



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

# NEWS

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## Bishop Bradley honors Kalamazoo County shooting victims at Mass

**February 22, 2016 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.):** Hundreds from around Southwest Michigan filled St. Augustine Cathedral today for the 12:10 p.m. daily Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The Mass was dedicated to the six victims of the tragic shootings of February 20<sup>th</sup> in Kalamazoo County as well as those injured and traumatized by the events. In addition Bishop Bradley called for all people to pray for peace and an end to violence.

Bishop Bradley acknowledged the collective shock rippling through the community during his homily.

“As we gather together our hearts are saddened by the news of the tragic shootings that took place in our community last evening, taking the lives of six innocent people, leaving two people in critical condition, and an entire community feeling traumatized,” he said.

“We come together to place all of our worries, sorrows, fears and all our questions in God’s Hands. He is the one who knows the answers to all our questions; He is the one who will give us the comfort and consolation for which we all long.”

In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy Bishop Bradley called for today’s Mass to be dedicated to the victims. The names of the six victims were recited as the congregation prayed collectively.

The full text of Bishop Bradley’s homily for the Mass can be found [here](#).

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The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes as well as 23 Catholic schools. [www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org](http://www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org).