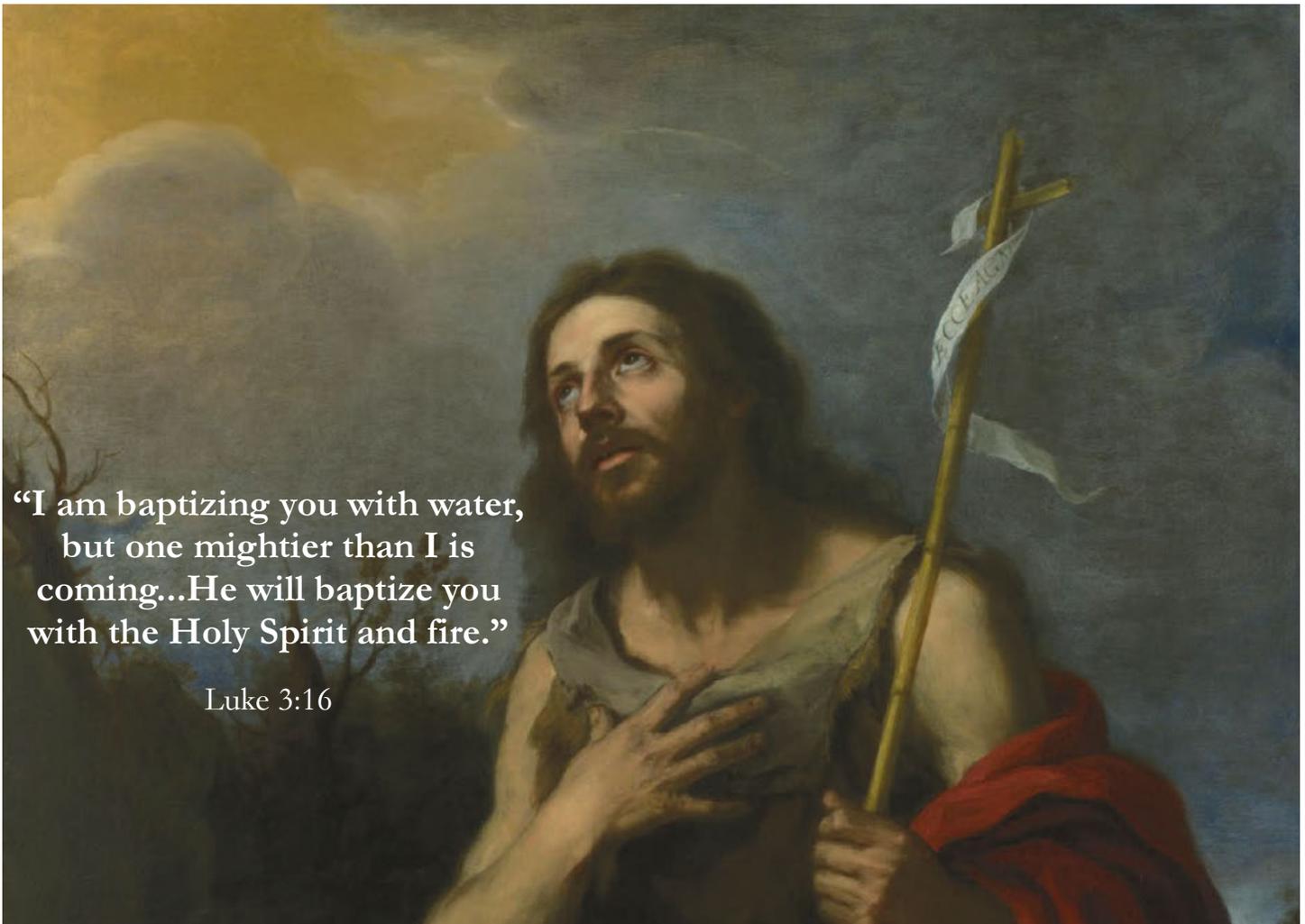


BLESSED SACRAMENT

2116 HOLLISTER AVENUE • MADISON, WI 53726

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

December 12, 2021



“I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is
coming...He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Luke 3:16

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



Br. Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.—Pastoral Associate Emeritus
bredward@blsacrament.org

A Great Blessing Appreciated

In the wisdom of the church, acquired through the ages, we take four weeks to prepare ourselves to appreciate more deeply the mystery of the Incarnation. This mystery contains the mission of the child Jesus for our world.

“No more let sins and sorrow grow ,/ Not thorns infest the ground; / He comes to make his blessings flow / Far as the curse is found, / Far as the curse is found.” Like many other carols, this rarely-sung verse of “Joy to the World” leads us into the profound mystery of the Christmas feast. In the little child whose birth we will celebrate, we gaze on the face of our champion in a struggle that could not be won without him. In the words of Saint Leo the Great: “For unless [Christ] the new man, by being made *in the likeness of sinful humanity*, had taken on himself the nature of our first parents, unless he had stooped to be one in substance with his mother while sharing the Father’s substance and, being alone free from sin, united our nature to his, the whole human race would still be held captive under the dominion of Satan.”

For this child, the road that begins in Bethlehem continues to Golgotha and beyond to his glory. The enchanting beauty that surrounds us on the feast of the Nativity of our Lord celebrates the glory of the champion of our salvation. But between the Nativity and the glory there was the Cross, the passion and the death of our precious Savior. With Mary and Joseph, we gaze with joy on the child over whose ruined body we shall later shed bitter tears. The Father of heaven and earth did not hesitate to allow his only begotten Son to become the Son of Mary to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

Already knowing the destiny of this child, we find ourselves at the absolute center of the Christian mystery. What Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds and now, brothers and sisters in Christ, all of us—what they and we behold with nearly breathless wonder is the birth of the one who, taking on our humanity, will lay down his life for us in the sacrifice of the Cross so that we can become sharers in his divinity. This wonderful exchange restores us to life, making possible things otherwise completely beyond our reach and imagination; namely, participation in the divine life, and forgiveness and healing of our sins.

Saint Leo reminds us: “The Conqueror’s victory would have profited as nothing if the battle had been fought outside our human condition.” Born into our human nature, Christ makes it possible for us to be reborn as his brothers and sisters in the communion of Trinitarian love. By assuming our human frailty, the sinless one is victorious within the very arena of earthly existence where we lay under the curse, condemned to sin and death. Not from outside, but within the arena, he comes to make his blessings flow. Like a flowing river, the uncontainable surge of his grace streams into every crevice and corner of our lives sweeping away our sins and sorrows. Far as the curse is found, deep into the dark fissures of our hearts where envy and malice, pride and lust, greed, hatred, and despair would find a niche and thrive.

We who believe in him must embrace his blessings and shake off the attachments to sin that keep us mired in the realm of the curse. We cannot change all the ills of the world, but we can open our hearts to this little child who comes to love us and bring us to the greatest Christmas gift of all, eternal life.

Br. Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.

Christmas and New Years bulletin deadlines

Christmas and New Years will impact our bulletin submission deadlines for the next few weeks. If you have announcements for any of the following bulletins, please submit them by the dates specified to erin@blsacrament.org.

Dec. 26 bulletin: announcements due by Thursday, Dec. 16 | **Jan. 2 bulletin:** announcements due by Thursday, Dec. 23

Cover art: *St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness* by Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1660-1670). The National Gallery, London, United Kingdom.

December 12, 2021

New and Noteworthy

Christmas & New Years Hours

The parish office will be open 8:30 am to noon on Thursday, December 23, and will be closed on Friday, December 24. We will be closed for New Years on Friday, December 31. The school will be on break December 22-January 3, resuming on Tuesday, January 4.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Saturday, January 1, 2022

Since it falls on a Saturday, this solemnity is not a holy day of obligation in 2022. We will have a vigil Mass on Friday, December 31 at 5:00 pm, though, as well as our usual 8:30 am Mass on Saturday morning.

Next Coffee and Donuts: January 2

Our next Coffee and Donuts will be Sunday, January 2 after all Masses! We will need volunteers in two shifts: one shift helps with set-up and serving after the 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses, and one shift helps serve after the 11:00 am Mass and cleans up. Look for a sign-up in our weekly Flocknotes, or contact Donna if you'd like to help!

Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast Sunday, January 9, 8:00 am—12:30 pm Friary

This year's breakfast will be "take-out style," with breakfasts served in take-out containers. Seating will be available in the Friary for those who wish to dine-in, but full table service will not be provided this year. Purchase tickets (\$8 each, kids 5 and under eat free) from the Cub Scouts or at the door. Contact the Scouts at BlessedSacramentScouting@gmail.com to learn more!

Iconography Workshop with Drazen Dupor January 14-16, Blessed Sacrament Friary

Drazen Dupor, a local iconographer who has sold his work at our Christmas Market, is offering an icon workshop at Blessed Sacrament in January! Participants will paint an icon of Jesus. No prior experience is needed. The class will run from 4:00 to 9:00 pm on Friday the 14th; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday the 15th; and 11:30 am on 4:00 pm on Sunday the 16th. The cost is \$200 (payable by check to the artist on the first day of class) and covers the cost of all materials. Please contact Erin if you have questions or to sign up: erin@bbsacrament.org or 608-238-3471 x110.

Opportunities to Give and Serve



1216 Annual Fund

You can find envelopes and forms for donating to the Province's 1216 Annual Fund in the parish office and in the back of church. Or, go to opcentral.org/donate/online and apply your gift to "Dominican Friars, 1216 Annual Fund."

Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, January 12

1:00-6:00 pm, Assembly Hall

We're hosting another blood drive in January! Visit redcrossblood.org/give to search for our drive and sign up to donate!

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve:

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm

Christmas Day:

9:00 am

We will NOT have our usual 5:00 pm vigil Mass on Christmas evening; join us on Sunday morning for the Solemnity of the Holy Family!

THIS WEEK IN YOUTH MINISTRY

9th Grade Confirmation Class

Sunday, December 12, 6:30-8:00 pm, Youth Center

High School Ministry Night

Xavier Mission Team Night: Monday, December 13, 7:00-8:30 pm @ St. Maria Goretti Parish

Middle School Edge Night

Wednesday, December 15, 6:30-8:00 pm, Youth Center | Let's Get Ready for Christmas

Baptisms

This weekend, we welcome **Lawrence Joseph David McKinney** into the Christian family!

Readings for the Week of December 12, 2021

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

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

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: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-1

Please pray for all those who are ill, especially:

Andy Devine, Alexander Kotloski, David Stiennon, John Ouellette, Paul Werth, Cormac Bower, Helen Karls, Sarah Opitz-Stapleton, Dave Wirka, Ila Elizabeth Scullion, Linda Kelly, Margaret Sommer Szani, Colleen Brown, Br. Vince DiRienzo, Elliott Volin, Larry Lazars, Buffy Stevens, Bob Lunda, and Barbara Chryst.

Prayer/Devotion schedule

Eucharistic adoration: Saturdays, 9:00 am to 10:00 am, and Wednesdays, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm (during Advent).

We are in need of Wednesday adorers; please visit blsacrament.org/adoration to sign up for a Holy Hour!

First Saturday rosary: First Saturday of the month, 8:10 am (next rosary is January 1)

Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, after the 8:30 am Mass



Featured FORMED content

Today, December 12, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! FORMED has a short documentary that traces the history of the vision and message of Our Lady to St. Juan Diego. Search for "Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message" on FORMED!

Sign up for our FORMED subscription at blsacrament.formed.org | code: **2RC7NR**

Mass Intentions

+ indicates the person is deceased

Saturday, December 11, 2021

8:30 AM +James Lieske

5:00 PM +Chester Roszkowski (*Celebrant: Fr. Andy*)

Sunday, December 12, 2021—The 3rd Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM The Holy Souls in purgatory (*Fr. James Pierce*)

9:00 AM The Podulka family (*Fr. James Pierce*)

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

Monday, December 13, 2021—St. Lucy, virgin & martyr

8:30 AM +Ken Muetz

Tuesday, December 14, 2021—St. John of the Cross, priest and Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM +Julie Pitot

8:30 AM John Ferrante

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

7:00 AM +Mary Jean Whelan-Iacovani

8:30 AM +John and Mary Ruth Richards

Thursday, December 16, 2021

7:00 AM +Bertha Pitot Hubbard

8:30 AM +Maureen Moore

Friday, December 17, 2021

8:30 AM The intentions of the members of the Seven Sisters apostolate

Saturday, December 18, 2021

8:30 AM +Rita Kubaritz

5:00 PM +Charles Matkiewicz (*Celebrant: Fr. James Pierce*)

Sunday, December 19, 2021—The 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM +Marianne Walters (*Fr. James Pierce*)

9:00 AM All past & present friars, sisters, and staff of our parish and school (*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.

Stewardship Report

November 2021

Total: \$65,752.02

November 2020: \$81,669.44



The end of the year will be here before we know it, which means tax season is just around the corner! In order for your donations to

be included in your 2021 giving statement, please make sure mailed donations are postmarked by December 31; mail them to 2116 Hollister Ave. Madison, WI 53726 (attn: Donna). If you give electronically, you may want to allow a few extra days for your donation to process by the 31st. Thank you for your generosity!

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Andy McAlpin, O.P. Pastor, ext. 117;
fr.andy@blsacrament.org
Fr. James Pierce Cavanaugh, O.P. Parochial Vicar,
ext. 127; fr.jamespierce@blsacrament.org
Brother Ed van Merrienboer, O.P. Pastoral Associate
Emeritus, ext. 133; bredward@blsacrament.org
Donna Roeck Parish Operations Manager, ext. 116;
donna@blsacrament.org
Megan Stram Pastoral Associate, ext. 119;
megan@blsacrament.org
Steve Castrogiovanni School Principal,
ext. 115; scastrogiovanni@school.blsacrament.org
Erin Daly Administrative Assistant and Database
Manager, ext. 110; erin@blsacrament.org
Peggie Hansen Director of Religious Ed (K- 7th) and
Baptism Prep, ext. 106; peggie@blsacrament.org
Geno Finn Director of Youth Ministry (6th-12th) and
Confirmation, ext. 134; geno@blsacrament.org
Eric Ravnika Director of Buildings & Grounds,
ext. 145; eric@blsacrament.org
Diane Jones Bookkeeper, ext. 120;
diane@blsacrament.org
Matt Regner Director of Liturgy and Evangelization,
ext. 138; matt@blsacrament.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.blsacrament.org
www.school.blsacrament.org
www.blessedsacramentteens.org
Information: info@blsacrament.org

School Happenings

Preparation for Christmas has begun! Homerooms are busy with projects that center around our Advent theme, "Oh Night Divine." And our annual Christmas program will be Monday, December 20, at 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm!

Blessed Sacrament school admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered program.

Annual Men's Retreat at Lake Winnebago Thursday, February 17-Sunday, February 20

Every year for over 40 years, men from Blessed Sacrament and other Madison parishes have been attending a retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago. This year's retreat starts on February 17 with dinner and concludes with lunch on February 20. The JRH continues to honor their commitment to not turn anyone away due to financial constraints. If you'd like to attend, go to www.jesuitretreathouse.org and register for retreat #008. Contact Steve Sadoff for more information: 608-770-9778 or healprint@gmail.com.

Frassati Fest 2022

February 11th - 13th
Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

All high school teens are invited for a weekend at the Kalahari for an amazing event for teens from all over the Diocese of Madison. It's an opportunity to grow in your faith, meet new people, have fun at the waterpark, and so much more!



Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

For more information visit: blessedsacramentteens.org/FrassatiFest



Around the Diocese

Resurrection Cemetery announcements

On Friday, December 17 at 10:00 am, Fr. Brian Wilk (St. Bernard's—Middleton) will celebrate a Mass at Resurrection Cemetery. All are welcome to come and pray for the dead.

Do you own cemetery property? Bishop Hying blessed Resurrection's new Our Lady of the Lakes columbarium on October 30. You can see this and other available property by calling the cemetery at 608-238-5561 or visiting madisondiocese.org/cemeteries.

amazon



Remember to Smile first!

Don't forget to SMILE when you are purchasing your Christmas gifts on Amazon! When you purchase items from Amazon, type smile.amazon.com instead and you'll raise money for Blessed Sacrament. We call this "effortless fundraising." Go to smile.amazon.com and designate "Blessed Sacrament Congregation" (double check that the city is Madison) as your charity. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of your items to Blessed Sacrament!



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