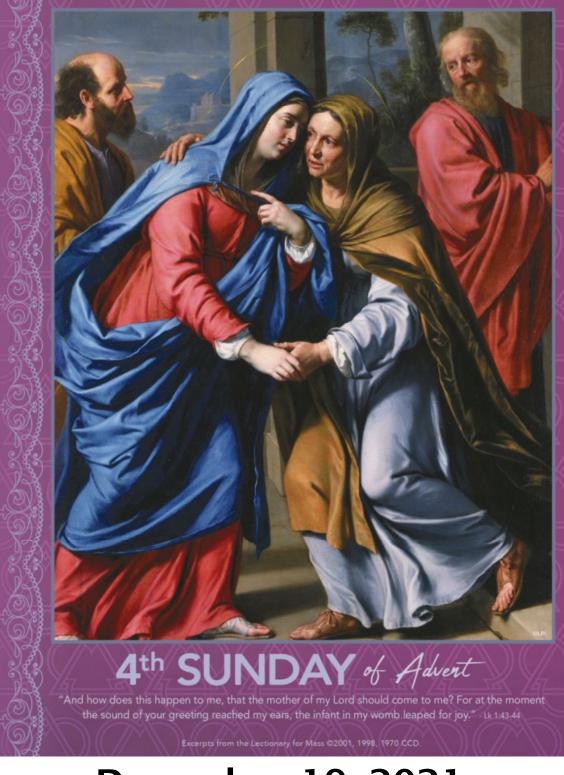
SAINT DENNIS PARISH A CATHOLIC CHURCH CENTERED ON CHRIST



December 19, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 19

- 7:30Tom Braunger9:00Members of the parish
- 10:45 Mary Birrenkott
- Monday, December 20

8:00 Don Brockman

Tuesday, December 21 8:00 Dick Sarbacker

8.00 Dick Salback

Wednesday, December 22

8:00 Deceased members of Gundlach and McCool families

Thursday, December 23

8:00 Don Martinson

Friday, December 24 - Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Ev	e
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4:00	Ron and Brad Wolf and Angie Campbell
6:00	James and Evelyn Dwyer
8:00	Archie Siebert

12:00 Dolores Coyle

Saturday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day

9:00 George Sr. and Mary Bamrough

Sunday, December 26

- 7:30 Delia Wenkman and Edwin Nelson
- 9:00 Members of the parish
- 10:45 Allie Veith

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." - Luke 1:44

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, do not blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURELast Week's Activity (December 11 and 12)Envelopes\$ 7.336Offertory change\$ 1.214Total\$ 8,540Online offertory\$ 9,882

Would you prayerfully consider treating Saint Dennis Parish as one of your children in your will/estate planning?

Give Your First Fruits
Back To God
5% to local parish
1% Annual Catholic Appeal

4% to personal charities

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

Children's Christmas Pageant Monday, December 20 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Mass Schedule Nativity of the Lord

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. (Live-streamed with closed caption) 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. (Prelude music at 7:45 p.m.) 12 Midnight

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation) 9:00 a.m. (Live-streamed with closed caption)

(There will be no 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass.)



Parish Office Christmas/New Year's Hours Thursday, December 23 and Friday, December 24 - closed Monday, December 27 - Friday, December 31 - closed Monday, January 3 - open 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Just ring our door bell.

Wishing you a joy-filled Christmas and hope-filled New Year!

THANK YOU

The Saint Vincent de Paul Drummer project was a huge success. We are overwhelmed with your generosity. Thank you from the Saint Dennis Saint Vincent de Paul Conference.

FELLOWSHIP AFTER MASSES

 December 19 (Stewardship and Saint Dennis Home and School)

BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR ARTICLES

For the January 2, 2022 bulletin, the deadline for articles is noon on **Thursday, December 23.** For the January 9, 2022 bulletin, the deadline for articles is noon on **Tuesday, January 4.**

Articles may be emailed to jchilds@stdennisparish.org or dropped off at the Parish Office.

FATHER RANDY WRITES

"Mary set out in haste." - Luke 1:39

Mary has just learned she is pregnant with the Savior of the world. To the naked eye, her pregnancy is unplanned, unexpected, and unthinkable. Mosaic Law had rules on how to handle such situations: death by stoning or to be shunned and sent away. Mary is a young teenager and now she is pregnant. What does Mary do? Sit down and talk things out with her parents? No. Talk to Joseph about what they are going to do? No. Mary, filled with the Holy Spirit, sets out in haste for the hill country of Judah.

Mary has learned that her revered relative Elizabeth is also pregnant. Thus, the 130-mile journey, south of Jerusalem, did not take Mary to Judah, it took her to Elizabeth. The Greek expression for haste denotes a driven diligence much like in 2 Peter 1:5 and Jude 1:3. Elizabeth is pregnant and needs help. Mary has a driven diligence in her haste, for she wants to be present to Elizabeth.

There is a difference between presents and *presence*. Sure, the words sound the same, but we all know they are completely different. Although Mary had a lot on her mind, she wanted to be *present* to Elizabeth. Mary wanted to be there because Mary wanted to be there. With a frenzied pace driving our lives it is hard to "be where you are." We can be with people, but because of our own haste, often times it is hard to be *present* to the people we are with. As the secular Christmas season demands more of us, our haste increases. We have more presents, but we have less *presence*.

Today, be *present* to people, not haste. Today "be where you are." Focus on people. Focus on *presence*. Focus on God's presence.

Peace, Father Randy

SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

"I do not know how to live without God, but I also feel that God, absolutely self-sufficient though He is, cannot be happy without me." (Diary, 1120)



TRUE PEACE

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice. disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard



"Life is a time for making decisive, eternal choices. Trivial choices lead to a trivial life; great choices to a life of greatness. In fact, we become what we choose. If we choose God, we grow daily in his love, and if we choose to love others, we find true happiness."

12-13-2021

for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

There is a mandatory dress rehearsal this Sunday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the church for our Christmas Pageant. The pageant will be held on Monday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

LAST MINUTE SHOPPING?

Scrip Weekends in Fellowship Hall after Masses



• December 18 and 19

🚛 Saint Dennis House Blend Coffee



Regular or decaf is available in the Parish Office. Purchase a few bags for holiday gifs or a host/ hostess gift. Cost is \$11.50 for one or the special holiday price of \$33 for three.

Do Not Know What to Give?

Bucky Books make nice gifts. A few are available in the Parish Office. Just jingle our doorbell.

December 19, 2021

"...TO SERVE THE POOR IS TO GO TO GOD ..." St. Vincent de Paul

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE AT SAINT DENNIS

- Single mother 8 months pregnant with two other small children had a fire in their apartment. Unable to work due to fire loss and reestablishing a new apartment. She was helped with new furniture and two months' rent through multiple sources.
- Single male living in car working part-time. He needed his car repaired so he could continue to go to work. He was helped with car repair.
- Single mom with school age children trying to work full-time but struggles paying for childcare. She was helped with a childcare bill.

The Saint Dennis Saint Vincent de Paul Conference has recently come to the end of its fiscal year. Although the pandemic has altered the way those in need are visited, our Conference continues to engage with our neighbors by sharing in their story and helping in many small ways. This past year the number of requests for assistance have been down but the requests were for larger amounts. The generosity of Saint Dennis Parish allowed the Conference to help people more fully with diverse needs and in greater amounts.

This past year 139 visits were made assisting 401 people. The Conference donated 1018 hours of service.

Eviction Prevention:	\$15,400	
Utility Assistance:	\$ 3,200	
Daycare:	\$ 1,300	
Auto Repair:	\$ 1,000	
Loans/Insurance:	\$ 2,700	
Dues/Operation Expenses:	\$ 800	
Gift Cards:	\$ 700	
Other:	\$ 3,600	
Donations to:		
Food Pantry/The Port:	\$ 3,500	
National Disaster Relief:	\$ 500	
Peruvian Orphanage:	\$ 800	

Total Assistance given to the poor: \$33,500 (12 months)

Although the pandemic has been an extraordinary time of exile for people, the hearts of Saint Dennis parishioners was far from exile . . . they were open wide with the charity of Christ. Continue to pray for those affected by COVID, our ministry, and whether God is calling you to go to serve the poor? Saint Vincent de Paul said, "To serve the poor is to go to God." and "There will be two of you for this work, our Lord and you, and with Him you can do all things." Take the first step to join us and contact Saint Dennis Saint Vincent de Paul: svdpstdennis@gmail.com or call 608-561-1853.

In gratitude, Susan McMahon President, Saint Dennis Saint Vincent de Paul

CARE FOR CREATION

Laudato Si' on the Incarnation In the Encyclical, Laudato Si': on Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis



encourages us to be open to awe and wonder when viewing the natural world that God created, in which He was incarnated, and of which we are part. (LS, 11)

Further, he reflects, "In the Christian understanding of the world, the destiny of all Creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ, present from the beginning: 'All things have been created through him and for him.' (Col 1:16) The prologue of the Gospel of John 1:1-18 reveals Christ's creative work as the Divine Word (Logos). But then, unexpectedly, the prologue goes on to say that this same Word 'became flesh.' (John 1:14) One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross. From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the Incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy." (LS, 99)

If you have any questions about how you can participate in Care for Creation, contact us at careforcreation@stdennisparish.org.

END OF CALENDAR YEAR REMINDER

The last regular Sunday offertory collection of the year is Sunday, December 26. To take advantage of a tax deduction for all 2021 contributions, the following guidelines are offered:

- All hand-delivered 2021 contributions may be dropped in the box to the right of the Parish Office door by Friday; December 31, 2021. The office will not be open.
- All mailed 2021 contributions must be **postmarked** by December 31, 2021.

Call Beth at 608-246-5124 for any pledge balance questions. Many thanks for all your generous support!

PORT SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL MORNING STAFF

Join our team at Saint Vincent! We help men who are at Port Saint Vincent de Paul. The position is perfect for someone looking to make a difference, on a part-time basis, and people from all walks of life are part of our team. Students are encouraged to apply! Reliable transportation is required. The compensation for the position is \$17.50 per hour plus a \$250 hiring bonus, and there are additional perks as a Saint Vincent de Paul employee. To apply, use the following link: https://www.jobsinmadison.com/j/61438622.

PARISH OFFICE

413 Dempsey Road, Madison, WI 53714-3015 Office is open but doors are locked. Just ring our door bell Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Phone: 608-246-5124

Fax: 608-246-5138 Email: office@stdennisparish.org Website: http://www.stdennisparish.org

MEMORIALS FOR CHRISTMAS

Thank you for your generous donations toward the cost of our Christmas decorations. Additional names will be published in future bulletins.

In Memory of ...

Requested by

Alvin and Gertie Ebert Erick Duffev Barbara Bahr Barbara Clark William Dyer Tom and Gordon Taylor Cunningham and Stewart families Therese and Terry Stewart John Hario Colleen Hario Bernard Delka William Kelley Wayne Zach The Baudhuin and Houfe families Jeff and Lisa Baudhuin Glen Gard Kathy Scott Vic and Betty Lochner Al and Margaret Olson Rvan Seversin John and Mary Metcalf Larry and June Derreberry Allie Veith **Betty Veith** Niel and Caryl Rossmaessler Frank and Barbara Subak Eugene and Dorothy Murphy Jean Beisser Donald C. Brinkmeier Lyle and Sheryl Schroeder Patrick LeMire Wayne and Ruth Bischel Modjeski family Thompson Bartsch family Chuck and Ed DeVault George Glynn Luetta and William Grueter Stella Hajec The Di Loreto family Mary Tierney Wally and Marion Larsen Emil and Dorothy Pronschinske **Tierney family** Mihm family Carol McKnight

Mary Ebert Mary Ebert Karen Clark Karen Clark Dona Dyer Dar Taylor Paul Hario Paul Hario Ron and M. Jane Kelley Ron and M. Jane Kelley **Dolores Zach** Greg Gard Wendy, Tommy, Carly and Avery Mary Lochner Olson Mary Lochner Olson Michael Seversin John and Patti Metcalf John and Patti Metcalf Joe and Chris Veith family Joe and Chris Veith family Their children and grandchildren Doug and Yvonne Subak Doug and Yvonne Subak Chris Beisser Carol A. Brinkmeier Schroeders Patrick LeMire Gordon and Lynne Bischel Al and Mary Kay Thompson Al and Mary Kay Thompson Cheryl DeVault Ed and Janice Glynn Ed and Janice Glvnn Jacob Hajec Diane Woodbridge Char Bessa Ken and Mary Pronschinske Ken and Mary Pronschinske Lofgren family Lofgren family Lofgren family Lofgren family

Dave "Mr. Dave" St. John Larry and Sam Christie Cullen and Wirtz families Virginia Besler **Donald Hanby** Gena Williams Ron and Brad Wolf Angie Campbell Albert, Lucille and Lloyd Ludkey

Clifford and Ella LaCrosse

In Memory of . . .

Donald Taylor Roger Gausmann Virnig family Taylor family Marilvn and Shervl Grzenia Nelson, Don and Viola Huxtable Tom Scallon Judi Trapp Boehm and Meinholz families Louis and Joan Sansone Harry and Kay Chamberlain

Larry Lulling Verneal Henry Roger Smith Parents Joe Martin Olive and Jim Martin Don and Dolores Brown Ron, Carole and Danny Brown Tricia Bruska Menzo Bronson Phyllis Powers Cathy Diederich Patricia Landry Al and Mary Wahl Willie and Marcie Wehrmann Ellyn Tuschen Donna Schulz Thomas Walsh

Requested by

Barbara St. John Sally Christie Pat Cullen Wirtz Sue Besler Pat Hanby Michael Williams Karen Wolf Karen Wolf Terry and Donna Ludkey Terry and Donna Ludkey Vandervest and Uebersetzig families Tom and Ellen Uebersetzig Mary Lou Taylor Mary Lou Taylor Mary Lou Taylor Mary Lou Taylor Edward Grzenia Karen Wolf Marie Scallon Marie Scallon Virginia and Eldon Boehm Mike and Linda Odden

> Ron Chamberlain and Sandy Sweeney Kathy Lulling Kathy Lulling Kathy Lulling Jerald and Ann Nelson Pam Martin Pam Martin Pam Martin Pam Martin Pam Martin Anita Bronson George Powers George Powers Peter Landry Doug and Mary Wahl Doug and Mary Wahl David Tuschen

Lee Schultz, Rhonda Adams, Camille Walsh and Heidi Walsh Camille and Heidi Walsh Wilma Parrott Van Parrott





FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a

heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why does not God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

Shorter days in the winter can make people feel sluggish or even depressed, with negative effects on family life. Try to spend some time outdoors on sunny days and keep your home well-lit and cheerful.



Saint Dennis Parish thanks you for choosing to advertise in our parish bulletin. Because of your advertisement, we are able to

provide this bulletin free of charge. Parish members, our advertisers and do not forget to mention you have seen their ads in the bulletin.



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man,



Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute." (Saint Augustine, Sermon 188) The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

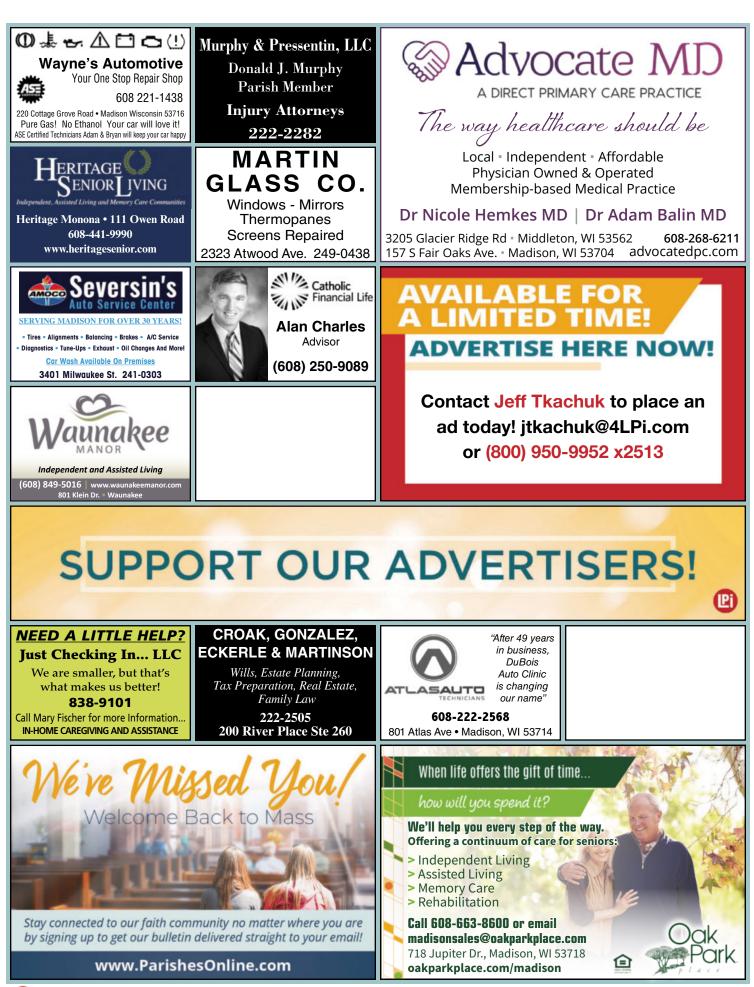
Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, Heaven remains the same, but Earth has been profoundly changed.

READINGS

Week of December 19, 2021

Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45	
Monday:	ls 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38	
Tuesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45	
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56	
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66	
Friday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps	
89:2-3, 4-5, 27	and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79	
Saturday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/	
	Mt 1:1-25	
	Night: ls 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14	
	Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20	
	Day: ls 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18	
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:41-52 or	
	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/	
	Lk 2:41-52	





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