

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

St. Stephen's Catholic Parish

JANUARY 9-10, 2021



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher— "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS INTENTIONS

2nd Week of Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16th

4:00-4:45pm – Confessions

5:00p - For the People of our Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17th

9:00a - (+) Bob Roth

Jan. 17th-23rd –

Week of Christian Unity

MONDAY, JANUARY 18th

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day -

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19th

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20th

+ Saint Fabian and Saint Sebastian +

8:00a – (+) Arlene McMorran

6:30p – First Reconciliation

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21st

+ Saint Agnes +

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd

+ Day of Fasting & Penance+

8:00a – +Souls of Aborted Children

3rd Week of Ordinary Time

+ Sunday of the Word of God +

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23rd

4:00-4:45pm – Confessions

+ RCIA – Rite of Acceptance +

5:00p - For the People of our Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24th

9:00a - (+) Jim & Nell Gilbank

WEDNESDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Benediction ~7:50 p.m.



“What are you looking for?” Jesus asked, which he follows with an invitation to “come and see,” in response to the disciples’ question about where he is staying. Of course, Jesus knew what they were seeking; is it not what we all seek – peace, hope, salvation? Jesus calls them, and indeed us as well, to accept his invitation to find those things, and so much more, in him.

Jesus’ invitations present an opportunity for us to contemplate what we are looking for and to take stock of our current situation. Do you know what it is you seek in this world? Are you open to truly be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Can you leave behind your expectations, trusting the goodness of Jesus’ invitation, and follow God’s perfect will for your life?

Without waiting for the early disciples to respond, knowing their hearts and that the Kingdom of Heaven holds everything they seek, he invites them to come and see. Moved by the promise, hope, mercy, and life he offered, they directly accepted the invitation from him. However, like Peter, others came to follow Jesus after someone else extended an invitation to “come and see” themselves.

Peter’s brother Andrew’s willingness to evangelize brought Peter to become a disciple of the Lord. Andrew’s love for Peter moved him to share the truth and joy he had found. How blessed to have someone care enough to step out in faith and share the life found only in Jesus – no matter how uncomfortable they may feel or how their testimony may be received.

Those who believe inspire others to believe. John’s Gospel also introduces us to the Samaritan woman Jesus meets at the well. Her encounter with Christ spurs a conversion so dramatic, she cannot keep it to herself. Transformed by his love, mercy, and hope of a life where she no longer has to thirst for acceptance and redemption, she leaves her past behind and becomes an unlikely evangelist. Moved by her transformation from accepting Jesus’ invitation to come and see – she goes out immediately to share the Good News – causing a ripple effect of discipleship.

The lives of the people she encounters and invites, are never the same once they accept the invitation to follow and abide in the truth and love offered by Jesus. “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One truly is the Savior of the world.”

The power and beauty of evangelization manifests in the conversion of hearts when an invitation leads to a personal encounter with Christ and the choice to remain and abide with him. We may recognize our journey within these many roads to discipleship; which of these paths is yours? Will we pay forward what we have received? Do we have the courage and strength to follow Jesus’ example and invite others to come and see? When we, like Andrew and the woman at the well, tell others about finding the Messiah, we become part of the hope of discipleship present in John’s Gospel. **We become conduits for others to encounter the truth and grace found only in Jesus Christ.**

FAITH FORMATION

CLASS – January 20th @ 6:30pm

PRAYER CHALLENGE –

Keep memorizing those Prayers!!

First Reconciliation, Jan. 20th @ 6:30p

Please pray for the students receiving the sacrament for the first time!

If you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator

Heather Schneider 608-676-7329.

BIBLE IN A YEAR!!

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting Jan. 1st, 2021

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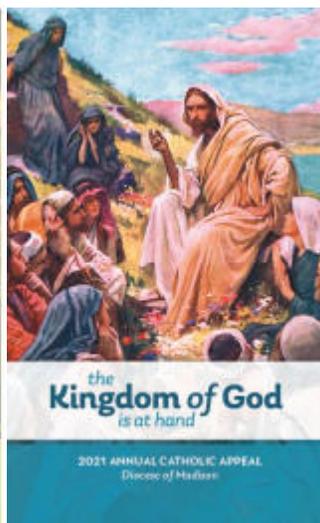
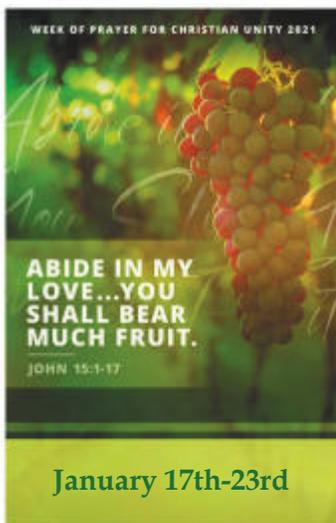
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PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Eternal Father,
we praise you for sending your Son
to be one of us and to save us.
Look upon your people with mercy,
for we are divided in so many ways,
and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make us one in love.
We ask this gift, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd



DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE
LEGAL
PROTECTION
OF UNBORN CHILDREN

Sadly, this week will mark the 48th year of legalized abortion in our country. More than 60 million lives have been lost since 1973 (3-4 times more than COVID last year alone). The US Bishops have undertaken a nationwide effort over the last year to assess, communicate, and expand resources to expectant mothers within their own communities. You can find more info at :

www.walkingwithmoms.com

2021 Diocese of Madison Annual Catholic Appeal Begins Please Make a Generous Pledge

This week, parishioners throughout the Diocese will receive a mailing asking for a pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal to support the ministries of the Diocese of Madison.

Please prayerfully consider making a pledge payable over 6-months to the appeal. Your gift will help enable the diocese to reach its goal and provide for many ministries, education and services throughout the Diocese.

Thank you for your continuing support of our parish, diocese and the work of the Church throughout the world.

Family Center Update – 2021

Last fall, Fr. Andrew met with a committee of those most involved with the operation of the family center. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided not to hold any social events for the remainder of 2020. The Red Cross Blood Drives and the November Election were held, as a public service.

Currently, the State of Wisconsin is in Phase 2 Reopening. Phase 2 calls for bars, restaurants and venues such as our family center, to operate at 25% capacity, requires masks be worn and people to social distance, per CDC guidelines.

Most of our events are wedding receptions, with guest lists of 300 – 350. With the maximum capacity of the center being 450, set by the Clinton Fire Department, we would be allowed to have 112 persons in the building. This leaves us unable to provide the space that the renter needs for an event.

We are required to follow the rules set by the State of Wisconsin and the Diocese of Madison. With these rules in mind and the news showing that the pandemic is not under control, it was decided to cancel all social events through April. The committee will review the situation again in late April. The decision to remain closed was difficult, but using an abundance of caution, it was deemed necessary.

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