

BLESSED SACRAMENT

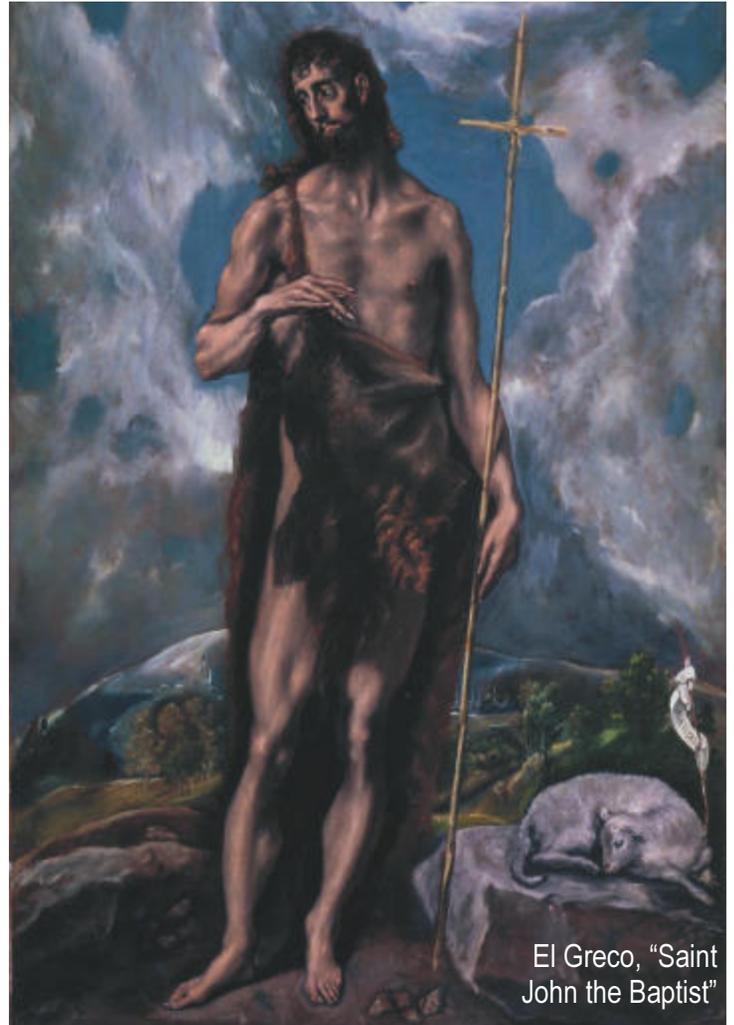
2116 HOLLISTER AVENUE • MADISON, WI 53726

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”



El Greco, “Saint John the Baptist”

Parish Mission Statement

Blessed Sacrament Parish forms and nurtures active disciples of Christ, who love God and neighbor, through the Dominican pillars of Prayer, Study, Community, & Ministry.

Parish Vision Statement

To be a flourishing faith community, with all parishioners engaged in transforming lives through evangelization and discipleship.

Mass Times

Monday & Friday: 8:30 AM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 7:00 & 8:30 AM
Saturday: 8:30 AM & Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 to 10:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday: 6:30 to 8:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 to 10:00 AM & 4:15 to 4:45 PM
Sunday: 7:00 to 7:30 AM & 10:15 to 10:45 AM



Br. Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.
bredward@blsacrament.org

The Church as the Universal Sacrament of Salvation

Building on what I wrote in my last reflection, I would like to explore with you how the holiness of the Church translates into being an instrument of our salvation because it is a sacrament. A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace. If the church is the universal sacrament of salvation, it must stand forth as a sign of this total work of salvation that God is accomplishing in the world, and somehow be involved as God's instrument in that work. The first question to be asked then is: in what sense is the church the sign of that total work of salvation that God is accomplishing in the world? Using the words of Saint Paul, we can describe God's work as "reconciling the world to himself." "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Cor 5:18-20).

The first sense in which the church is a "sign" of God's work is that the church is entrusted with the message of reconciliation. It is the church's role to proclaim to the whole world that God is offering his peace and mercy to sinful humanity, and that he wants all people to be reconciled with him and one another. It is not a casual comment that in Saint Luke's gospel that the angels announce the birth of Jesus with the message "peace on earth to people of good will." The church is a sign of salvation for the world by being a community that manifests in its very life the things in which Saint Paul tells us the kingdom of God consists: "The kingdom of God is not food and drink, but justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom 14:17). Another way of putting it is to say that the church is a sign of salvation by being a holy people, since holiness consists in the love of God and of neighbor. Jesus told his disciples that their love for one another would be a sign that would bring people to know that they were his disciples (Jn 13:35).

The fact that the church is marked with a "genuine holiness," and that this holiness which, though imperfect, is something she can never lose, is the most effective way that the church is a sign of what salvation is all about. The fact that this holiness is imperfect, of course, means that the church is always an imperfect sign of salvation as well. The more effectively it realizes its gifts of holiness, unity, love, and peace among its own members, the more convincing a sign it will be of reconciliation that God is offering to the world. A key to fulfilling this mission is for its members to strive to reform itself in very practical ways that touch our home life and parish life.

The Advent season calls us to prepare to welcome the Christ child anew in our hearts and to proclaim his message of reconciliation in very concrete actions. It is a season to reconnect and, in some cases, repair relationships. We are all feeling some distance during this Covid-19 crisis, but the news of peace and love can bring us closer. Let us include in our prayers those who live in situations where they cannot celebrate the Christ child because of war or civil oppression. Advent makes us look forward to a better world where the good news that we are reconciled to God is heard because we are ambassadors of salvation.

Br. Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Tuesday, December 8

Masses: 7:00 am, 8:30 am, and 7:00 pm

All three Masses will be live-streamed on
our YouTube channel

December 6, 2020

New and Noteworthy

Annual School Stewardship Appeal: Founded in Faith, Forward in Hope

If you are a member of the parish or a school alum/friend, you should be receiving info about our annual school stewardship appeal in the mail soon. Materials are also available in the parish/school offices and will be in the pews this weekend. You can also make a donation online by clicking the banner on our homepage, blsacrament.org. Please consider supporting our school by a financial gift!

Advent Confession and Adoration

Adoration and confession on Wednesdays will be extended during Advent! Adoration will be from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm and confessions will be heard from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on December 9, 16, and 23.

Support Cub Scout Pack 16!

The Pack is selling popcorn and holiday chocolates online through December 31! These funds will support Pack activities like the Pinewood Derby and summer camp. Free shipping on orders over \$30! Visit tinyurl.com/yyo63fz to order!

Upcoming bulletin deadlines

Due to the Christmas and New Years holidays, the next few bulletins have early submission deadlines that will also affect when items for the bulletins are due. If you have any items for the upcoming bulletins, please send them to Erin (erin@blsacrament.org) by the dates below!

December 20: items due by Friday, December 11

December 27: items due by Wednesday, December 16

January 3: items due by Thursday, December 24

Christmas Mass schedule

December 24 (Advent weekday):

Daily Masses at 7:00 am and 8:30 am

December 24 (Christmas Vigil):

Masses at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 10:00 pm

December 25 (Christmas Day):

Mass at 9:00 am

All Christmas Masses will be streamed on YouTube. We will also open the Assembly Hall for streaming and additional seating at all Christmas Masses.

Opportunities to Give and Serve

Luke House Meal Program

Blessed Sacrament has committed to providing meals for Luke House on the 4th Monday of the month for the 2020-2021 school year and we're looking for volunteers to provide food and other items! If you sign up, please note that you are committing to providing items EACH month. See this sign-up for more information and to see how you can help! tinyurl.com/yyxrwxaxa

NBC's Share Your Holidays Food Drive with Second Harvest Food Bank

Blessed Sacrament School is once again collecting donations for the Share Your Holidays Food Drive! Barrels for non-perishable food items are in place in the school and in the elevator entrance of church, and we are also accepting cash donations in the school and parish office. Most-needed items include: canned fruits and veggies, canned meat and fish, canned soups/stews, peanut butter, boxed meals (mac and cheese, ramen, Hamburger Helper), grains (rice, cornmeal, flour, crackers, cereal), personal care items, and cleaning items. You can also donate money online: one.bidpal.net/syh25/welcome.
We can accept donations until December 15!

Catholic Multicultural Center's Virtual Radiothon Friday, December 11, 12:00—7:00 pm

Funds raised will benefit CMC's social services. Follow along at La Movida Spanish radio (1480AM/94.5FM) or on Facebook, Instagram, or cmcmadison.org. Donations can be made in a number of ways: drive-thru at the CMC (1862 Beld St., Madison) from 4:00 to 6:00 pm (with a free tamale dinner!), text-to-donate at 608-299-6459, call the CMC at 608-661-3512, or donate online at cmcmadison.org/radiothon-2020. Together, let us celebrate how we can help one another during this challenging pandemic and reach our goal of raising \$15,000!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, January 7, 1:00-6:00 pm
Assembly Hall

Our Respect Life committee is hosting another Blood Drive at Blessed Sacrament on January 7! To make an appointment or to learn more, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org, or call 1-800-Red Cross. Completion of a RapidPass online health history questionnaire found at redcrossblood.org/rapidpass is encouraged to speed up the donation process.

Mass, Church, and Office procedures

We are no longer requiring sign-ups for Sunday Masses, but keep an eye on our website and parish communications for changes to this. See our website (blsacrament.org/safety-updates) to learn more about our Mass safety procedures.

The Assembly Hall is open during the 9:00 am Mass on Sundays! We will use our projector to broadcast the live-stream of the Mass. Please follow all normal safety precautions if you join us from the Assembly Hall.

During private prayer and confessions (see front cover for adoration and confession times!), please keep adequate distance (6 feet or more) from others.

Per Dane County's emergency order #8, please wear a mask in the church during Mass and private prayer when others are present, and when entering the school and parish center.

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/
2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14
[Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/
Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54
[Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Please pray for all those who are ill, especially:

Andy Devine, Dan Brigham, Alexander Kotloski, Henry Pitot, David Stiennon, John Ouellette, Paul Werth, Cormac Bower, Helen Karls, Sarah Opitz-Stapleton, Adrian Stransky, Dave Wirka, Pat Ryan, Ila Elizabeth Scullion, Linda Kelly, Joe Cooper, and Colleen Brown.

Mass Intentions

+ indicates the person is deceased

Saturday, December 5, 2020

8:30 AM +Bill Sotis

5:00 PM +Julie Pitot (*Celebrant: Fr. Ron*)

Sunday, December 6, 2020 - Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM +Mary Jean Whelan-Iacovani (*Fr. Ron*)

9:00 AM +Thomas and Bernice Murphy (*Fr. Andy*)

11:00 AM Our Parish Family (*Fr. Andy*)

Monday, December 7, 2020—St. Ambrose, bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM +Bill Vandenbrook

Tuesday, December 8, 2020—THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM (Solemnity)

7:00 AM Br. Vince DiRienzo and Dolores Kaczmarek

8:30 AM Bill Farkes

7:00 PM Gwen Toledo

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

7:00 AM +Mary Jean Whelan-Iacovani

8:30 AM +Chester Roszkowski

Thursday, December 10

7:00 AM +Felipe Manalo

8:30 AM +Mary Frawley

Friday, December 11, 2020

8:30 AM +Virginia Rogers

Saturday, December 12, 2020—Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 AM The Podulka Family

5:00 PM +Bertha Pitot (*Celebrant: Fr. Andy*)

Sunday, December 13, 2020 - Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Our Parish Family (*Fr. Andy*)

9:00 AM +Matthew Porter (*Fr. Ron*)

11:00 AM The sick and dying of our parish (*Fr. Ron*)

Mass intentions are available by calling the parish office at 608-238-3471 or emailing erin@blsacrament.org.



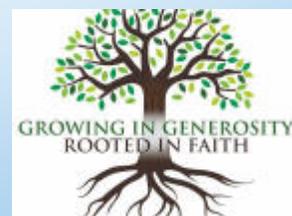
We are still having Wednesday adoration and are in need of adorers! Please consider spending an hour with Our Lord. Visit blsacrament.org/adoration to sign up!

Stewardship Report

October 2020

Total: \$75,437.94

October 2019: \$66,561.50



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Andy McAlpin, O.P. Pastor, ext. 117;
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Fr. Ron Kreul, O.P. Parochial Vicar, ext. 127;
fron@bbsacrament.org
Brother Ed van Merrienboer, O.P. Director of Faith
Formation, ext. 119; bredward@bbsacrament.org
Steve Castrogiovanni School Principal,
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Erin Daly Administrative Assistant and Database
Manager, ext. 110; erin@bbsacrament.org
Peggie Hansen Director of Religious Ed (1st - 6th) and
Baptism Prep, ext. 106; peggie@bbsacrament.org
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Diane Jones Bookkeeper, ext. 120;
diane@bbsacrament.org
Matt Regner Director of Liturgy and Evangelization,
ext. 138; matt@bbsacrament.org
Parish Office.....(608) 238-3471
Parish Fax.....(608) 238-4220
School(608) 233-6155
Priory(608) 238-3472

For Sacramental Emergencies & Blessings
please call 608-982-1573 to reach our priests directly

WEBSITES: www.bbsacrament.org
www.school.bbsacrament.org
www.blessedsacramentteens.org
Information: info@bbsacrament.org

Creation Care Corner

THIS WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Tips to Save Energy and Money this Winter

- 1) **Use a programmable thermostat:** program to lower the heat by 8 degrees Fahrenheit when you are away from home. Reduce a few degrees when asleep. You can save up to \$180 per year.
- 2) **Seal and weatherstrip:** can improve the heating system efficiency by as much as 20%.
- 3) **Keep your furnace air filters clean :** At minimum, change the filter every three months. This lowers energy bills and improves air quality.
- 4) **Tune up your HVAC equipment yearly.**
- 5) **Close your fireplace damper when not in use.**
- 6) **Turn water heater down to 120° F**

More energy saving tips at:
www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips

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*Pray for us;
we're praying for you!*

Start planning NOW for the annual Men's Retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh! February 18-21 (Thursday through Sunday)

Every year for about 40 years, men from Blessed Sacrament and other Madison parishes have been attending a retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago. The coming year's Men #008 Retreat will begin with dinner Thursday and ends with lunch on Sunday. All are invited despite financial constraints due to the generosity of those who can do more. Preached retreats are planned to be on-site, but the effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus require changes in how retreats are conducted and most importantly, how many retreatants can be welcomed on-site.

Please visit www.jesuitretreathouse.org/index.cfm to register and to read about JHR's efforts to provide a safe environment for retreatants and staff. Please feel free to contact Steve Sadoff, Retreat Coordinator, at healprint@gmail.com or 608-770-9778.



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