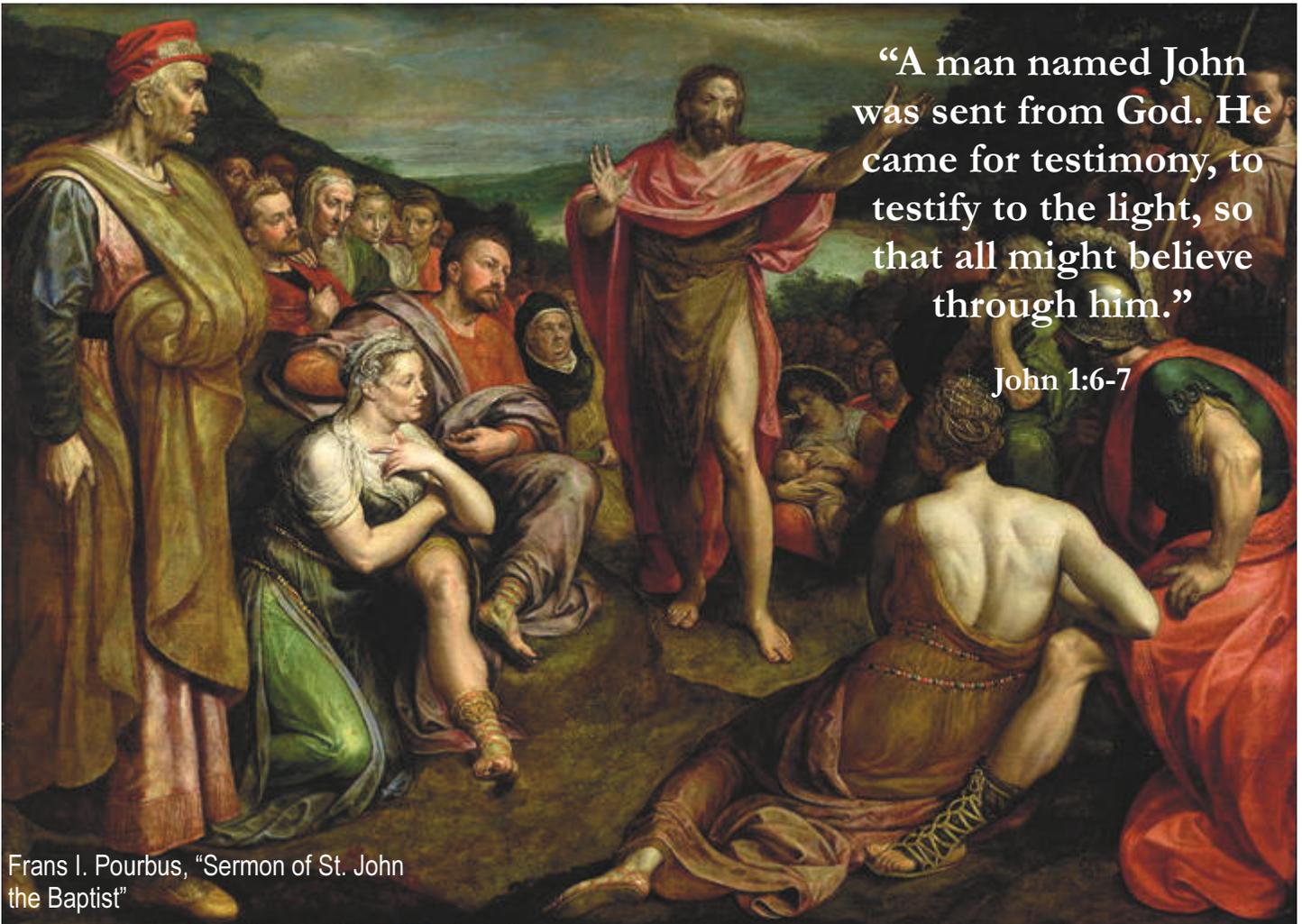


BLESSED SACRAMENT

2116 HOLLISTER AVENUE • MADISON, WI 53726

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

December 13, 2020



“A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.”

John 1:6-7

Frans I. Pourbus, “Sermon of St. 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

Third Sunday of Advent



Fr. Andy McAlpin, O.P.—Pastor
fr.andy@bbsacrament.org

The Words of the Prophet

Who are you? This is the question that is asked of John the Baptist in the Gospel of John today. This is John's version of what we heard at Mass last Sunday, but with much more detail and important elements to ponder. The priests and Levites need to make a report to their superiors as to the identity of this odd prophet who is baptizing people as he calls them to repentance and to "make straight the way of the Lord." Again, important words we heard last week, but there is more here.

They ask if he is Elijah the prophet. Jesus points out elsewhere that he is a kind of Elijah (Matt 11:14), but he is much more. They also ask if he is The Prophet. Whenever we read these words in Sacred Scripture, it is almost always in reference to the Prophet Isaiah. For it is in the words of the Prophet Isaiah where we receive the words of what is to come to the House of Israel and to the whole world. We hear the words of Isaiah almost every day during Advent as his words point out the coming of Jesus in the womb of a virgin, that salvation is approaching for the poor and the lost chosen people of God. It is in these words of the Prophet that we begin to see that our Mighty God is coming; they do not know when, but coming He is! It is this reason that today, Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice! We light the rose candle, we often wear rose vestments, and we take a bit of a breather as we continue our preparations for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

Reading and hearing these words from our first reading of this Sunday in Isaiah chapter 61, we find a clear path to a reason to rejoice. So much is promised to us by the Prophet, and we rest in the fact that God never goes back on His promises. We are well aware of the fact that God is coming, and has already come. But in these few days of Advent, we are to prepare ourselves to meet the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes in all His glory. In this knowledge we can rest, and on this day we REJOICE! God is Coming!

Fr. Andy

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.

December 13, 2020

New and Noteworthy

Sign-ups for Christmas Masses will begin next week

We are going to require signing up in advance to attend our Christmas Masses. Look for more information in the email that will go out this Tuesday, or look on our website early this week. If you do not use the internet, please call Erin in the parish office to learn more and to sign up. See the previous page for our Christmas Mass schedule. Note that all Masses will be live-streamed and that seating will be available in the Assembly Hall.

Called By Name Kindness Campaign Books!

A kind donor offered to have made printed copies of the Called By Name group's Kindness Campaign books. These lovely books are filled with artwork by members of Called By Name, as well as quotes and thoughts to inspire our spiritual growth and photos of our gatherings. They will make a lovely Advent or Christmas gift for yourself or others! Please take one from the back of church and consider leaving an offering to support the ministries that Called By Name is raising money for this year.

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 have received materials about our annual appeal for our school in the mail. Materials are also available in the back of church and in the school/parish offices. 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!

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/yyo63fzl 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 27: items due by Wednesday, December 16
January 3: items due by Thursday, December 24

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/yyxrwxax

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.

A call for Witness to Love mentor couples

A little over a month ago, we announced *Witness to Love*, our new marriage preparation program at the parish. Under ideal circumstances, each engaged couple would be able to meet a few married couples at Mass and other parish events and then ask one of these couples to mentor them. Our current restrictions surrounding Mass and other in-person gatherings make it difficult for people to meet, however, especially if the engaged couples are new to the area or parish.

If you have been married for at least five years and would be willing to put your name out there as a potential mentor couple, please contact Matt (matt@blsacrament.org; 608-238-3471 x138). He would like to put together a handful of short bios that can be shared with engaged couples, who will then be able to choose a mentor couple with a bit more context. And just to be clear, you aren't expected to have a "perfect" marriage. Rather, we're looking for couples who will share what they have learned about marriage and accompany a young couple in their own process of preparation.

Thank you so much for considering volunteering in this important and joyful role!

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 13, 2020

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

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-3

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, Ila Elizabeth Scullion, Linda Kelly, Joe Cooper, and Colleen Brown.

Mass Intentions

+ indicates the person is deceased

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*)

Monday, December 14, 2020—St. John of the Cross, priest and Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM +Robert Zielinski

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

7:00 AM John Ferrante

8:30 AM +Lola Yellen

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

7:00 AM +Mary Jean Whelan-Iacovani

8:30 AM +Darlene Olson

Thursday, December 17, 2020

7:00 AM Charlene Walters

8:30 AM +Mary Frawley

Friday, December 18, 2020

8:30 AM Joseph Ferrante

Saturday, December 19, 2020

8:30 AM Catherine Ferrante

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

Sunday, December 20, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Mark Burdulis (*Fr. Ron*)

9:00 AM Diana Ferrante (*Fr. Andy*)

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

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



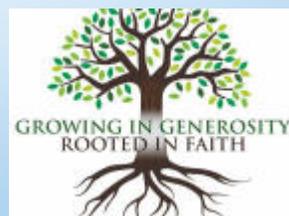
We are still having Wednesday adoration and are in need of adorers! Please consider spending an hour with Our Lord. Visit blsacrament.org/adoration to sign up!

Stewardship Report

November 2020

Total: \$81,669.44

November 2019: \$61,826.54



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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rfron@bbsacrament.org
Brother Ed van Merrienboer, O.P. Director of Faith
Formation, ext. 119; bredward@bbsacrament.org
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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

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

Creation Care Corner

THIS WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Plastic waste is a huge and growing problem. Only 9% of the 9 billion tons of plastic produced has been recycled. There is very little demand for the plastic you do recycle. 40% of all plastic is designed to be used once and tossed. Plastic doesn't decompose easily and can last 100s of years. The waste clogs landfills and waterways, and poses hazards to animals and fish life. It breaks up into ever smaller microplastics getting into our air and food chain with unknown health effects.

What you can do:

- Say NO to single-use plastic. Carry your own cups, bags, to-go containers, utensils and forget the straws.
- Say NO to bottled water and pop. Carry refillables.
- Choose more biodegradable/recyclable materials like glass, paper, cardboard and metal instead of plastic... and then recycle those items.
- Avoid products with excessive packaging, excessive plastic packaging, and parts. If it leaves behind plastic trash, try not to buy it.

Recycle what you can't refuse, reduce or reuse.

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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