



December 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FROM OUR PASTOR

As we begin Advent or any beginning, it can be time to reflect and look ahead. In this coming year, what do we want to accomplish in our spiritual life?

As a parish and as families of faith, gifting that faith to the next generation is our mission. I offer words of encouragement from Toney Thomas from his article "Passing On Faith Is A Must" in *Shalom Tidings*. "Many couples today are perplexed by a fundamental question. Is it essential to introduce faith in Jesus Christ to my little child? The influx of secularism creates a further dilemma. Should we bring up our children in our own faith? Why not leave it to the children to choose their own faith and way of life? Before we consider the question more deeply, wisdom directs us to look to the natural world.

A crow protects its nest and feeds its chick until it can fend for itself. A calf suckles from its mother until it can survive entirely on grass. Not only do crows and cows teach their young how to feed, but they also introduce their little ones to social norms.

So what makes humans different? Has God not given us the ability to think and exercise free will? Then how could anyone leave their young children drifting without physical or moral direction? If animals and birds teach their young to follow their ways so they can avoid danger and receive nourishment, humans--created in the image and likeness of God-- have an even greater responsibility to nurture our children to do the same. This is critical, not just for their lives on earth but for their eternal destiny. Christian parents are called to help develop their children's God-given gifts so that they can reach their fullest potential and serve God and neighbor.

Modern psychology has thrown a lot of new light on how a person develops mentally. Most of this development occurs between conception and the age of six years. The thoughts and feelings experienced by a mother during her pregnancy affects the child's development. A child who learns to pray within the family (the primary school of virtue) and is also raised in communion with the Church naturally grows up to have a sense of belonging, hope and trust. Therein lies the significance and necessity of family prayer. The pressures of modern life sometimes make it all too convenient to avoid gathering together for evening prayer. However, in a day there are plenty of opportunities for a family to pray and give thanks to our Creator."

So perhaps we all can take that time, even in the car on the way home from Mass or whenever we are traveling, to thank God. But also look at the way we can be a witness of the faith. That we need to be intentional in the manner we follow Jesus. At home what are we doing for Advent? We have the large wreath at church and the purple vestments pointing to the season. The scripture readings are meant to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Still, at home, in your own family what does Advent feel like? Of preparing your heart for baby Jesus? Of passing on the faith in a clear deliberate way?

I have been so impressed with our confirmation II students. We have been reformatting their experience of preparing for Confirmation. Many of them were in middle school when I arrived and now they are in high school with all the challenges and opportunities that it offers them. I have seen so much growth. Yes they are still high school students, so there is much wisdom yet to gain from experience and the wider world will challenge them to live it out. Nonetheless, I encourage all parents to pass on the faith and nurture that gift given to them at baptism. Like all of us, our faith journey is a lifelong one, so keep them in your prayers in this year of formation.

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays ~ 5 PM
Sundays ~ 8 AM & 10 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 5:30 PM
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 AM
First Saturdays 8:00 AM

DAILY ROSARY

Before 8 AM Mass at 7:25 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays ~ 4 PM—4:45 PM
& Following 1st Saturday 8 AM Mass

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

First Fridays beginning at 12 Noon
Benediction at 6:00 PM
All other Fridays beginning at 3:00 PM
Benediction at 4:00 PM

Mass Intentions for the week of December 6, 2020

Sat. Dec. 5	5:00 PM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Norman & Frances Thomas</i>
Sun. Dec. 6	8:00 AM	For the repose of the souls of <i>LaVerne & Rose Schaller</i>
	10:00 AM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Tue. Dec. 8	5:30 PM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Wed. Dec. 9	8:00 AM	For <i>Phil Buttner</i>
	6:00 PM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Marcella (Judy) Prengel</i>
Thu. Dec. 10	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>John Sustar</i>
Fri. Dec. 11	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Jim Stanek</i>
Sat. Dec. 12	5:00 PM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Sun. Dec. 13	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Marcella (Judy) Prengel</i>
	10:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>John Kueppers</i>

Pray for the health of Max Teumer, Ben Reynebeau, Julie (Watry) Stoner, Rosemary Lehnen, Vivian G., Russell Fairchild, Deb Beyer, Diana Hunt, Jessie Norton, Tricia Demmin, Joe Dolphin, Mary Ann Witcraft, Bill Chase, Kiley Hackel, Shari Randall, Helen Eucolono, Ethel Passer, Sid Mead, Steve, Marie Hersil, Becky Fredrickson, Mary W., Bob W., Therese, Mary Sauer, Pete Ruland, Audrey Gillen, Rita Kueppers, Cindy Mueller, Lucille Ryczek, George Gabay, Jim Smith, Sadie Ravenscroft, Anne Nancolas, Rosemary Wier, RM, Floyd Babcock, Payton, Veronica, Kathryn Doughty, Patricia, the Moore Family, JM, Carl Wier, Carole Hayes, Tillie Schumacher, Ralph Hamm, Millie Hovde, Bill Eisch, Mary Lechleiter, Bernadine Seitz, Marie Boehm, Marsha Hamil., MMB, AAB, EMM, Brenna and Randall Stanek.

Pray for those in the military serving our country: Jason Witkowiak, John Miller, Tera Walsh, Casey Chamberlain, Chris Dvorak, Paul Knudtson, Jon Taylor, Jessica Burch, Mandy Gardner, Aaron Hoogland, Janie Asberry, Jessica Tremain, Andrei Klika-Sampe, Zachary Bader, Will Post, Adam Field and Bailey Granger.

Eternal Rest, Grant Unto Her, O Lord. We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Diana Nagy who passed away this week. May perpetual light shine upon her.

Eternal Rest, Grant Unto Him, O Lord. We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Mark Powers who passed away last week. May perpetual light shine upon him.

Tuesday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 PM. Due to the pandemic, obligation to attend Mass on this day has been lifted by the bishop.

Christmas Flower Memorials in memory of your loved ones who have passed away can be placed in the collection boxes or mailed to the rectory. Please have them in by December 18th in time for the names to be published at Christmas.

**Stewardship Corner ~ November 28 & 29, 2020
(521 Registered Families)**

	WKLY BUDGETED	ACTUAL
Adult Envelopes	\$12,868.42	\$ 1,741.00
On-Line Giving		1,368.00
Children's Envelopes	15.67	0.00
Loose Offering	688.68	141.00
Total Weekly Offering:	\$13,572.77	\$ 3,250.00
Budget Contingency Fund		\$ 65.00
Year-to-date* budget requirement		\$312,173.71
Year-to-date amount contributed		\$185,543.48

*Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to current date

We ask you to join us in praying sincerely for guidance and success in helping to meet the temporal needs of our Church so that we can carry on our spiritual mission.

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday	Dec. 8	4:15 PM	Catholic Ed. Comm.—RH
		6:00 PM	Soup w/ Substance—RH
Wednesday	Dec. 9		Religious Ed Classes
Thursday	Dec. 10	2:00 PM	Rosary Makers—RH

Soup with Substance on December 8th. We will meet for Mass at 5:30pm and then head down to Reardon Hall for a light dinner and discussion ending right around 7pm. Please bring a Bible and notebook if you would like. Email re@stpatricksmauston.com or call 747-2681 if you plan to attend the light dinner and discussion.

Making a good confession is the best way to prepare ourselves for the proper celebration of Christmas. Our Advent Communal Penance Service will be Thursday, December 17th at 7 PM.

Community Kids Toy Drive—Donations of toys and/or monetary gifts are being accepted at Wisconsin River Meats. Please see the poster in the gathering area for details or call the rectory for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 10 – Mauston Sharing Supper curbside pick-up at Mauston High School. Sponsored by Bank of Mauston. Beginning at 5 pm until gone. No registration required.

Mauston Area Ministerial Association Christmas Dinner Basket Give Away will be Saturday, December 19th from 9 AM until 11 AM (or until gone) at Faith Christian Church (Hwy 12 & 16 North). You do not need to pre-register.

HIS CHURCH IS YOU AND ME

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021:
Goal—\$41,710
Pledged to date—\$20,439.00
Families—72

Thank you to those families who have already returned their pledge cards. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please give the rectory a call and we will send one out.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK ~ GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE ~ As we celebrate the patroness of the Americas this week, enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego—an encounter that has converted millions.

You can watch with your free parish subscription by simply selecting our parish's name during registration at formed.org/signup.

FREE COVID-19 DRIVE-THROUGH TESTING—New Lisbon Community Center, 110 Welch Prairie Road—Thursdays from 10 AM—6 PM. December 10. Pre-Register by visiting: register.covidconnect.wi.gov

Retirement Fund For Religious Collection—December 12 & 13 ~ Give in thanksgiving. *"I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education"* writes a donor. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

Saturday, December 12th - Lyle's Lunchbox – Extra food for children age 3 through Grade 12 who attend the Mauston School District and qualify for free and reduced lunch. Drive through at Mauston Food Pantry at scheduled time to receive cheese & sausage sticks, fruit, and milk for Christmas break. MUST register by Dec. 4. Call Kathy at 847-5454.

Donate to Project Milk, Help the Children of Casa Hogar in Peru ~ The Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild and Rural Life Committee ask you to help support Project Milk. Help us send 800 bags of Wisconsin milk each year to Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II in Lurín, Peru – home to 72 children, families and staff. Casa Hogar also trades milk for needed resources and donates milk to local soup kitchens and families across greater Lima. Last year more than 40 sites and hundreds of people received nutritious milk from Wisconsin. For more information and to give, visit diolc.org/project-milk.

Support the Beautiful Work of Catholic Charities ~ Catholic Charities provides warm shelter and clothing to homeless people, gives material assistance to those in need, helps families struggling to provide Christmas gifts for their children, assists birthmoms in crisis and parents wishing to adopt, and does so much more. Please consider supporting this great work, whether you can help financially, through volunteering, through your prayers or all three. To learn more, visit cclse.org and click on "Get Involved."

SCRIP

Need GIFT CARDS Christmas shopping or to give as gifts? Stop by the rectory and see what we have for Scrip Cards! (We can also order what you might need.) A list of all available cards can be found on our Scrip website: shopwithscrip.com

What if there was more? What if I could be more? Sometimes we can look around and think that there isn't anything more that can be offered to us, that this is the best I can get. We settle for something that leaves us feeling empty and hungering for more. Perhaps this is an opportunity to ask the Lord what He is calling you to do. As we turn to God in the midst of human mediocrity, we can find something that is eternally greater. Consider your vocation and where God may be leading you. Could it be a call to the priesthood? To begin the conversation or to inquire about what it means to be a priest, please contact Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

Support the Catholic Rural Life organization by shopping their Christmas sale. Through December 4, Catholic Rural Life is offering 20% off the entire CRL store. Use code: MERRY20. To learn more about this fine organization and their publications and other resources, visit catholicrurallife.org.

World Mission Sunday: From Father Woodrow Pace, Diocese of La Crosse Mission Office Director:
We in the Mission Office want to thank you for being a source of hope in a world affected by the pandemic of illness and unrest. As a result of World Mission Sunday, St. Patrick Parish of Mauston has helped to support the work of missionaries who foster hope and bring assistance. May God bless you for your financial contribution of \$1,843.00 and all your prayers. We will forward the total to the national Society for the Propagation of the Faith office. Your collective gifts will support projects that build God's kingdom in our midst. Thank you.

Christ, Our Cornerstone Campaign

Next weekend we will have a special presentation for you regarding our Cathedral steeple renovation project and the **Christ Our Cornerstone** campaign. Since its dedication in 1962, St. Joseph, the Workman Cathedral has been an icon of faith and a magnificent place of worship. As the Mother Church of the Diocese, she has welcomed all within her walls, whether it be generations of faithful parish families or visitors from near and far. As Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, our Cathedral is the cornerstone of our diocese.

More than simply a building, Father Billy Dodge, Pastor of the Roncalli Newman Parish in La Crosse, reminds us that our Cathedral is *"a book, but in structure. It is our faith in stone and as Catholics, wherever we are in the Diocese of La Crosse, we have a building to be proud of. This is a statement of our faith."*

Now, it is our time to make a difference in the life and future of our Mother Church. Next weekend, we will be unveiling an unprecedented opportunity for us to join together as one body united in Christ and take part in this momentous effort!

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