

Trinity Times

Most Holy Trinity Parish

Advent 2025

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GREETINGS FROM CORKTOWN

St. Frances Cabrini Clinic in Corktown Celebrates 75 Years!

Throughout his time as pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish, Msgr. Clem Kern founded several nonprofit organizations to help the poor and suffering and created fundraisers to support them. Several of these organizations and fundraisers still exist today.

In the 1940s with the influx of immigrants, Msgr. Kern realized that they did not have access to healthcare. Beginning in 1946 he sought to establish a free medical clinic. The clinic opened on March 23, 1950. He named it after St. Frances Cabrini, who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) that provides education and healthcare to the poor. She was the first American to be canonized a saint in 1946 and was named patroness of immigrants in 1950. Our clinic is the oldest free medical clinic in the United States.

Throughout most of its history the clinic has been served and managed by volunteers trained in the medical profession. Dr. Karl Kolbe has been the volunteer medical director for many years.

When Sr. Mary Ellen Howard, the unpaid clinic manager, retired, the clinic hired a lay person as a paid director. Soon it became clear that the clinic could not afford to pay a director.

Soon after my arrival in April 2016, I incorporated the clinic as its own legal nonprofit. Dan Hale and I arranged for Trinity Health to begin to manage the clinic in 2018. I also established an endowment to help subsidize the expenses of the clinic. Trinity Health gave an annual grant from a special fund to pay for their employees and to support services.

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan is the new managing agency with Elisa Alvarez as the new director. If you know a medical professional who is willing to help one evening a month or other volunteers to assist in supporting roles, please contact us. More about the clinic is on page 2.

Our December is busy with the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Another event founded by Msgr. Kern is the annual Children's Christmas Party on the second Saturday of December. More details are on page 3. I encourage you to volunteer or donate to this awesome event.

Peace,
Msgr. Chuck Kosanke
Pastor



CABRINI CLINIC: 75 YEARS OF HOPE AND CARE

For 75 years, the St. Frances Cabrini Clinic has been carrying out Msgr. Clement Kern's vision of a place where Detroit's poor and vulnerable could find medical care. On Oct. 27, the Cabrini Clinic — now under the administrative care of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan — celebrated 75 years on the campus of Most Holy Trinity Parish with a rededication and blessing from Detroit Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger.



Msgr. Kern, affectionately known as Detroit's "labor priest," wanted to create a free clinic for the city's poor and immigrant communities, and set out to do just that. "In 1946, Msgr. Kern noticed that a lot of people, especially immigrants, did not have access to health care," said Msgr. Chuck Kosanke. "Now, keep in mind that Medicaid did not come in until 1965, so this was almost 20 years before that. There were no safety nets. It wasn't easy, because once you start dealing with medicine, even then, there were some regulations to deal with. But he opened up the clinic in 1950."

The Cabrini Clinic initially operated out of Most Holy Trinity's school building before moving into the parish's former convent in 2008. For decades, the clinic operated as a ministry of Most Holy Trinity Parish, until Msgr. Kosanke established it as an independent 501c3. An endowment fund was created to cover operational costs of the clinic, which relies on volunteer health care providers to see patients. Earlier this month, an agreement was reached with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, which will handle the administrative side of the clinic going forward.

While the Corktown neighborhood has seen growth in recent years, "The clinic is still needed, and we're trying to develop plans to expand it," Msgr. Kosanke said. "There are still a lot of people who are homeless and others are uninsured, so they come here."

Archbishop Weisenburger blessed the clinic and thanked staff and volunteers for their work in serving those most in need. "I love the sacramental life of the Church," he said. "I love the celebration of the Eucharist, the prayer life, and the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. I love all of those pieties. But what deeply warms my heart is the reason those pieties exist, which is to care for Christ found most beautifully in the poor."

The Cabrini Clinic will continue to provide free family and internal medicine to clients in need. The clinic hopes to incorporate maternal care as it works to expand services.

Paul Propson, CEO of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, said the hope is to position the clinic to build upon its history of providing care for people in need and that they "are here to do whatever the volunteers cannot do themselves, from paying the bills to identifying Elisa [Alvarez] as the leader of the clinic, who is a terrific social worker and professional who is going to be doing fundraising on Cabrini Clinic's behalf and recruiting and managing volunteers to make sure they are the most effective in providing care."

Excerpted from the Detroit Catholic article by Dan Meloy.

SAVE THE DATE Championship Day Sunday, Jan. 25

The 21st annual fundraiser to benefit youth sports at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Academy is just around the corner.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us at Nemo's Bar on January 25 from 2 – 6 p.m. for a fun afternoon of games, food, beer and the AFC/NFC Championship games.

Tickets: MHTdetroit.org/events

Clinic Volunteers Needed

Clinic Hours

Tuesday 5-7: Internal Medicine
Wednesday 2-5: Mental Health
Thursday 1-4 and 5-7: Internal Medicine

Need all levels of volunteers: MD, DO, RN, NP, PA, medical assistants and pharmacists. Even one shift a month would be appreciated.

Email: mvc@cabriniclinic.org

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Spanish
11 a.m. English

Weekday Masses are offered at our sister parish, the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Friday, December 12

8:00am - Mañanitas
9:00am - School Mass
5:00pm - English Mass

Most Holy Trinity to Host 63rd Annual Children's Christmas Party

As your family prepares for Christmas, so is Most Holy Trinity Parish. One of our signature outreach events is our Children's Christmas Party. This event, which was started by Msgr. Clement Kern and a group of devoted philanthropists in 1962, ensures that 500 children from the Southwest Detroit community will experience Christmas joy.

Every year, children ages 5 - 10 visit Santa and then receive a bag of gifts that includes a stuffed animal, a toy, underclothes, socks and a jacket with a hat and gloves. For many of these children they are the only Christmas gifts they receive. The children also decorate cookies, enjoy face painting, work on crafts and generally have a great time!

Pulling off a party for 500 children is no easy task. We are incredibly grateful to our event chair, Tanya Caruana, and her dedicated committee for all their hard work planning and executing the event. We are also very grateful to those who support this party every year with their dollars and their time. If you would like to get involved by volunteering or making a donation, please use the QR codes below. The deadline to volunteer is November 30.

The 2025 party will take place on Saturday, December 13 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the IBEW Hall at 1358 Abbott Street, Detroit, just down the block from Most Holy Trinity Church.

VOLUNTEER
ON DEC. 14



DONATE TO
THIS YEAR'S PARTY



OR GO TO
MHTDETROIT.ORG/EVENTS



TRINITY WEDDINGS

Host your wedding at historic Most Holy Trinity Parish. Our beautiful, air-conditioned church in the heart of the city is the perfect place for your perfect day.

Start planning at MHTdetroit.org or email Weddings@MHTdetroit.org.



Thank You, Fr. John!

Fr. John Herman has been reassigned to St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Allen Park and will leave us on Jan. 1. We will miss him very much, and we are incredibly grateful for his time at Trinity. He has been a true blessing to our community. Fr. John's temporary replacement will be Fr. Zaid Chabaan, who will be with us until July 1. Please join us in welcoming him. A permanent replacement will be named in the coming weeks.

MHTCA Receives Catholic Foundation of Michigan Grant

Most Holy Trinity Catholic Academy (MHTCA) has received a grant from the Catholic Foundation of Michigan to support the final phase of its Blended Learning curriculum implementation.

This school year, MHTCA will complete a multi-year effort to integrate Blended Learning into every classroom. The initiative began when the Innovation in Digital Education and Leadership Institute at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) selected MHTCA as one of its Blended Learning Partnership Schools. The school invested in three years of professional training for teachers through LMU.

The new grant will help MHTCA acquire classroom tools that will allow teachers to fully implement the Blended Learning model. This approach combines traditional instruction with technology-driven, personalized learning, enhancing the educational experience for current students while helping the school attract new families and continue its mission of faith-based academic excellence.

SAVE THE DATE
The 191st Celebration of
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
at Most Holy Trinity Parish
Tuesday, March 17
12pm Mass
1:30pm Party in the "Trinity Pub"
Ticket sales open in January.



Most Holy Trinity Parish
1050 Porter Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Founded in 1834 to minister to the people of Detroit and dedicated to the service of our merciful and loving God, Most Holy Trinity Parish is a community of missionary disciples that provides corporal and spiritual care to people in need.

313.965.4450 www.mhtdetroit.org @MHTdetroit



YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE What Matters *Most.*

- Detroit's Downtown Catholic School Since 1838
- Affordable tuition with financial aid available
- Small class sizes and caring teachers
- Diverse student body - All races, faiths and backgrounds welcome
- Daily before and after school care
- Rigorous curriculum and high academic standards
- Free tutoring in math and reading during school hours
- Athletics and extra-curricular activities

OPEN HOUSE • SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 • 11AM - 2PM



**MOST HOLY TRINITY
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

LEARN MORE OR
SCHEDULE A TOUR
VISIT MHTACADEMY.ORG
313.961-8855

