Good Shepherd
8200 Rolyat St.
Detroit, MI 48234
313-891-4553

ourladyofgoodshepherd.org
Sunday: 9am
Tuesday: 10:30am
Thursday: 10:30am
Friday: 10:30am
Saturday: 4pm

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Parish Office Closed	2 Mass in Rectory 11am	3
4 Epiphany of the Lord 11:30am Mass <i>Community Meal</i> Diabetes Class	5 Parish Office Reopens	6 PGC On- Line Session 6pm	7 NO Bible Study	8	9 Mass in Rectory 11am	10
11 The Baptism of the Lord 11:30am Mass <i>Community Meal</i> <i>Christmas Decorations Come Down</i> Diabetes Class	12	13	14 NO Bible Study PGC On- Line Session 6pm Holy Hour for Archdiocesan Restructuring—Cathedral of the Most Blessed Blessed Sacrament 7pm	15	16 Mass in Rectory 11am	17
18 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 11:30am Mass <i>Community Meal</i> Diabetes Class	19 Annual Justice & Peace Mass—Cathedral of the Most Blessed Blessed Sacrament (MLK Day) 11am	20	21 Bible Study Resumes 6-7pm	22 PGC On- Line Session 6pm	23 Mass in Rectory 11am	24
25 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 11:30am Mass <i>Community Meal</i> Diabetes Class	26	27	28 Bible Study Resumes 6-7pm	29	30 Mass in Rectory 11am	31

St Charles Borromeo

1491 Baldwin St., Detroit, MI 48214
(313) 331-0253 (Fax 313-331-4834)

St. Charles Office Hours:

Monday, 10am to 3pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9am to 4pm
Friday, 9am to 3pm

Pastoral Team

Fr. Francis Asomkase, SSJ, Priest in Solidum and Moderator
Fr. Richard Baumann, Priest in Solidum
Reverend Charles Nwamadi, SSJ, Priest in Solidum
Fr. David Preuss, OFM, CAP, Priest in Solidum
Deacon Joseph Jones
Edward Cotton – Mission Support Director
Rhonda Gilbert – Pastoral Associate
Joan Jacobs & Angie Kadowaki – Boulevard Ministry Ministers
Mary Catherine Wright – Parish Nurse

Council Members: Naim Edwards (Chairperson), Angela Kadawaki, Dennis Ballard (Vice-Chairperson), Patricia Ballard, Alex Grabowski, Marian Harvey (Secretary), Freddie Henry, Mary Ellen Howard, Bruce McDonald, Mikhail Perkins, Richard Preuss, Linda Simpkins

**AOD Restructuring
St. Charles Parish
Leaders**

Doris Allen
Alex Grabowski
Joan Jacobs
Bruce McDonald
Richard Preuss

**Parish Point Person of
Contact**

Rhonda Gilbert

St. Charles Mission Statement

St. Charles Borromeo, a diverse urban parish of Detroit, is rooted in Christ's Gospel and Catholic tradition. We strive to build a community of faith through education, worship, and evangelization. We are called to carry on Christ's ministry to our brothers and sisters, especially the sick and their families, the elderly, youth, and the disabled. With Mary as our example of unconditional love, we strive to welcome everyone to share joyfully in the peace, love and salvation of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that it is the Holy Spirit who calls and empowers us, who strengthens and renews us, and who gives us the will to continue our mission, until Jesus comes.

St Charles Website: www.stcharlesdetroit.org
Email: stcharlesborromeodetroit@yahoo.com

Facebook: St. Charles Borromeo Parish - Detroit MI
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@st.charlesborromeodetroit



Online Giving

Go to the giving site at:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stcharlesdetroit>