



Holy Smokes

EST 2019 BBQ COMPETITION

Each year, friends and supporters of Catholic Charities West Michigan fire up their barbecue pits to gather and raise funds for our St. Gianna No Cost Baby Boutique at our annual Holy Smokes Barbecue Competition!

At this lively event, our community will gather to taste, savor, and vote for their favorite barbecue entries from local restaurants and teams. Craft brews, yard games, and live entertainment will round out the event to provide an evening of competitive fun. Our sixth annual Holy Smokes event will be held on Saturday May 16, 2026 at Pigeon Hill Brewing Company in downtown Muskegon, beginning at 4:00 PM.



We invite you to take a very special role in supporting Muskegon babies and toddlers by competing in Holy Smokes!

Your team or establishment will be featured in our traditional marketing materials, across all social media platforms, and on individual signage at your barbecue station. Teams will also be recognized in the event program, which reaches more than 600 attendees. Your participation directly benefits the children and families served through our St. Gianna No Cost Baby Boutique in Muskegon.

We are thrilled to share that US Foods is generously sponsoring all the meat for this year's competition. Each participating team will have the opportunity to choose chicken or pork for their entry. To secure your selection, please be sure to complete the participation form—meat choices will be honored on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact Sarah Stechschulte, Interim Director of Development, at sstechschulte@ccwestmi.org or at (616) 551-5663. We hope you'll consider being part of this meaningful and memorable event.

On behalf of the thousands of individuals and families we serve at Catholic Charities West Michigan, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Sarah Stechschulte, Interim Director of Development
Catholic Charities West Michigan



Participation Checklist

Thank you for joining us at 2026 Holy Smokes BBQ Competition on May 16th!

Please submit the following by Monday, April 6th at the latest:

- Logo
- BBQ Equipment checklist (attached)
- Temporary Food License application (attached)

In compliance with the health department, it is required that each team apply for a temporary food license, in order to prepare food on site. Please return to Sarah Stechschulte via email or mail. Once it is returned, we will submit it to the health department, along with payment. We will cover the license. If you have any questions about the license, please contact the Food Service Licensing Office at (231) 724-4406.

We Provide...

Catholic Charities West Michigan will provide each team with:

- (2) 8' tables
- (1) 10' x 10' pop up tent
- (2) Complimentary tickets for the event
- Trash containers
- Menu sign
- Plates and utensils



U.S. Foods will provide the meat (choice of either pork or chicken) for each team:

- Selection will be on a first confirmed (registration paperwork completed and in-hand), first choice, basis
- We have availability for 4 teams to prepare chicken and 3 teams to prepare pork

Each BBQ team will receive cans of beer from Pigeon Hill Brewing Company to use as an optional ingredient in sauces or sides. Please be mindful of allergies—such as gluten-free needs—when incorporating beer into any preparation. Each team will be given a unique beer style to inspire their flavor profile. This optional challenge gives you the chance to win our “Best in Sauce” award presented by Pigeon Hill Brewing Company.

What You Need to Know...

- A maximum of seven (7) teams total will be competing
- Health inspections will occur on Saturday, May 16, 2026 (time TBD)
- You may arrive to cook on site beginning at 9:00 AM
- Each team MUST be checked in by 3:00 PM at the latest
- Each team MUST have at least 2 individuals on site to serve ticket holders
- Food MUST be prepared and ready to serve by 4:00 PM

We are estimating 600 attendees for the event. A week prior to the event, we will provide our presale ticket number to you as you prepare your servings. We will also provide serving containers to ensure each guest receives a 3 oz portion.

We will announce a People's Choice and Judge's choice winner at the competition. Judging will be completely digital this year.

