

YOUTH NEWS

February • www.stpatricksmauston.com • (608)847-6054

What Is Love? By SARAH MCMAHON

We live in a world filled with things we "love." I love chocolate and coffee. I love the smell right before it snows. I love my mom. I also love tacos. Love is a tricky thing.

Most often in our world love looks like what feels good or what works best for me. Relationships last until we don't "feel" them anymore. We see people using others for convenience or to avoid loneliness. We even hear of marriages that last less than two years, as if it's a starter or tester marriage.

This is absurd. This is a love that takes and never gives. This is a love of the world. This is not what we are called to.

We are called to glorious, messy, difficult, sacrificial love and it's beautiful and tough. Sacrificial love constantly says "what can I do for the good of the other?" not, "what can I get from this?" Sacrificial love says I will do the dishes because my mom has been really stressed and that would take something off her plate. Sacrificial love says I will wait to have sex because I respect my boyfriend or girlfriend as a person and do not want to treat them like an object to be used. Sacrificial love says quality time together is more important than student section seats to a basketball game.

Sacrificial love is hard because it doesn't give you immediate rewards. There isn't the same instant gratification that comes with doing something that feels good in the moment. To live authentic sacrificial love it must be done from a genuine place of love and not duty. When we live from a place of duty we resent the things we do for others and sacrifice becomes a chore. When we live from a place of love, sacrifice allows us to bring love to others and brings us joy in knowing that we served others with the love of God.

God is present always and He is always pursuing us. He is relentlessly loving us. But instead of looking towards Him we look at our phones or at Instagram or our friends or Netflix or snapchat.

We look at earthly things that tell us love is about getting what you want or what feels good. We look at others and want to be them or be like them instead

March for Life

On Sunday January 13th over 7000 people marched for life in downtown Chicago. Coach buses from ProLife Wisconsin had pick ups across the state to make the day trip as easy as they could for families and young people who were able to participate in it. On January 16th our Diocese sent 255 pilgrims to the March for Life in Washington DC, and on Sunday January 20th the Juneau County March for Life had their walk for 46 minutes (one minute for each year since Roe vs. Wade, 1-22-73) here in Mauston. There are many different ways that we can live our faith and there are many different opportunities. If you need help in how to go about joining a group like these, or hear of different Mission Trip or Pilgrimage opportunities, please let me know at: re@stpatricksmauston.com. Chances are that if you are interested in one of these events... so are others! 😊



Emily Patton, Anna Boppert and Eli Boppert participating in the Chicago March for Life.

February

WHAT'S COMING UP:

March

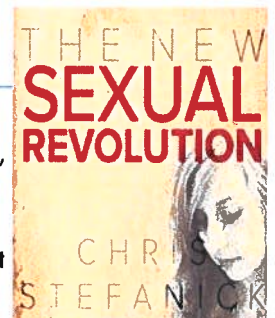
- 10th ~ Sport's Mass 10am:
Girl's Basketball
- 24th ~ Pancake Breakfast
- 26th ~ Holy Happy Hour 6:30pm-7:30pm @ State Street Tap
- 27th ~ Girl's Vocation Dinner in Reardon Hall 5:30pm with the Sisters from the Mater Redemptoris House of Formation



- 3rd ~ Youth Night Time: TBD
- 6th ~ Ash Wednesday
- 10th ~ Sport's Mass 10 am:
Wrestling/ Power lifting
- 27th ~ No RE Classes
Happy Spring Break!

FORMED PICK OF THE MONTH: stpatricksmauston.formed.org

Studies have proven that few factors determine a teen's physical, social, educational, emotional, and even financial health as profoundly as their choice for purity or promiscuity. In this dynamic talk, 14-year youth ministry veteran Chris Stefanick shows us exactly what we're up against and how to turn the tides in the culture war for your teen's purity.



(continued from front)

of looking at God and letting Him call us by our name, "beloved." We must let Him love us before we can show that love to others. I pray that you and I may allow our eyes to be opened to all the ways God is revealing himself to us today and tomorrow and the next day and the rest of our lives. He never stops. He never gives up. He never walks away. It doesn't matter how long we take to recognize Him, He will always show up with open arms, ready to walk with us in peace, and offer us true love so our hearts may overflow and spread that love to everyone we encounter.



OPEN TO FAMILIES, YOUNG PEOPLE, and those YOUNG AT HEART ☺

This year we would like to take a School Bus to the Chrism Mass in La Crosse on Tuesday April 16th. The Tentative Schedule would be: Leave from the Church Parking Lot @ 8am, Mass at the Cathedral 10am, stop for Lunch (Dutch Treat), and be back around 2:30pm. If this is something that you would be interested in, let me know. We are in the planning stages now. re@stpatrickismauston.com or 608-847-6054 ext 15

** This would not be a field trip. . . so children would need to be accompanied by a Guardian.

Saint of the Month: St. Polycarp Feast Day: February 23rd Patron Saint of Earaches

Saint Polycarp's Story:

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church. At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the Saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 155.

Reflection: Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians—a strong fortress of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: "Father. . . I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour. . ." (Acts of Martyrdom, Chapter 14).



Top L-R: Marisa, Reed, & Kaden Bottom L-R: Stella, Beau, & Jameson



Here are our 2nd graders at their 1st Reconciliation Retreat that took place Saturday January 26th. It was a super cold morning, but that didn't stop them from receiving their Sacrament. Thank you to Father John, Mrs. Demaske, Mrs. Walhovd, Ms. Benz and Mrs. Thayer for helping to make this retreat so special for them and their parents!

Top L-R: Warrick, Jonathan, & Jack Bottom L-R: Presley, Adalynn, & Myka

