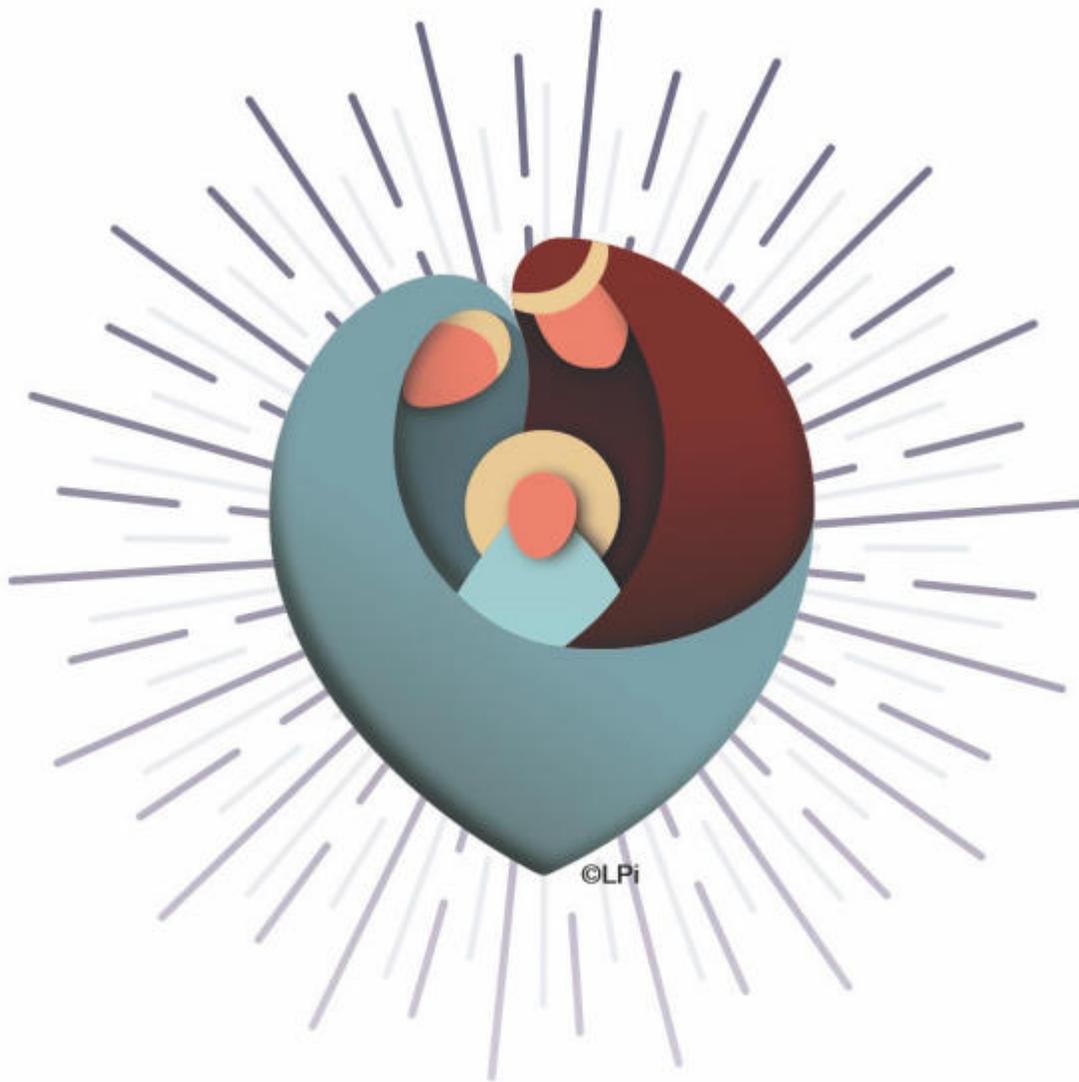




# ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH

WE ARE **GUIDED** BY CHRIST, **GROWING** IN CHRIST,  
AND **GIVING** AS CHRIST.



DECEMBER

**27**  
2020

THE HOLY FAMILY

### This Week's Masses

(All Masses at St. Victor Church unless noted otherwise)

Sunday	8 & 10* am
Tuesday	5:15 pm*
Wednesday	8:00 am, St. Rose
Thursday	5:15 pm
Friday	9:00 am, St. Rose
Saturday	4:30 pm
Next Sunday	8 & 10* am

\*Live streamed (see our website)

### Confession

Saturday, January 2  
9:00-9:30 am & 3:45-4:15 pm

### Adoration

Friday, January 8  
8:30 am - Noon

### Church Open for Prayer

6:30 am - 6:00 pm  
on evening Mass days  
6:30 am - 4:30 pm  
on non-evening Mass days

PASTOR:  
MSGR. LARRY BAKKE

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[www.stclaregreencounty.org](http://www.stclaregreencounty.org)  
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St. Victor School

*The*  
**HOLY FAMILY**  
*of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

MISSION STATEMENT: Formed by God's word and nourished by Eucharist, we commit ourselves to the work of Christ in our world through our time, talent, and treasures.

## THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

©LPi



## WISHING YOU A **blessed birthday this week!**

- Adaline Bauman (1)
- Aidan Lambert
- Alessandro Chagoya
- Ana Torres
- Bob Kuhle
- Buck Fenwick
- Carol Krupke
- Caroline Ninneman
- Catherine Schuppner (14)
- Cindy Schwartz
- Donna Glynn
- Elise Smith
- Erja Smith
- Evelyn Buholzer (9)
- Gina Haldiman
- Gloria Krutza
- Janet Kruse
- Jared Cline
- Jodi Ganshart
- Joe Gastel
- John Glynn
- Jouselith Waelti
- Juan Angeles (4)
- Judy Antos
- Laura Voelker
- Lillian Lewis (8)
- Lizzy Dale
- Luis Chagoya
- Mike Bystry
- Monica Schneider
- Patty Grunder
- Ranele Connors
- Robert Krupke\*
- Roy Thomas
- Russell Quinn
- Sophie Vasquez (11)
- Stephen Muranyi\*\*
- Teresa Castellanos Martinez
- Tom Nelson
- Virgilio Ocampo
- Zach Menehan

\*80+ years young  
\*\*90+ years young  
(Children's ages in parentheses)

Please contact Tara Stietz with any questions, corrections, or if you would prefer NOT to have your name/birthday/age/\* included in the bulletin.

Ready for some good news??

## GOSPEL HOUR

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

6-7 pm

**Now virtual!**  
Contact Bryan for details about how to join.

We'll preview next Sunday's Gospel reading.  
Please bring your own Bible and rosary.

Questions? Contact Bryan at [bryanleerach@gmail.com](mailto:bryanleerach@gmail.com) or (608) 558-6901.





### ATTENTION: CDA MEMBERS

CDA's current dues are \$35/year. Please make your check out to 'CDA' by December 31. Mail to Elaine Brukwicki at 116 25th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566. Want to become a new member? Call Vicki Keilhauer at 608-558-5963.



### SECRET ANGEL PROJECT 2021

Our Secret Angel Project begins the first weekend of the new year (January 2-3). Our parishioners can take a name off the Christmas tree and send one (or more) greeting card a month to that person throughout all of 2021. You may reveal yourself or remain a secret!

The names include those who are homebound and in nursing homes, but it also based on age. If you are age 80 or older and would prefer NOT to have your name put on the tree, please call or email Tara at the parish office by Thursday, December 31.



### FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

The Catholic Daughters lead the rosary on the first Saturday of the month.

**January 2 at 3:45 pm**



St. Clare Parish has a subscription to Formed.org. Go ahead.....try it! FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families, and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs, and studies direct to your browser, mobile, or connected device.



From bank executive to religious Sister, conversion can truly turn your life upside down. This change is rooted in discernment. Sr. Josephine crafts a beautiful message of vocation and the need to accept the daily offering of our God for purposes and sharing the mission. This talk will challenge, invite and inspire viewers to re-think the need for conversion and the path of healthy discernment.



## ST. VICTOR SCHOOL

Serves 4K-5th grade students

### MISSION:

Nurturing a faith-filled Catholic environment for spiritual and educational growth



Evening Lights with Santa was such a great night to celebrate the joy of Christmas! 450 cars came through that night to see a lot of Christmas joy! Thanks to all who waited patiently for their turn. Congratulations to the following Evening Lights with Santa Raffle winners:

- \$250 SCRIP Winners: Tara Stietz and Itzel Ayala
- American Girl Doll: Randy McKibben
- Lego Set: Hunter Pehl

St. Victor School students created a "virtual Christmas Concert" this year. They were able to record some of the songs they have been practicing in music for you to enjoy. You can access this "concert" at the St. Clare website.



St. Victor School would like to thank Carolyn Hyland for her years of service in our hot lunch program. Carolyn has decided to take a well-deserved retirement. We continue to pray for her and appreciate greatly her commitment to our school and students.

Thank you so much for your continued support of St. Victor School, its students, families, staff, and mission. We are blessed to be part of such an amazingly supportive community!



# SOLEMNITY OF MARY (JANUARY 1)

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary—celebrating her motherhood of Jesus Christ.

**This is a holy day of obligation.**

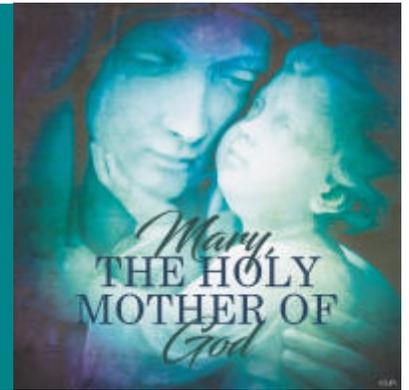
**MASSES:**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 5:15 PM

ST. VICTOR CHURCH

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 AT 9:00 AM

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH



## BE OPEN TO THE UNEXPECTED

By Joseph LaCombe, from acatholic.org from January 1, 2020

Well, here we are... It's a new year, a new decade. A clean slate, so to speak. Every year, surely like many of you, I reflect on the year gone by – the ups and downs, the good and the bad – in all aspects of life. I look at the joys and blessings that came about, the challenges, all the unexpected, and I think back. One of the things I like to do is read my journal entry from the previous year, where I write about my hopes for the coming year and I ask myself – did I see this coming? Did I expect that to happen? And it seems the answer is always no.



For years, I set New Year's resolutions. And then I was not able to keep up on those, and so I started to pick a word for the year ahead, a theme for the year that tied to some area of my life where I wanted to grow. And that was nice – for a couple months. The problem with all of this is those unexpected things, those countless things that arise and distract you and disrupt your plans, that break your resolve. And then we often settle into the same old things. Not always, but often. And as Catholics, we then head into Lent as sort of a reboot, the Easter renewal, and then settle back into our ways until Advent and Christmas, and again a new year... Before we know it, a year has gone by and I'm writing and we're thinking the same old things, reflecting on the year gone by and making our plans, our resolutions for the next year.

The cycle continues. And that's good, the Liturgical seasons are a blessing and were created for a reason. Reflecting on the previous year and hope for the year ahead is a good thing, as that is a means to grow. But all too often, we focus on our plans, our hopes, and our dreams for the year ahead. We make resolutions, we choose words and themes, and we start out strong only to have our expectations broken by the unexpected.

Just take a pause... and ponder on this – our expectations broken by the unexpected.

Take Mary, for instance. Today we celebrate her Solemnity, but before the Angel Gabriel paid her a visit, she probably had her own plans, her own dreams and expectations for her life ahead with Joseph. And then the unexpected happened... She conceived by the Holy Spirit. And then 9 months or so later, they are in Bethlehem, to be enrolled for the census, and then the unexpected happens again – Mary goes into labor, and Jesus is born in a lowly manger, a food trough in an animal barn. Do you think Mary planned on the birth of her son happening like this? Was this what she expected?

But blessings happen. Grace abounds. They embrace it because, well, what else can they do? They surrender to God's will, and the rest is history...

And here we are today. A new year. I look ahead. What are my hopes and plans for this new year? I plan to be healthier and exercise more. I plan to eat better and lose weight. I plan to purge a lot from my life – both figuratively and literally – my garage and the spare bedroom is a wreck and my mind and soul are cluttered. I plan to do more personal writing. I plan to help grow my wife's new spiritual jewelry business (shameless plug). I plan to grow as a leader in my work. I plan to do a better job saving for the future. I plan to fix things up around the house. And the list goes on...

I have a lot of expectations, we all have a lot of expectations... until the unexpected comes. And then what? Well, we can just go with it. We can embrace it and be open to the possibilities that will come. And we can only truly do this if we have a full trust in Christ and His Will for us, His expectations. We have to trust that His expectations are greater than ours, and that blessings and graces will come, even from those unexpected things that may hurt us or frighten us or sadden us or confuse us.

All of our plans are well and good. We may succeed at some. We may fail at others. And surely circumstances will happen that will distract us from our plans. But as long as we embrace His Will for us, and be open to those things we do not and cannot expect – we will grow. We will grow as a person. We will grow in character. And we will grow in our faith. And as a result, untold blessings and graces will come our way.



And so, I guess this is my challenge to myself and to all of you for the coming year – don't focus solely on our own expectations and plans for the coming year, and don't get down and disheartened when they get disrupted.

When the unexpected happens, look for God in the midst, and see the joy and blessings that He can bring as a result, if only we are open to Him and seeking Him. Trust in Him, have faith in Him, and grow in Him. And you never know, we may achieve those plans of ours after all, but in an even better – and unexpected – way. God Bless, and Happy New Year!



# CREATION CARE TEAM

Pellitteri residential recycling pickup accepts gift wrapping paper (no foil or glitter).

## MONTHLY RECYCLING SCHEDULE

- January 2 & 3: Non-working Christmas lights
- February 6 & 7: Light bulbs (LED, CFL, fluorescent, button)
- March 6 & 7: Ink toners and cartridges



## FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

For **January 2-3**, the Green Cares Food Pantry in Monticello will be the recipient of your food donations. Place them by the Food Pantry sign in the gathering space.

*The items most needed now are cereal, mac & cheese, canned soup, canned fruit, and canned vegetables.*

There will also be a wooden church building labeled "Food Pantry" in the gathering space in which you may place cash or checks. All monetary donations will be divided among these three local food pantries: Green County Food Pantry in Monroe, Green Cares in Monticello, and White Gift in Brodhead.



# THIS WEEK *at* ST. CLARE

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 3:45 pm Confession, St. Victor Church confessional
- 4:30 pm Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: St. Clare of Assisi parishioners
- 7:00 pm Misa en Español, La Iglesia de San Victor  
Intención: Angeles and Elias Tavares Quintana

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 8:00 am Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: †Robert House
- 10:00 am Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: †Anya Teasdale

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

8 am - Noon Parish office hours

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 8 am - Noon Parish office hours
- 5:15 pm Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: †Therese (Aebly) Snyder

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 8 am - Noon Parish office hours
- 8:00 am Mass at St. Rose of Lima, Brodhead  
Mass intention: †Edward Nowak
- 6-7 pm Gospel Hour, virtual

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

- Parish office closed
- 5:15 pm Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: †Mildred Schmidt

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

- Parish office closed
- 9:00 am Mass at St. Rose of Lima, Brodhead  
Mass intention: †Lyle Hamilton

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

### \*FOOD PANTRY & RECYCLING COLLECTION

- 9-9:30 am Confession, St. Victor Church confessional
- 3:45 pm Confession, St. Victor Church confessional
- 3:45 pm Rosary (1st Saturday), St. Victor Church
- 4:30 pm Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: †Herb Reckamp

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

### \*FOOD PANTRY & RECYCLING COLLECTION

- 8:00 am Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: St. Clare of Assisi parishioners
- 10:00 am Mass at St. Victor Church  
Mass intention: †Sharon Mitchell
- 12:00 pm CDA meeting, virtual

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Administrative Assistant & Cemetery Sexton **Tara Stietz**  
*Secretary@StClareGreenCounty.org*

Business Manager **Marci Boss**  
*Business@StClareGreenCounty.org*

Sacramental Preparation & Pastoral Ministries **Ann O'Leary**  
*AnnOLEary@StClareGreenCounty.org*

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Coordinator **Betsy Brennan**  
*BetsyB@StClareGreenCounty.org*

Hispanic Ministries & Outreach **Faviola Larraga**  
*FLarraga@StClareGreenCounty.org*

Faith Community Nurse **Vicki Keilhauer**

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Principal **Joe Peters**  
*JoePeters@StVictorMonroe.org*

School Secretary **Jenni Coplien**  
*Secretary@StVictorMonroe.org*

**FR. TIM MERGEN**  
 Casa Santa Maria  
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 timothy.mergen@gmail.com

**CONTACT US ABOUT...**

- Sacramental needs (baptism, marriage, First Communion)
- St. Victor School interest or enrollment
- Becoming Catholic (the RCIA program)
- Pastoral needs (Communion in the home, hospital visit, anointing of the sick)
- Calvary Cemetery questions or purchases
- Parish registration/membership
- Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, or Young Adult inquiries or interest
- Mass intentions
- and so much more!
- (We are here for you.)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am—3 pm  
 Friday 8:00 am—Noon  
 Saturday, January 23 4—6 pm  
 Sunday, January 17 8:30—11:30 am

We encourage social distancing, mask wearing, and using email/phone whenever possible. Thank you!

**Readings of the Week**

**SUNDAY:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**MONDAY:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

**TUESDAY:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

**WEDNESDAY:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

**THURSDAY:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

**FRIDAY:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**SATURDAY:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Pray For...**

**These people are in special need of your prayers:**  
 E. Mike Rufener, Ricky DeNure, Anna Gille, Don Stampes, Carol Therese Dye-Linn, all of those sick and affected by COVID-19, all the sick of the parish, all military personnel, those incarcerated and their families, people with addictions and their families, and all the souls in purgatory.

These numbers are as of 12/13 due to early bulletin submission deadlines:

**OFFERTORY INCOME**

Last week's collection	\$9,152
Offertory collected year-to-date*	\$305,297
Offertory goal to-date	\$326,038
Contributions needed to meet goal to-date	\$20,740

December Food Pantry donations: 377 pounds \$1,090

\*The parish fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

**PRAYER TREE**

Receive the benefit of anonymous prayerful help. Contact Jacki Netzel with your intentions for prayer at (608) 329-3939 or jsnetz@tds.net. To join this ministry, please contact Jacki.

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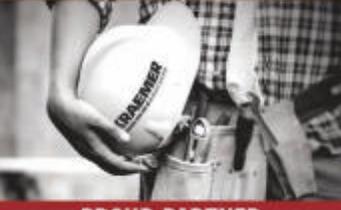
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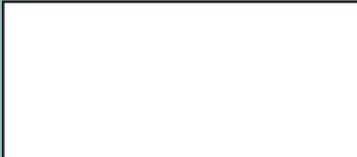
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