



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

602 Everglade Drive, Madison WI 53717 • (608) 833-2600 • stamadison.org • parish@stamadison.org

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES!

We are a Catholic parish where people experience Jesus Christ in a way that changes how they live.

## The Ascension of the Lord Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord. Psalm 47*

### Holy Mass Schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30AM  
Tuesday, 5:30PM & Thursday, 7:30AM  
Saturday, 4:30PM English  
6:30PM Spanish  
Sunday, 8:00AM and 10:00AM  
All Masses are live streamed.

### Reconciliation Schedule

Saturday, 3:15-4:10PM  
Sunday, 9:00-9:50AM

### Adoration

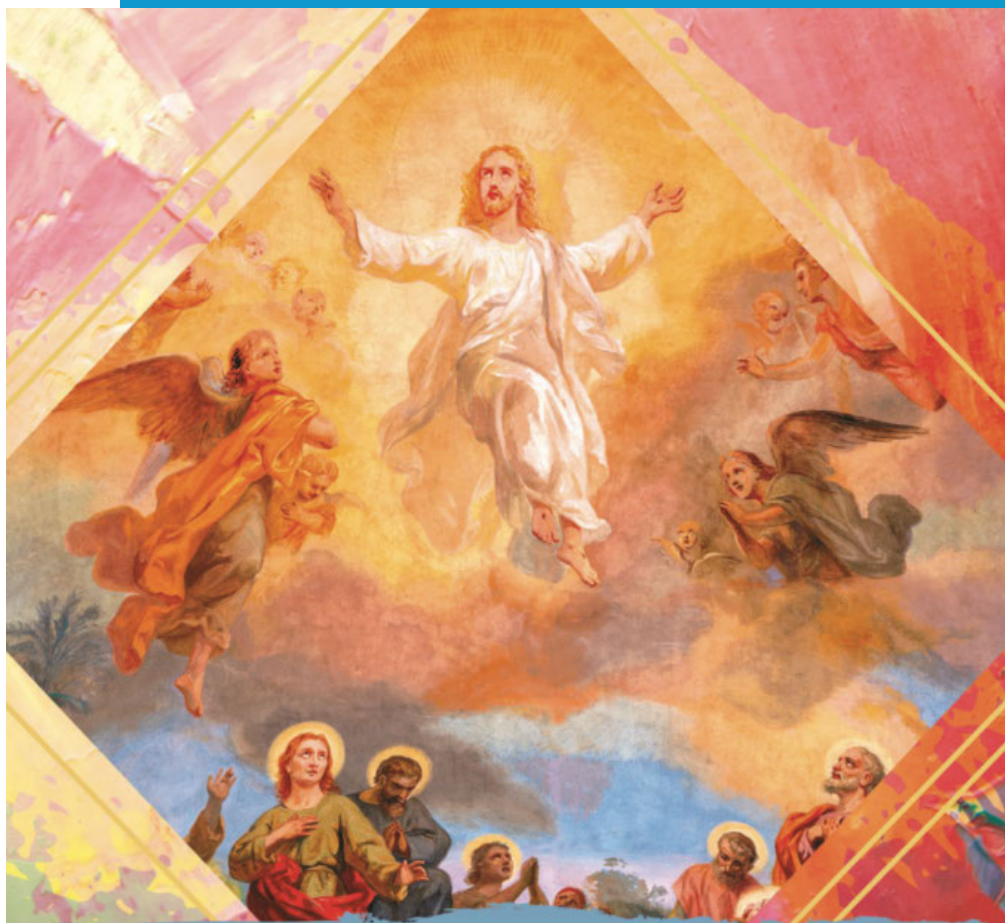
Monday, 2:00-4:00PM  
Tuesday, 4:15-5:15PM  
Friday, 9:00-10:00AM

### Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00AM-5:00PM  
Friday, 9:00AM-Noon

### Church and Chapel Hours

Monday-Friday, 7:30AM-5:00PM  
Saturday, 10:00AM-6:00PM  
Sunday, 7:00-11:00AM



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."  
- Mt 28:19-20

## LA ASCENSIÓN DEL SEÑOR

"Vayan, pues, y enseñen a todas las naciones, bautizándolas en el  
nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo." - Mt 28, 19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. ©LPI

### Misa en español

Sábados a las 6:30PM

### Confesiones

Sábados 3:15-4:10PM  
y por cita previa

### Adoración al Santísimo

Lunes 2:00-4:00PM  
Martes 4:15-5:25PM  
Viernes 9:00-10:00AM

## La Ascensión del Señor VII Domingo de Pascua 21 de mayo de 2023

*Entre voces de júbilo,  
Dios asciende a su trono. Aleluya.  
Salmo 46*

# Parish News and Words from Our Pastor

## Noticias Parroquiales y Mensaje de Nuestro Párroco

by Fr. Bart Timmerman

### The Ascension of the Lord Jesus

I found this description of the Ascension and Jesus' glorified existence by Fr. William G. Most and wanted to share it with you:

Forty days after his Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. During this period between His Resurrection and Ascension, He actually gave the primacy He had promised to Peter, as we read in John 21. The many events between His resurrection and ascension rule out the theory that He ascended on Easter. His Ascension does not mean that heaven is somewhere up in space. This was a way of making clear that He was leaving the present mode of existence. St. Paul, in Colossians 3:1, urges us to live our lives now as if we had already died, had risen, and had ascended with Him. In a mystical sense we have done that, in that our Head has done that. In the physical sense it is still in the future.

He ascended to receive the glory due to Him as conqueror of sin and death (Philippians 2:8-11); to be our mediator and advocate with the Father (Hebrews 9:24); to send the Holy Spirit as He had promised at the Last Supper (John 16:7); and to prepare a place for us as He also promised (John 14:2).

Now He is seated at the Father's right hand, which means that, as He said, "all power has been given to me in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). He always had that power as God, but now He exercises it as man, as King of the Universe, with His Mother beside Him as Queen of the Universe.

As God, He is everywhere, but not as man, though He is present on earth most widely in the Holy Eucharist, even as man.

Besides this real bodily presence in the Eucharist, Christ is present on earth in other, lesser ways. Vatican II explained the various forms of presence, in the Constitution on the Liturgy, # 7: "Christ is always present to His Church, especially in liturgical actions. He is present in the Sacrifice of the Mass in the person of the priest; 'He is the same one, now offering by the ministry of priests, who then offered Himself on the Cross [citing the Council of Trent].' But He is most greatly present under the Eucharistic species. He is present by His power in the Sacraments, so that when anyone baptizes, Christ Himself baptizes. He is present in His word, for He speaks when the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, finally, when the Church prays and sings the Psalms, He who promised "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst" (Matthew 18:20).



### La Ascensión del Señor Jesús

Encontré esta descripción de la Ascensión y la existencia glorificada de Jesús por el P. William G. Most y quería compartirla con ustedes:

Cuarenta días después de su Resurrección, Jesús ascendió al cielo. Durante este período entre su Resurrección y Ascensión, Él realmente le dio la primacía que le había prometido a Pedro, como leemos en Juan 21. Los numerosos acontecimientos entre su resurrección y ascensión descartan la teoría de que ascendió en Pascua. Su ascensión no significa que el cielo esté en algún lugar del espacio. Fue una forma de dejar claro que abandonaba el modo de existencia actual. San Pablo, en Colosenses 3:1, nos exhorta a vivir nuestras vidas ahora como si ya hubiéramos muerto, hubiéramos resucitado y hubiéramos ascendido con Él. En un sentido místico lo hemos hecho, ya que nuestra Cabeza lo ha hecho. En el sentido físico, todavía está en el futuro.

Él ascendió para recibir la gloria que le correspondía como vencedor del pecado y de la muerte (Filipenses 2:8-11); para ser nuestro Mediador y defensor ante el Padre (Hebreos 9:24); para enviar al Espíritu Santo como había prometido en la Última Cena (Juan 16:7); y para prepararnos un lugar como también había prometido (Juan 14:2).

Ahora está sentado a la derecha del Padre, lo que significa que, como Él dijo, "todo poder me ha sido dado en el cielo y en la tierra" (Mateo 28:18). Siempre tuvo ese poder como Dios, pero ahora lo ejerce como hombre, como Rey del Universo, con Su Madre a Su lado como Reina del Universo.

Como Dios está en todas partes, pero no como hombre, aunque está presente en la Tierra más ampliamente en la Sagrada Eucaristía, incluso como hombre.

Además de esta presencia corporal real en la Eucaristía, Cristo está presente en la Tierra de otras formas en menor escala. El Vaticano II explicó las diversas formas de Su presencia, en la Constitución sobre la Liturgia, n° 7: "Cristo está siempre presente a su Iglesia, especialmente en las acciones litúrgicas. Está presente en el Sacrificio de la Misa en la persona del sacerdote; 'Él es el mismo, que ahora se ofrece por el ministerio de los sacerdotes, que entonces se ofreció a Sí mismo en la Cruz [citando el Concilio de Trent]'. Pero está más presente bajo las especies eucarísticas. Está presente por Su poder en los Sacramentos, de modo que cuando alguien bautiza, Cristo mismo bautiza. Está presente en su Palabra, pues habla cuando se leen las Sagradas Escrituras en la Iglesia. Está presente, en fin, cuando la Iglesia ora y canta los Salmos, Aquel que prometió: "Donde dos o tres están reunidos en mi nombre, allí estoy yo en medio de ellos" (Mt 18, 20).



# Parish News and Words from Our Pastor

## Noticias Parroquiales y Mensaje de Nuestro Párroco

by Fr. Bart Timmerman

### **Congratulations to our First Communicants!**

This weekend we celebrate First Holy Communion with our 49 young students who have prepared very diligently and eagerly for this special day. I was so impressed by their response when I gave them a surprise quiz a few weeks ago and their participation at our Prayer Day last Saturday was wonderful. They deserve compliments on their participation and learning. It is, I believe, a reflection of their parents and family that they are growing in their faith and have come to know their prayers, the sacraments, and all about Jesus! Thank you to the parents for all you have done to prepare your child for their First Holy Communion. Additionally, I thank all of our wonderful volunteer catechists: (list them here). Finally we thank our STA Staff who worked well as a team this year to cooperate and support the parents. I am so pleased with how well the year of catechesis has gone. We are all grateful to Almighty God for all God has done for us to bring us to this moment of celebration and First Communion!

### **Thank You for Your Prayers and Support of Religious Education at STA!**

Our Religious Education Department at STA experienced a strong academic year of catechesis, thanks to the parents, volunteers, staff, and students. Everyone involved brought about a wonderful experience of growing in our love for Jesus.

At STA we offer a variety of programming for our students to choose from. For students in grades 1-5, we have Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Levels 1, 2, and 3 available. We also have Traditional Catechesis available. Traditional Catechesis is offered in Spanish and English. This year 161 total students were enrolled in grades 1-5. We also offer middle school catechesis in a Youth Ministry style environment. 44 students are enrolled in our middle school program. Ninth grade students are part of our Confirmation Program that meets on Sunday evenings. Last Sunday 50 students were confirmed by Bishop Hying. And in addition to the formal catechesis offered for students in grades 1-9, we also offer a Youth Ministry program for 64 high school students after Confirmation that meets on Sunday evenings as well. Please contact Terri Kopplin to enroll your child for next year when our programs start up again. If you are interested in being a part of our summer Totus Tuus experience July 23-28, please contact Terri Kopplin as well. We are always looking for catechists and small faith group leaders for our program so please pray about this and consider being a part of this important and fun ministry.

### **¡Felicidades a Nuestros Niños de Primera Comunión!**

Este fin de semana celebramos la Primera Comunión con nuestros 49 jóvenes estudiantes que se han preparado con mucha diligencia y entusiasmo para este día tan especial. Me impresionó mucho su respuesta cuando les hice un examen sorpresa hace unas semanas y su participación en nuestro Día de Oración el sábado pasado fue maravillosa. Se merecen felicitaciones por su participación y aprendizaje. Creo que es un reflejo de sus padres y familia el que estén creciendo en su fe y que hayan llegado a conocer sus oraciones, los Sacramentos y todo sobre Jesús. Gracias a los padres por todo lo que han hecho para preparar a sus hijos para su Primera Comunión. Además, doy las gracias a todos nuestros maravillosos catequistas voluntarios: (lista de ellos aquí). Finalmente agradecemos a nuestro personal de STA que trabajó bien como equipo este año para ayudar y apoyar a los padres.

Estoy muy contento de lo bien que ha ido el año de catequesis. ¡Todos estamos agradecidos a Dios Todopoderoso por todo lo que ha hecho por nosotros para traernos a este momento de celebración y Primera Comunión!

### **¡Gracias por sus Oraciones y Apoyo a la Educación Religiosa en STA!**

Nuestro Departamento de Educación Religiosa en STA experimentó un sólido año académico de catequesis, gracias a los padres, voluntarios, personal y estudiantes. Todos los involucrados trajeron una maravillosa experiencia de crecimiento en nuestro amor por Jesús.

En STA ofrecemos una variedad de programas para nuestros estudiantes a elegir. Para los estudiantes en los grados 1-5, tenemos Catequesis del Buen Pastor Niveles 1, 2 y 3 disponibles. También tenemos disponible la Catequesis Tradicional. La Catequesis Tradicional se ofrece en español e inglés. Este año 161 estudiantes en total fueron matriculados en los grados 1-5. También ofrecemos Catequesis para la Escuela Intermedia en un ambiente al estilo de la Pastoral Juvenil. 44 estudiantes están inscritos en nuestro Programa de Escuela Intermedia. Los estudiantes de noveno grado son parte de nuestro Programa de Confirmación que se reúne los domingos por la noche. El domingo pasado 50 estudiantes fueron confirmados por el Obispo Hying. Y además de la catequesis formal que se ofrece a los estudiantes en los grados 1-9, también ofrecemos un Programa de Pastoral Juvenil para estudiantes de secundaria después de la Confirmación que se reúne los domingos por la noche también. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Terri Kopplin para inscribir a su hijo para el próximo año cuando nuestros programas comiencen de nuevo. Si usted está interesado en ser parte de nuestra experiencia de verano Totus Tuus 23-28 de julio, por favor, póngase en contacto con Terri Kopplin también. Siempre estamos buscando catequistas y líderes de pequeños grupos de fe para nuestros programas así que por favor oren y consideren ser parte de este importante y divertido ministerio.



# Tributes to Fr. Bart Timmerman

*As Fr. Bart has shared, this July he will be moving on to serve a new pastorate and bring joy, laughter and wisdom to his new community in Beloit. The news is bittersweet, but we know he's destined to touch the lives of many! Each week, please enjoy an article from a member of the STA staff- a fun memory, a letter of thanks or an example of one of the many ways Fr. Bart has positively impacted their own lives. Enjoy!*

## Fr. Bart Grants Opportunities of a Lifetime

*by Dcn. Jerome Buhman, Marriage & Baptism Preparation and RCIA*

It has been almost three years since I moved from St. Maria Goretti to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. At that time, we were in the midst of the covid pandemic, so perhaps not a choice time for a transition. However, Fr. Bart made the move very easy for me and has been supportive since day one (even with my homiletic eccentricities). He has never failed to provide me with advice and encouragement.

One of the most striking and impressive attributes that Fr. Bart has is being able to meet people where they are in their faith journey and walk with them with empathy and understanding as he helps them encounter Jesus Christ. In this way, Fr. Bart echoes the pastoral message of Pope Francis and helps create a parish community based on genuine care for one another. Even though I was in pastoral care ministry for years, I have learned a great deal more about pastoral outreach through being privileged to work with Fr. Bart. It is evident in my conversations with parishioners how much they love Fr. Bart through the many instances of his care for them.

Hand-in-hand with this is Fr. Bart's zeal for evangelization. His efforts to create an evangelizing parish have been herculean. I have been galvanized by his (and the rest of his staff's) dedication and enthusiasm for evangelization and I am excited to assist in continuing the good work he has helped launch. It is perhaps no coincidence that the Ascension reading this week is the great commissioning from the Gospel of Matthew!



I would be remiss if I didn't mention Fr. Bart's wonderful sense of humor (he did hire me, after all). Often self-deprecating but always joyful and genuine, he never fails to be able to lighten everyone's hearts with a good laugh.

I will greatly miss Fr. Bart; the people of Beloit are lucky indeed!



## Fr. Bart's Farewell & Celebration!

Wednesday, June 28  
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

St. Thomas Aquinas  
602 Everglade Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

Hosted by STA Parish Family  
(608) 833-2600

Join us as we say farewell to Fr. Bart Timmerman and wish him well on his new assignment as Pastor in Beloit beginning July 1st.

Wednesday, June 28th: We'll begin in church with evening prayer and music, followed by a celebration with refreshments in the Social Hall.

Cake will be served, and we are also requesting volunteers to bring in desserts, appetizers or champagne. Once you click "yes" to RSVP there will be an option to "sign-up" to bring refreshments. Please contact the parish office with questions: [parish@stamadison.org](mailto:parish@stamadison.org)

Join us as we *TOAST to Timmerman!* See you June 28th!

Scan to RSVP





## Around the Diocese

### Wedding Anniversary Celebration

#### What Anniversary are You Celebrating in 2023?



Bishop Donald Hying will be recognizing married couples celebrating 25, 50, 55, 60 or more years of marriage and the first 3 years of marriage.

**Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**  
St. Francis Xavier in Cross Plains

The event will start at 2pm with a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a cake, coffee, and punch reception.

Please notify Judy Moder at [judy@stamadison.org](mailto:judy@stamadison.org) or 608.833.2600 x86 by May 24th that you will be celebrating your Special Anniversary in the calendar year of 2023 and your name will be submitted to the Bishop's office.

**This event is invitation only!**

### National Combined Collection

This weekend, we are conducting the National Combined Collection in our parish. This collection combines the following individual collections:

*Black & Indian Missions*

*Catholic Promotion of Authentic Human Development*

*Catholic Communications Campaign*

*Catholic Home Missions*

*Catholic University of America*

*Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services*

*Retirement Fund for Religious*

Your help and support is critical. Please take this week to pray about the support you can provide. A brochure and envelope will be inserted into the bulletin this weekend for your donation.



### Madison Diocesan Eucharistic Congress



First, join fellow parishioners in our own Eucharistic Procession on ***Corpus Christi***, June 11.

Then, join others from the diocese at the ***Madison Diocesan Eucharistic Congress***: Sept. 29-Oct. 1, at St. John the Baptist, Waunakee. A beautiful, Eucharistic Procession will take place after the Sunday Mass on Oct. 1.

Immerse yourself in faith, fellowship, and family!

**"Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love."**

--St. John Paul II

Go to the revival website at [blessedbrokenandgiven.com](http://blessedbrokenandgiven.com) to learn more.

### MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN

JUNE 24, 2023

### PARTICIPATE IN THE LARGEST PRO-LIFE EVENT IN OUR STATE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

1:30 P.M. RALLY 2:15 P.M. MARCH

WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL - STATE STREET STEPS

**REGISTER BY MONDAY, JUNE 12**  
**Visit [ProLifeWI.org/marchforlife](http://ProLifeWI.org/marchforlife)**



## INTO THE DEEP

### Stay Connected!

We believe that the *Into the Deep* strategic plan will help us to achieve a brighter future for our local church, which is the Diocese of Madison.

**And, we need your help!**

We need your prayers, your renewed commitment to following Jesus as a missionary disciple, and your continued engagement. **We want you to walk with us.** Please sign up for our email newsletter.

May God help all of us in the Diocese of Madison to courageously and generously follow Him... *into the deep*...and on the path to heaven! Stay connected: <https://intothedeepmadison.org/stay-connected>

# Justice & Peace and Outreach

## Every Day is Earth Day!



Care for God's  
Creation Team

We have reviewed the creative submissions to our logo contest. Thank you for your efforts and inspiration. We will be announcing the winners next weekend and look forward to sharing your talents with our fellow parishioners. In the meantime, this week (May 21-28) is Laudato Si' Week.



### Laudato Si' Week

"Laudato Si' Week began as a way to celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Francis' world-changing papal encyclical letter, Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home. Since then, the annual celebration has become a way for all Catholics to unite and rejoice in the progress we've made in bringing Laudato Si' to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for our common home.

This year, with the theme of Listening and Journeying Together, Catholics on six continents will work on "bringing the human family together to protect our common home" (LS 13), which is the guiding Laudato Si' quote for the weeklong celebration.

Catholics across the globe will unite their communities in action and learn more about how Laudato Si' offers a blueprint on how to tackle the climate crisis. Globally, Catholics will come together as one family in prayer and action." <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

If you have not yet read the encyclical, we encourage you to do so. It is a powerful document that has been embraced by many faith communities and inspires people around the world to take action on the climate crisis.

The encyclical encourages people to examine and change their lifestyles through sound ecological virtues, greater simplicity and less focus on material things. Pope Francis extends an "urgent challenge to protect our common home ... to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change."

By taking personal action and reducing excessive consumption and waste in our lives, we can meet our obligation to reduce our impact on the environment while creating a sustainable future for generations to follow.

## Catholic Worker in Madison

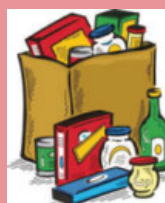
STA parishioners Andrea and Justin Novotney and their three boys are working to open a Catholic Worker house in which to provide hospitality to those in need of housing, particularly refugees and women with children, on the west side of Madison. A 'house of hospitality', within the Catholic Worker movement, provides shelter, and often food and clothing, to those in need. The Catholic Worker was founded by Servant of God Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in New York in 1933 amidst the Great Depression as a way to live out Catholic social teaching and the Gospel values—responding to the needs of those immediately around them.

If this model resonates with you, consider collaborating with the Novotney family as a volunteer or supporter by filling out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/cw-pledge-form>. They are looking for financial support as well as meal preparation, childcare, transportation for guests, gardening, etc.

You can follow along with updates on this effort here: <https://catholicworker.org/great-turning-appeal>

You can also reach out to Justin for more information at: [novotnjm.justin@gmail.com](mailto:novotnjm.justin@gmail.com)

Please help spread the word!



**Luke House  
Community Meal  
Program  
Bring in items  
By 9AM on May 24<sup>th</sup>**



**Women' Care Center  
Clothing or Gift Card  
Request**

We have a LOT of mamas who are in desperate need of **Spring/Summer boys clothing size 18 months—5T**. Any donations of these items are appreciated!

We could also use Amazon or Walmart gift cards in denominations of \$50 or less to supplement our Crib Club with needed items.

Donations can be dropped off at:  
the Women's Care Center,  
3711 Orin Road, Madison, WI 53711  
Monday – Friday from 9 am – 5 pm.

Thank you SO much for your support of the moms in our community and of our center.  
We cannot do it without you!

## The Heart of Our Faith Retreat



### The Heart of Our Faith Parish Retreat

**Saturday, June 10,  
12:30—4:15 PM  
at St. Thomas Aquinas**

How often have we heard the beautiful message of the Gospel...the good news of God's love, Jesus' gift of salvation, the Holy Spirit's power? Perhaps, more importantly, how often do we take time to not only hear this message, but to let it sink in from our head to our heart?

Adults and teens are invited to join us for this special half-day retreat, as we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. Perhaps for some it will be one of the first times giving God the chance to move you from understanding to believing—from head to heart. For some, it may well affirm a message that you know well and have heard many times. Wherever you're at on your journey, this will be an opportunity for each of us to strengthen our faith, and be better prepared to share this good news with others.

**RSVP by June 5  
to Jennifer Ludtke at  
833-2606 or  
[Jennifer@stamadison.org](mailto:Jennifer@stamadison.org)**



## Agrace Opportunities

### Volunteers Needed for Adult Day Center

Volunteers are needed to provide companionship to clients at the Agrace Adult Day Center. Agrace will host orientation for new volunteers Thursday, June 15, from 1-3p.m. at its Madison campus. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (608) 327-7163 or visit [Agrace.org/Volunteer](http://Agrace.org/Volunteer) and fill out an application.

### Grief Support Group Options in June

In June, Agrace is offering professionally led, in-person and virtual (accessible with a tablet, computer or smartphone) grief support options.

**Bridges** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at the Agrace Grief Support Center. In June, meetings are June 7 and 21, from 5:30-7 p.m.

**Bridges (virtual)** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held every other Wednesday. In June, meetings are June 14 and 28, from 9:30-11 a.m., via Zoom.

**Young Adult** is for anyone aged 18 to 30+ years who is grieving the death of a loved one, parent, child, spouse, sibling or friend. The group will meet June 8, from 6 - 7:30 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. For details, fees or to register, email [griefsupport@agrace.org](mailto:griefsupport@agrace.org) or call (608) 327-7110.

No fee for these programs if a participant's family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months. Fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed.

**Pre-registration is required for each session;**  
email [griefsupport@agrace.org](mailto:griefsupport@agrace.org) or call (608) 327-7110  
with questions or to register.

### Get Expert Customized Grief Support— By Text

Agrace now offers thoughtful, customized text messages from a service called Help Texts. It's free and you can sign up even if you are also receiving grief support individually or in a group. To sign up or learn more, visit [HelpTexts.com/Agrace](http://HelpTexts.com/Agrace).

### In-home Support from Age at Home Can Boost Well-being

Do you care for or know an older adult who could benefit from non-medical home care services? Social interaction, like a daily visit from an Age at Home companion, can boost a senior's well-being and also ensure that they safely shower, dress, take medications and eat well. If you think the support of an Age at Home companion could help someone you love, call (608) 327-7456 or visit [AgeatHome.org](http://AgeatHome.org).





### *An Into the Deep Message from the Catholic Diocese of Madison Foundation*

“The Catholic Diocese of Madison Foundation (CDMF) has received questions about how the *Into the Deep* initiative and parish consolidations could affect parish funds that the foundation has under management.

Even after the mergers and pastorates are finalized, funds will continue to be used for their intended purpose(s) as defined in their individual fund agreements and continue to closely follow and honor donor intent within the context of the newly merged parish.

Out of necessity, due to the uniqueness of each fund agreement, agreements will be reviewed within the context of each parish merger and follow the requirements of canon law.

**The critical importance of donors’ continuing to give, as well as honoring their fund pledges, remains in order to preserve and sustain support for each fund’s intended purpose(s).”**

#### About the St. Thomas Aquinas Capital Improvement Endowment:

The **St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Congregation Capital Improvement Endowment** was created as part of the “Make Disciples Capital Campaign.” This campaign has three priorities – to repair and upgrade the current building, to improve the religious education wing, and to establish this endowment that will provide support for capital improvement needs of the parish in the coming years.

Any gifts made to this endowment will be used for future building and maintenance upgrades for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish building and grounds.

#### Support the Endowment:

There is still time (and need) to get involved in our **Make Disciples Capital Campaign Endowment Fund**. To make a pledge to the Endowment Fund, or give a one-time monetary donation, contact Julia Hix, Parish Business Manager, at 608.821.4687 or email [business@stamadison.org](mailto:business@stamadison.org). Thank you for your continued support of St. Thomas Aquinas!

“Make Disciples Capital Campaign” Endowment Goal	\$1,000,000.00
Total Pledged	\$357,077.50
<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>\$244,481.50</b>
Pledge Balance	\$112,596.00
<b>Endowment Goal Balance</b>	<b>\$642,922.50</b>



## Gospel Reflection

by Dcn. Jerome Buhman

### Matthew 28:16-20

I have the rare chance today to choose from two Gospels: one for the seventh Sunday of Easter and one for the Ascension; today I have chosen to write about one line from the Ascension reading. When the eleven disciples met with Jesus on the mountain from which he was to ascend, Matthew tells us: "When they saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted." Yikes! Here are the disciples, who spent years with Jesus, experienced his miracles, saw him crucified, encountered him risen from the dead (!) and yet, they doubted! In a sense, this line should give us great hope. I am sure there are times when we all feel some twinges of doubt or hesitancy in our faith lives, and it is comforting in a sense to know that the very apostles could feel the same thing. It is important to see Jesus' response to this. Though he must be aware of their doubt, he does not chastise them or admonish them – no, he commissions them to baptize all nations. In the same way, God knows of our humanness, our faults and temptations, yet he also gives to us the commission to spread the Gospel. To help us do so, God sends his Holy Spirit to be with us, which we will celebrate next Sunday in the great Feast of Pentecost.



## Jews(?) and Samaritans: Why the Hate?

The Gospels, particularly in the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the story of the Woman at the Well, portray a distinct animosity between the Jews living in Judea and Galilee and the people of Samaria.

How did this antagonism arise?  
What can we learn from it today?

A Presentation by Dcn. Jerome Buhman  
May 24, 2023, 7:00 PM  
St. Thomas Aquinas Social Hall

## Faith Formation & Family



*Middle & High School Youth Sessions  
are for ALL students, not just the confirmed.  
Come in and join us any time.*

### Totus Tuus Sessions

**Grades 1-6: July 24-28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM-2:30PM**

**Grades 7-12: July 23-27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00PM  
at St. Thomas Aquinas**

**Registration forms available in the gathering area  
or by contacting the Faith Formation Office.**

### Faith Formation Office

**608-833-2606 or [formation@stamadison.org](mailto:formation@stamadison.org)  
Follow us on Instagram: [@sta\\_youth\\_ministry](https://www.instagram.com/sta_youth_ministry)**

### Thank you! from Robert Rosa-Cruz

Early this school year, Fr. Bart had asked me to lead the elementary level faith formation and Hispanic ministry. I could've said, "NO," but let's be real...I can't say that to the boss...haha. Anyway, I said, "yes," and it was a nervous "yes." Nervous for many reasons including:

- I'm the new guy.
- Most of my experience is with MS and HS students.
- HOW AM I GOING TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

However, the Lord did not abandon me. Instead, he said "you silly child..." and gave me blessings. He blessed me with working with awesome volunteer catechists, awesome families who were not afraid to ask questions, a great team with Terri and Maira, but more importantly, a supportive parish who prayed for the success of faith formation. This year, even though tough, was awesome. Families got to learn, pray, and be in fellowship. We got to build community! For that I am grateful!

As I remain here at STA, I pray that our faith formation for youth and families continues to grow in numbers and in spirit. Why? So that we continue to spread Jesus' mission around Madison. Thank you all for your support and please know you're all in my prayers.

### Young Adults

**May 25, we will meet  
at Panera on Mineral Point Rd at 7p  
and will be talking about the Easter Gospels  
from the Sunday Masses.**

**There will be food and fellowship.  
Come join us, spread the word, and invite others!**

## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest**

4:30 PM Dolores Schwenn✙

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

**Sunday, May 21 The Ascension of the Lord**

8:00 AM Robert R. and Robert L. Janus✙

10:00 AM Barb White✙

**Monday, May 22 St. Rita of Cascia, Religious**

8:30 AM Elaine Murphy✙

**Tuesday, May 23**

5:30 PM Melanie Ertz✙

**Wednesday, May 24**

8:30 AM Monsignor Mike Burke✙

**Thursday, May 25 St. Bede the Venerable,**

**Priest & Doctor of the Church;**

**St. Gregory VII, Pope;**

**St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin**

7:30 AM Lina Maria Vergara✙

**Friday, May 26 St. Philip Neri, Priest**

8:30 AM Helena Szylow & Kazimiera Sak✙

10:00 AM (Oakwood) Edward Springer✙

**Saturday, May 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop**

4:30 PM Rosemary Johnson✙

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

**Sunday, May 28 Pentecost Sunday**

8:00 AM Ruth Little✙

10:00 AM Bob Kalscheur✙

## Weekly Readings

**Sunday: Ascension** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3,6-9/

Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

**7th Sunday of Easter** Acts 1:12-14/

Ps 27:1,4,7-8/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

**Monday:** Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7ab/Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday:** Acts Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11,20-

21/Jn 17:1-11a

**Wednesday:** Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30,33-36/

Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-

11/Jn 17:20-26

**Friday:** Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20

Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday: Morning** Acts 28:16-20,30-31/

Ps 11:4-5,7/Jn 21:20-25

**Extended Vigil** Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a,16-020b/

Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2,24,35,

27-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

**Sunday:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1,24,29-31,34/1

Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

## Weekly Offertory Update

Weekend Offertory	Income*	MDCC & MDCC Endowment
<b>2023 Year Goals</b>	<b>\$1,421,000</b>	<b>\$405,000</b>
<b>2023 Year TOTALS</b>	<b>\$534,479</b>	<b>\$173,209</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 5/7/2023	\$18,561	\$1,704
<b>Week 2</b> 5/14/2023	\$15,223	\$2,295
<b>Week 3</b> 5/21/2023		
<b>May ACH</b> 5/23/2023		
<b>Week 4</b> 5/28/2023		
<b>May 2023 Totals</b>	<b>\$33,784</b>	<b>\$3,999</b>
<b>May 2023 Goals</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

\*Envelopes, stock gifts, PayPal Credit/Debit and ACH online, ACH monthly withdrawals, plus loose offertory (cash), adjustments to totals may occur.

### Counter Schedule

**Monday, May 22:**

Baik, Degenhardt, Dulli, Hurtgen, Ihlenfeld, Peterson

**Tuesday, May 30:**

Degenhardt, Dulli, Ihlenfeld, Michalski, Neu

## Prayers

### May 21<sup>st</sup> Seventh Sunday of Easter Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

For all Christians:

That our example may give witness  
to the precious gift of human life in this world  
and the invitation to eternal life in the next;  
*We pray to the Lord.*

For all the faithful:

That we may recognize  
that Christ "is with [us] always"  
and share His loving presence with those in need;  
*We pray to the Lord.*

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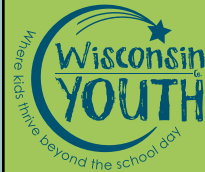


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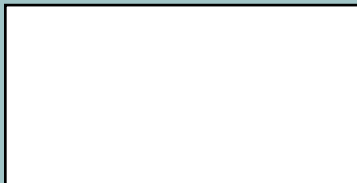
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