



GOOD SHEPHERD

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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PARISH OFFICE

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Hours Monday to Thursday: 8am to 4pm
Fridays: 8am to 12pm

PARISH STAFF

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SCHOOL

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SACRAMENTS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES TO OUR SCHEDULE
DURING THIS TIME OF SUSPENDED PUBLIC LITURGIES

Weekend Mass Schedule:

- » Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
- » Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule:

- » Tuesday to Friday: 7:30 a.m.
- » Saturday: 8:00 a.m. (ad orientem)

Eucharistic Adoration (in the church):

- » Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:
8:15 to 9:15 a.m.
- » Saturday: 8:45 to 10:00 a.m.

Confession:

- » Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:
8:15 to 9:15 a.m.
- » Saturday: 8:45 to 10:00 a.m.
- » By appointment: Please call the pastor

Baptisms & Weddings

- » Please call the parish office

MASSES DURING TIME OF PANDEMIC

For the time being, we do not require or request registration for our Sunday Masses. We will revert to registration if we run into capacity issues.

Please do not sit in the pews marked with the red "Stop" signs. Please leave six feet (three marked segments) of space between your household and the next household.

Face masks are REQUIRED for all those who come for Mass, Confession, and Adoration, with the exception of children under the age of five. Use your mask properly, COVERING BOTH YOUR MOUTH AND YOUR NOSE.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 8: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7:30 a.m. + Mass
8:15 to 9:15 a.m. + Confessions & Adoration
7:00 p.m. + Mass

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 a.m. + Mass
8:15 to 9:15 a.m. + Confessions & Adoration
7:00 to 8:00 p.m. + Family Faith Formation (ONLINE)

Thursday, December 10

7:30 a.m. + Mass

Friday, December 11

7:30 a.m. + Mass
8:15 to 9:15 a.m. + Confessions & Adoration

Saturday, December 12

8:00 a.m. + Mass
8:45 to 10:00 a.m. + Confessions & Adoration
5:00 p.m. + Mass

Sunday, December 13 + THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. + Mass
10:30 a.m. + Mass

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation continues to be suspended as long as the pandemic continues. This means that you are not presently obligated to attend Mass.

All COVID-19 positive persons, those who are symptomatic, and those living with them, must stay home.

Persons over age 65 and those with preexisting health conditions should continue to stay home during Phase II and avoid public gatherings, including in church.

FROM FATHER MARQUARD

DEAR MEN OF GOOD SHEPHERD:

Today, I'm writing to you. The women, I trust, will understand. Men, the message in today's scripture comes through loud and clear: Now is the time to prepare the way of the Lord. Isaiah urges us to fill in the low places, level the high places, make smooth the rugged and rough places, and otherwise clear the way so that the Lord has easy entry. Peter instructs us to conduct ourselves with holiness and devotion even now as we await the day of the Lord. And John the Baptist echoes the prophet before him, crying out: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

The Lord does not need a freeway to come to us. Hills and valleys cannot hinder his arrival. But he does ask for an invitation. He will not force his way into our lives. He stands at the door, knocks, and waits for us to open (see Revelation 3:20).

One problem we men face these days is that it's sometimes impossible to get to the damn door when he knocks. There's too much stuff in the way. And sometimes, we don't even hear him knocking because of all the noise in our lives. The obstacles that prevent us from hearing and answering the Lord with haste and joy come in many forms: overworking, spending too much time on screens and consuming media, eating too much, drinking too much, using pornography, and selfishly clinging to time and preference and pleasure. Maybe some of these are in your way. Well, it's time to make a change. It's time to become better men, better husbands, better fathers, better disciples. It's time to prepare the way of the Lord.

This is why I am calling on you to join me in Exodus 90. What is Exodus 90? Exodus 90 is a 90-day spiritual exercise that provides men with a path to freedom through prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. The program emerged as a response to a profound need for renewal in the Church, especially among men.

The folks who created Exodus 90 recognized that many men today find themselves increasingly lost: whether isolated, distracted, addicted, or stuck in a cycle of mediocrity or complacency. For many men, being lost takes the shape of bingeing on video games or video streaming, or escaping into social media or pornography or the overconsumption of food and drink. Many others lack meaningful friendships or are stalled in their serious relationships. Still others find themselves groping for purpose in the midst of a comfort-oriented world. And some simply find themselves in a prolonged season of dryness, where God seems far away.

Exodus 90 aims to address this bleak situation with a 90-day period of purification, supported by a fraternity of like-minded men to achieve a greater interior freedom and, eventually, a more purified and selfless love. Exodus 90 helps men let go of the things that are holding them back from being the man God is calling them to be; the man their wives, their families, and Church need them to be.

How does it do that? With prayer, asceticism, and fraternity.

PRAYER Men in Exodus 90 commit to daily prayer, including silent meditative prayer, speaking with and actively listening to Jesus Christ; reading from the Book of Exodus, which helps us understand our own spiritual journey; and completing some guided reflections.

ASCETICISM Men in Exodus 90 will embrace habits of asceticism — which can be simply understood as acts of self-denial. All Christians are called to practice asceticism in some way, even outside of Lent. Ascetic disciplines help us practice penance for our own sins, make tangible offerings for the good of others, and grow in freedom and self-mastery.

FRATERNITY Men in Exodus 90 grow in their experience of fraternity — an essential aspect of the Christian life. When we challenge each other to do what is good and hold each other accountable to doing it, good things happen — for us, for our families, and for our community. Men in the program practice fraternity with four to six other men. This is not a warm and cuddly, "I'm OK, you're OK, so we're all OK" type of fraternity. It is an authentic, knees-on-the-marble, out-of-our-comfort-zone-and-into-the-light type of fraternity in which accountability brings forth authentic masculinity.

So, why 90 days? Science, that's why. Research on the neuroplasticity of the brain has shown that breaking old habits and building new ones is possible — but it takes time. And 90 days serves as an industry benchmark for that change. The 91st day, then, is not an end, but a new beginning — a life of freedom in Christ.

"OK, Father Marquard, seems to make sense for some dudes. But I don't need it." Possible, but I doubt it. Are you as good as it's possible for you to be? As prayerful as it's possible for you to be? As chaste? As disciplined? As holy?

We could all do better. "I don't need it" is likely "I don't want to do that" or even "I could never do that" — I get that. I don't always like the idea of daily prayer, daily exercise, fasting, abstaining from alcohol and sweets and television and movies. But I do want to be a better man. And I know that will not happen accidentally. I do want to give Jesus great access to my heart. I do want to be a better priest — as I imagine you husbands and fathers want to be better husbands and fathers. I do want, with God's grace, to be a saint. And none of that happens accidentally. None of that will happen if there's too much stuff in the way for me to hear and answer the Lord when he knocks. If my heart is not prepared.

Is Exodus 90 the silver bullet? Of course not. But it's a good start. Men around this archdiocese and around the nation have broken free of bad habits, adopted good ones, and become better men through this program. And, they've established new friendships — authentic friendships in Christ.

The world needs good men, virtuous men, men who live like saints, men who live for Christ, men who are free to love well. Our wives need men like this. Our children need men like this. Our parents need men like this. Our Church needs men like this. So, men, let's get after it. Let's set aside some comfort, set aside some pleasure, set aside some preference, and set aside some worldliness in order to make room for Christ, to clear the way, to step away from sin and into virtue, to become more and more the men we were created, baptized, and confirmed to be.

The Lord is knocking, men. Let's answer.

We begin on January 4. Look for details in the coming weeks.

WELCOME

We extend a gracious welcome to the new parishioners who joined Good Shepherd in the month of November -

David Haight and daughter **Morgan**

We pray for **MaryLou Fox** who died this past month. May she rest in peace.

We welcome those newly baptized in November into the communion of the Church -

Harvey Augustus Fischer
Child of Keith & Jaime Fischer

RESPECT LIFE

COMMITTEE FUNDRAISER

The Good Shepherd Respect Life Committee will have the new 2020 Christmas ornaments available to purchase before and after masses in the gathering space **this weekend** and **December 12/13** and **December 19/20**. The star shaped ceramic ornaments are adorned with the image of Mary and Baby Jesus. The minimum donation is \$10.00 per ornament. **New this year**, the ornaments will be sold self-serve, pick your bubble wrapped ornament up and place your exact change/donation or check (made payable to Good Shepherd Church) in the box marked for ornament donations.

Again, this year the proceeds will benefit Our Lady of Peace Home, which provides free end-of-life care to children and adults with terminal cancer, hospice care at home and in-home health care services. The proceeds will also aid The Little Sisters of the Poor, who care exclusively for low-income elderly, regardless of race, nationality or religion. Please be as generous as possible.



PRISM FOOD DRIVE

The December PRISM Food Drive is scheduled for **this weekend**. Items needed are: Holiday Foods (Stuffing & Baking Mixes, Instant Potatoes, Gravy Mix/Canned Gravy, Canned Fruit/Vegetables) & Paper Products.

PRISM CHRISTMAS DRIVE

This year, the PRISM Toy Drive will be also be held this weekend. To help with this effort, please bring new, unwrapped gifts and drop them off at the table in the Gathering Space when you arrive at church.

Most desired items: Jerseys and sports attire, i.e., snap-back hats, hoodies; perfume, make-up and bath kits; aftershave and cologne kits; flat irons; bedroom decor, i.e., comforter sets, lamps; socks and underwear; dolls and action figures; Legos and building sets; puzzles and board games; video games; earbuds/headphones/bluetooth speakers; and gift cards.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sun. 12/6	8:30 am	All Parishioners
	10:30 am	† Linda Ekers
Tues. 12/8	7:30 am	All Parishioners
	7:00 pm	† Jill Korman
Wed. 12/9	7:30 am	Spencer Nelson
Thurs. 12/10	7:30 am	† Eleanor Dale & Family
Fri. 12/11	7:30 am	Marge Nelson
Sat. 12/12	5:00 pm	† Denis Gerszewski
Sun. 12/13	8:30 am	All Parishioners
	10:30 am	† George & Gen Rohlik



RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

December 12-13, 2020

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

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

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Prayer Chain	612.599.5739
PRISM	763.529.1350
Southwest Options for Women	
Pregnant? Need Help?	952.938.4496
Befrienders	763.544.0416
Archdiocese's Victim Assistance Program	651.291.4497

CARE ABOUT CREATION?

So does the Church! Following the guidance of Pope Francis, and with the encouragement of Archbishop Hebda, the **Archdiocesan Care for Creation Team** works to help the faithful understand that care for creation is an essential part of our Catholic Social Teaching and to carry out the mission of caring for our common home.

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis urges us to care for God's creation and to see how protecting all of life connects with our faith. As we are called to conversion, we hear the cries of the poor, the oppressed, and the suffering of the planet. Ecological conversion requires that people let "the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

The Archdiocesan Care for Creation team would like to invite you to their next program. They are inviting parishes to explore the possibility of building a Care for Creation ministry in their parishes. They are hosting two opportunities for conversation via Zoom:

- + Wednesday, December 9, from 1 to 2 p.m.
- + Thursday, December 10, from 7 to 8 p.m.

People interested in receiving an invitation to the Zoom call can email creation@archspm.org for more information. If you have questions, please contact Adam Fitzpatrick at fitzpatricka@archspm.org.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
MASSES AT 7:30 AM AND 7:00 PM
THE 7:00 PM MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
4:00 TO 5:00 PM

WE WILL TAKE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CHRISTMAS

In our effort to keep people safe and to accommodate social distancing this Christmas, as well as to avoid as much as possible turning people away due to limited capacity, we are planning six Christmas Masses this year. **We will require registration.** While this is not ideal, it is our current reality. **You must be registered in order to guarantee a spot at Christmas Masses this year.** You can register your household for one Christmas Mass by calling the office at 763.544.0416, 810, or by visiting www.goodshepherdgv.org/christmas2020.

CHRISTMAS 2020 SCHEDULE

- + Christmas Eve, December 24: 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m.
- + Christmas Day, December 25: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m.

Please note that we will add Masses if necessary.



Good Shepherd students are having so much fun learning about the art at the Minneapolis Institute of Art! Over the past couple weeks, they were able to use watercolors to paint animals that are special to them and create animals out of Model Magic. We love having parents "visit" our classroom to teach us about animal art from around the world. We are looking forward to our virtual museum visits later this year.



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