

December 13, 2020

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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PASTOR:

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Diermeier
dierjoe@aol.com

BULLETIN EMAIL:

bulletin@stmarysmarathon.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday—4:00 PM

Sunday—7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, and
10:00 AM **Due to limited
capacity.**

**Coming Soon—2021 Stewardship
Envelopes will be mailed
to you quarterly. You will
receive the first three
months worth of
envelopes around the
middle of December.**



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School 715 443 3430
Religious Ed. 715 443 2433



*John answered them, "I baptize
with water; but there is one
among you whom you
do not recognize,
the one who is
coming after me,
whose sandal
strap I am not
worthy to untie."*

- Jn 1:26-27



3rd Sunday

ADVENT



*Lauren Putnam and
Satchel Baranek
December 19, 2020.*



Congratulations to Brett and Alernie Kunze on the baptism of their daughter, Brittanie Fango. We would also like to congratulate Julius Venzke and Christa Pachniak on the baptism of their son Barrett Jay.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

- SUN 12/13** 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
- MON 12/14** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
- TUE 12/15** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
- WED 12/16** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
- THR 12/17** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- FRI 12/18** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- SAT 12/19** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
- SUN 12/20** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent

LIVE THE LITURGY
Inspiration for the week

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

FROM THE PASTOR

“God loves a cheerful giver.” The words come from Saint Paul’s letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor 9:7). I am writing this letter to inform you about two special needs where we have the opportunity to be cheerful givers. The first is the annual collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Here at Saint Mary’s we have been blessed with the presence of religious Sisters and priests who served in this parish for a number of years. Religious Sisters taught here and attended to the needs of the students while often living on a very modest stipend. Also, for a number of years the parish priests were members of the Capuchin Order. So our parish in a very special way can give thanks to God for the gift of religious women and men whose presence benefitted us. It is now our opportunity to say thanks and to support the retirement fund for religious women and men. Today, many who are in religious communities have medical and nursing care needs and do not have adequate funds. This national collection for their retirement fund goes a long way to assist them.

The second need pertains to the **cathedral in La Crosse** which is in need of some immediate repair and restoration. Bishop Callahan has asked all of us throughout the Diocese to consider prayerfully a donation that we might be able to give to help in the restoration of our “mother church.” A brochure is available so that you can see in greater detail what is included in the restoration needs. One-time donations are appreciated as well a pledge for an amount that can be paid over the next few years. Please, as Bishop has asked, give this prayerful consideration. You can find further information about this on the parish website.

Both of these financial needs are important. Please be generous if you can – and do so cheerfully “for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Week at a Glance

- Wed., Dec. 16** ... HSRE Gr 10 6:30-8:15pm
- Wed., Dec. 16** ... Communal Rosary 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

There will be six Masses offered for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The times are as follows:

Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00, 5:30 & 7:00pm

Christmas Midnight Mass at midnight with singing beginning at 11:30pm

Christmas Day Masses at 9:00 & 10:30am.

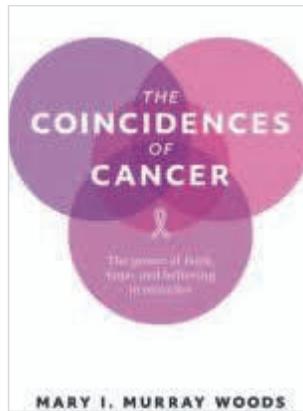


We must follow the capacity limit which necessitates the extra Masses this year.

In past years the Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 gave special consideration to the many children who attended. Due to the restrictions, this will not occur. Although we want the liturgies to be prayerful we also have to keep them brief and simple.

Please remember that the dispensation from the obligation to attend the Mass in person remains in effect due to COVID. If you are hesitant to come to church, you are able to watch the Christmas Mass on social media. Also, anyone whose health could be compromised by coming to church and anyone who is ill should certainly remain at home.

Thanks for your attention to this matter. We hope that it helps you as you make decisions and plans for Christmas.



Mary I. Murray Woods, a parishioner of Guardian Angels Parish—St. Kevin’s, Melrose, has published a book sharing her encounter with pancreatic cancer. Mary was diagnosed in January 2016, underwent surgery, and continues to be cancer free. In her book, **“The Coincidences of Cancer”** Mary shares how her faith and positive

attitude, along with medical intervention, were the driving forces that she believes has given her a positive recovery. She also shares the coincidences that happened to her before and after being diagnosed. Mary hopes that the book will let patients dealing with all types of cancer know that there is always hope and early detection is such an important factor. The book is dedicated to the late Fr. Bob Streveler, who was Mary’s “rock” during her diagnosis and treatments, as well as being a close friend for several years. This is not a for profit book, with partial proceeds directed to Gundersen Medical Foundation Paula’s Purse Fund, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Cost of the book is \$19.95 plus \$2 postage. Mary can be contacted at cjmiw@msn.com or 608-488-5951. Mary is a sister to Margaret Meacham and an aunt to Dr. Noelle Marks, both parishioners of St. Mary’s.



SPIRITUS is seeking Catholic young adults, 21-29 years of age, to join the SPIRITUS missionary team this August. SPIRITUS ignites the faith in thousands of young Catholics through retreats and parish youth ministry each year! Missionaries live in

community and travel to parishes and schools throughout Wisconsin; they receive training, formation, spiritual direction, lodging, food, a monthly allowance, health insurance and a \$2,000 stipend upon completion of the 9-month program. It is a unique opportunity to serve our Lord and help young Catholics grow in faith. Visit www.spiritusministries.org/ beamissionary, contact Rachel at recruiter@spiritusministries.org, or (920) 722-8918 x113 for more information.

Parish Stewardship for December 12, 2020

Average amount needed in weekly stewardship envelopes	\$13,300.00
Adults	\$ 20,996.16
Students.....	\$ 22.00
Plate	\$ 847.00
Automatic Direct Donation average .	\$ 1,295.00
<i>Total for the week</i>	\$ 23,160.16

Parish and School Staff

Deacons	Dcn. Bryan Hilts Dcn. John Bourke Dcn. Gordy Ruplinger
School Principal	Joseph Koch Jr.
School Secretary	Suzie Lang
Hot Lunch Manager	Karen Fischer
Religious Ed. Coordinator	Jim Schumacher
Rel. Ed. Administrative Assistant	Jennifer Switlick
RCIA Coordinator	Toni Zemke
Parish Secretary & Bulletin Editor	Jennifer Switlick
Plant Manager	David Salber
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Stieber



Pax Christi Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel can ONLY be described as a wonderful gift. It is the gift of being close to the presence of the Lord Jesus as we contemplate His love for us.

During the Holy Mass, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. During times of Adoration when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, we see the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine which have truly become the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. In one sense, this is a miracle in our midst – that Jesus would come to us in this way. But often that is the way of the Lord – a silent and unobtrusive way. He comes to us in silence, remains within us and invites us to carry Him into the world around us. None of us can ever fully understand how this occurs, but we do know why it occurs. It happens because God loves us and loves this world so deeply. He wants to remain with us and we with Him.

If you are willing to give the Lord even a bit of your time by adoring Him in the Blessed Sacrament, you will find these words to take on new meaning:

Come in faith, Remain in hope, go out in love.

The effects of adoration: Here is a comment from one of our parishioners who has a weekly hour of adoration. “In the past, I never had a personal relationship with Jesus. I knew of him, I knew about him, but I didn’t know him. I didn’t really love Jesus because you can’t love someone you don’t know. The first time I went to adoration, I was bored out of my mind and spent most of the time looking at my watch. During my second visit, I didn’t pray at all. The third time, however, I was at a low point. Adoration has improved every aspect of my life. I’m no longer in a state of constant worry about situations I have no control over. I don’t know what the future holds, but I find great comfort in knowing the One who does.”

***Currently closed until the Safer at Home restrictions are lessened or lifted.**

Our Mission and Identity

Our parish, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grows only in Christ and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Flowing from these gifts, we dedicate ourselves to live and proclaim the Gospel message of Christ’s love. To live Christ’s love may at times be difficult. Nevertheless, it is our goal.

We are called to reach out to our parish family, to the needs of the local community, the diocesan Church, the universal Church, and to the global community. We do this by being attentive to the voice of God found in the Sacred Scriptures, in the Sacred Tradition of our Catholic faith, and through an informed conscience which we try to cultivate.

In light of our baptism, we try to be Christ centered in every aspect of our faith life.

December 13, 2020—Third Sunday of Advent

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Reading 1 IS 61:1-2A, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm: LK 1:45-48, 49-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Reading 2 1 THES 5:16-24

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: JN 1:6-8, 19-28

Homily

Profession of Faith: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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