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THE MONROE NEWS

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In 2021, Father Zaid Chabaan offered his first Mass as a priest at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Monroe. Also shown are Deacon Mike Stewart, left, and Deacon Aaron Poyer. St. John would not hold weekend Masses in at least one of AOD's proposed restructuring models.

PROVIDED BY HEATHER WILSON OF SNAP HAPPY PHOTOGRAPHY

AOD plan could reshape local Catholic churches

Suzanne Nolan Wisler
The Monroe News | USA TODAY NETWORK

At least 58 Catholic parishes across southeast Michigan, including four in Monroe County, might not hold weekend Masses in the future, according to draft models recently released by the Archdiocese of Detroit as part of its restructuring plan.

Changes would begin in 2027. A parishioner survey is open through July 31.

In November 2025, the AOD, led by Archbishop Edward Weisenburger, announced a two-year restructuring plan that will affect every parish in southeast Michigan. The AOD has roughly 200 parish buildings.

The archdiocese said restructuring is necessary to sustain the church in a time of fewer priests, financial issues, aging buildings and decreasing Mass attendance and requests for sacraments.

Monroe County, which is Planning Area 5 in the restructuring plan, has 10 parishes with a total of 12 worship sites and four schools. The number of registered Catholics has decreased 31% in the county since 2010, according to AOD.

The Archdiocese of Detroit already released draft restructuring models for most of its 15 planning areas, including Monroe County. The remaining area models

See **CHURCHES**, Page 3A

Softball coach considers legal action after termination

Connor Veenstra
The Monroe News | USA TODAY NETWORK

Mason Consolidated Schools' former varsity softball coach is pursuing legal action after she said she was fired on Tuesday, June 9. Angie Gerber said she

See **GERBER**, Page 3A

MCCU's Jordan Baehr named Michigan Team Member of the Year

Janis Reeser
The Monroe News | USA TODAY NETWORK

Jordan Baehr, manager of innovation at Monroe Community Credit Union, has been named Team Member of the Year by the Michigan Credit Union League.

Baehr received the award at the league's annual convention in Grand Rapids, according to a community announcement.

The award recognizes Baehr's contributions to innovation, collaboration and operational improvement at the credit union.

"Jordan's recognition as Team Member of the Year is a reflection of the impact he makes every day at MCCU," Kristine Brenner, president and CEO of Monroe Community Credit Union, said in the announcement. "His ability to combine practical problem-solving with a forward thinking mindset has helped strengthen our team and advance our mission. We are proud to see his contributions recognized on a statewide stage, and even more proud of the example he sets for collaboration, dependability and innovation."

See **BAEHR**, Page 3A



Jordan Baehr, manager of innovation at Monroe Community Credit Union, has been named Team Member of the Year by the Michigan Credit Union League. PROVIDED BY MONROE COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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