



December 27, 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

FROM OUR PASTOR

Merry Christmas! We need to keep in mind that this wonderful season continues until the Baptism of the Lord. That feast falls on January 10th. So we have some time to enjoy and reflect on the Incarnation of God in the flesh. In varied ways this Christmas was different. Perhaps "what we always did as a family" didn't happen. Nonetheless Jesus has come to us. God took on our nature and the plan of salvation is unfolding. I encourage you to go to the diocesan website for the Bishop's video greeting for the Christmas season.

St. John Paul II often said that it is through the family that God is working. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family this weekend perhaps we can look more closely at our own family. Maybe you are thinking "my family?" Yet God wants to work and allow each of our families to be a source of grace. Jesus came as a small helpless baby for our salvation. Let us not assume how God will work through our family. It could be in ways we don't even see but others notice.

The opening prayer for that feast says "graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life." What virtues are we working on? How do we witness to our children? Or grandchildren, what is important?

After the feast of the Holy Family we celebrate the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st. There is a vigil Mass on Thursday at 5 pm. The Mass for January 1st is at noon. Mary has always been a source of grace and guidance for so many. It is good for us to turn to her for help and ask for her intercession. Yet during this year of St. Joseph, we should also easily turn to him and ask his help that so often is silently given in our daily work.

From "That Man Is You" I offer the following reflection.

"When we fall in love, we forget ourselves as we work to demonstrate our love for the beloved and seek to win her love in return. Yes, God uses human love to help us become less selfish, which is the goal of the purgative stage of the spiritual life.

This occurs very naturally, very easily in the early stages of love...but as time continues, love can become more difficult. We start to refocus on our own pursuits. Little things start to annoy us. We start to take the other person for granted. Tension develops. These are warning signs.

In such moments, we need to recall our first love. Memory is a very powerful force. Everything we experience is encoded in our brains as a unique set of neurological activations. When we remember an experience, we activate those same neurological pathways. It is, as if, we re-experience the original moment.

This is incredibly important because Scripture warns us that the path to trouble is the loss of our first love: 'I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.' (Revelation 2:4) It is critical that we maintain our first love for our spouse. One of the most powerful ways to do so is to remember all the details and joys of falling in love--the first kiss, the first "I love you," the proposal, the wedding, the honeymoon, all the special moments together.

If you remember these moments, you can continue to forget yourself and remain focused on the beloved. When you do so, you can re-experience a lifetime of joy and make progress on your spiritual journey."

Father John

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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 27, 2020

Sat. Dec. 26	5:00 PM	For the <i>Deceased Members of the Howard Rose Family</i>
Sun. Dec. 27	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Henry Janecek</i>
	10:00 AM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Tue. Dec. 29	5:30 PM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Andrew & Marie Lobenstein</i>
Wed. Dec. 30	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Bernice Buttner</i>
Thu. Dec. 31	5:00 PM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Dorothy Lenorud</i>
Fri. Jan. 1	12:00 PM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Sat. Jan. 2	8:00 AM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Ken & Carol Chilson</i>
	5:00 PM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Art Vinopal</i>
Sun. Jan. 3	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Donald Janecek</i>
	10:00 AM	For <i>our Parishioners</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, Bill Chase, Kiley Hackel, Shari Randall, Helen Euclono, 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, Randall Stanke and Jerry Neve.

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.

If someone you know becomes hospitalized and would like a visit, please call Cassandra at the church office. To be included on the prayer line or to be listed in the bulletin prayer list, you may also call the church office at 847-6054.

Our warmest wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year! Our rectory office hours for this week are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday—8:00 AM—4:30 PM; Thursday—8:00—12 Noon. We will be closed on Friday, January 1st.

Friday, January 1st is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Masses will be celebrated on Thursday, December 31st at 5:30 PM and Friday, January 1st at 12:00 noon. Due to the pandemic, obligation to attend Mass on this day has been lifted by the bishop. **There will not be adoration during the day on Friday, January 1st.**

Stewardship Corner ~ December 19th & 20th 2020		
(521 Registered Families)		
	WKLY BUDGETED	ACTUAL
Adult Envelopes	\$12,868.42	\$ 2,387.00
On-Line Giving		1,650.00
Children's Envelopes	15.67	0.00
Loose Offering	688.68	189.00
Total Weekly Offering:	\$13,572.77	\$ 4,226.00
Budget Contingency Fund		\$ 257.00
Year-to-date* budget requirement		\$352,892.02
Year-to-date amount contributed		\$212,514.86

*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.

Additional Christmas Flower Memorials:

Don Strack
 Blanche & Henry Janecek
 Donald Janecek
 Caroline & Bill Strack
 Pat & Dick McLeod
 Officer James Fezatte
 Diane McLeod
 Bertha & Henry Pfaff
 Rich & Darlene Skalak



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**FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK ~ FORGIVEN — SESSION 1: WHERE ARE YOU?** As we make resolutions for 2021, don't forget about your spiritual well-being! Through our Forgiven series, you can help guide friends and family to new spiritual beginnings!

You can watch with your free parish subscription by simply selecting our parish's name during registration at [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup).

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Have you ever wondered if the Lord is calling you to be a priest? To begin the conversation or to inquire about what it means to be a priest, please contact me: 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!

Save the Date! January 30 – Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection: "Walking with Mom's in Need" Some people accuse pro-lifers of caring only about the child in the womb and not women in need. Not true at all, as you will see from this virtual afternoon of reflection on January 30, 2021, with keynote speaker Bob Perron, Executive Director of JMJ Pregnancy Center in Orlando, FL. You will also hear about the fourteen Pregnancy Care Centers in the Diocese of La Crosse and what you can do to help one near you. This afternoon of reflection will have broad appeal for families, adults and teens. More details coming soon!

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord ~ January 6th

Epiphany means “manifestation.” The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The Magi, who were actually scholars and scientists, came to be associated with kings. Their gifts reveal this holy Child’s identity; *gold* for Christ’s Kingship, *incense* for His divinity, and *myrrh* for His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the *twelfth night of Christmas*, on January 6th. In the United States, this feast has been moved to the Sunday, January 3, 2021. In many families, the king figurines are moved a bit closer to the nativity scene every day from Christmas Day until Epiphany. Moreover, it is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk, and incense on the eve of Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the next day.

The blessing of homes (schools, places of employment, etc.) on Epiphany revives the beautiful custom of making our homes sacramentals. Sacramentals make us more mindful, receptive and cooperative with God’s grace. This blessing also reminds us that Christ is the One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

Marking doorways with blessed chalk is also a witness of faith. Use the chalk to mark above the main door and, if possible, over all exterior doors in the following fashion:

- Numerals to consecrate the New Year.
- Initials to remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and also to represent the Latin motto: ***Christus mansionem benedicat*** (May Christ bless this house)
- Four crosses to represent the four seasons.
- Example for the year 2021: 20 + C + M + B + 21

Epiphany Blessing of the Home

If a priest is present, he leads; otherwise, the head of the family is the leader.

All present go from room to room, blessing each room with holy water and praying the following prayer:

Blessed be all the rooms of this home. May each of them be holy and filled with the spirit of happiness and peace, love and affection. May the spirit of pardon and affection reside with us and be always ready to heal our divisions. May the spirits of joy and laughter, hope and faith, playfulness and prayer, compassion and love be perpetual guests in our home. May God’s holy blessing rest upon us all, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the leader inscribes the initials of the three Magi above the exterior doorways using the blessed chalk, the following prayer is prayed:

Inscription for the year 2021: 20 + C + M + B + 21

Blessed be this doorway. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us as we welcome them with respect and kindness. May all our comings and goings be under the seal of God’s loving care. May we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, Jesus, Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

HIS CHURCH IS YOU AND ME

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021:
Goal—\$41,710
Pledged to date—\$24,377.00
Families—75

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.

If the unpredictability of COVID has you waiting until the end of the year to decide whether to donate, the CARES act provides a benefit to those who give prior to December 31, 2020. This year only, you can claim a deduction for up to \$300 in donations even if you claim the standard deduction on your income taxes. If you have already given, you are also eligible for the deduction.

Christ, Our Cornerstone Campaign~ Please remember to send your gifts for the restoration of our beautiful cathedral as soon as you are able. No gift is too small. If you need an envelope to send your gift, please give the rectory a call or stop by and pick one up.

ON LINE GIVING—If you have not tried on-line giving, please check it out! It’s safe, secure and simple! You can find the link on our website: stpatricks-mauston.com (Click on the green triangle in the upper left corner.)

U.S. Bishops’ Statement on ethics of COVID-19 Vaccines: There are currently three vaccines that are likely to be made available in the coming months, those from Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used morally compromised cell lines in producing the vaccine. A confirmatory test, however, employing the commonly used, but morally compromised HEK293 cell line (from kidney cells taken from an aborted child in the Netherlands in 1972) was performed on both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any connection to morally compromised cell lines, in this case the connection is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion. The AstraZeneca vaccine is more morally compromised. The HEK293 cell line was used in the design, development, and production stages of that vaccine, as well as for confirmatory testing. Where possible, then, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are to be used instead. Where that is not possible or would mean significant delay, the AstraZeneca vaccine may be used, in the same way that the Rubella vaccine is used because there is no alternative. To read the full statement on the vaccines, visit usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines.



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