



Everything Michigan

Irish Festival's Switchback will perform at Muskegon church fundraiser

Published: Friday, January 21, 2011, 7:09 AM Updated: Friday, January 21, 2011, 7:31 AM



By **Megan Hart** | **The Muskegon Chronicle**

MUSKEGON — Our Lady of Grace is planning a feast for both the ears and stomach to raise money for the hungry.

Irish-style band **Switchback** will perform at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at 1 p.m. Sunday to raise money to feed the hungry.



Chronicle file photo

Martin McCormick is shown during a Switchback performance at the 2007 Michigan Irish Music Festival.

"It'll really be a treat," Our Lady of Grace parishioner Greg Russick said. "We'll be able to break bread with a lot of people and enjoy this band that people flock to every Irish Fest."

Russick and his wife, Penny, are members of the church's Contemporary Music Ministry Group, which had played Mass with Switchback for the Michigan Irish Music Festival.

Kevin Donovan, site director of the Michigan Irish Music Festival and a member of the group, said he and his wife

had seen Switchback perform a Mass in Illinois, followed by a secular concert at a neighboring school.

He said Switchback members Marty McCormick and Brian Fitzgerald had offered to do the same this weekend while in town for a private show, and the church wanted to turn the concert into an opportunity to reach out to the community.

The Contemporary Music Ministry Group gets paid a small stipend for performing outside the church, Russick said, and used some of it to purchase a food truck. The music ministry plans to match the first \$1,000 the concert and brunch raises.

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Fundraising brunch with Switchback performance

"God has given us tremendous gifts and we would like to give back," he said.

The church will sell about 250 tickets, Donovan said. If all of the \$15 tickets sell, it will raise about \$5,000 with the \$1,000 match.

"We had to reasonably limit ourselves so we could serve them brunch and get them back in the church," he said.

Ted Cerniglia, owner of Teddy Spaghetti's Italian restaurant and an Our Lady of Grace parishioner, said he will prepare brunch. The brunch will include corned beef and potatoes, as well as breakfast foods, fruit and pastries.

Everyone is welcome at Mass, Russick said, but those who feel uncomfortable or attend other churches can just go to the brunch and concert.

"You don't have to be Catholic," he said. "We want to help the people of Muskegon. There'll be no profits going to the church."

Russick said Switchback's work is liturgically correct, and the contemporary music ministry group had used some of it for Mass at Our Lady of Grace before.

Russick said the church will set a date for distributing the food after the concert at Our Lady of Grace and at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 3252 Apple.

"I'm hoping it's this winter, because people are struggling enough with heating bills," he said.

E-mail: mhart@muskegonchronicle.com

• **When:** Sunday; Mass is 11 a.m., brunch is at noon and the concert is 1 p.m.

• **Where:** Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 495 S. Getty

• **Tickets:** \$15 includes brunch; available at the church after 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday and after 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday

© 2011 MLive.com. All rights reserved.