



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

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

## Regular Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday</b> .....	4:30 PM
<b>Sunday: Masses in English</b> .....	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Misa en español/Mass in Spanish .....	6:30 PM
<b>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</b> .....	8:30 AM
<b>Tuesday</b> .....	5:30 PM
<b>Thursday</b> .....	7:30 AM

## Confession

**Saturdays, 3:15–4:10 PM**

**Sundays, 9:00–9:50 AM**

## Prayer, Devotion, and Adoration

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help:** Monday after Mass

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** Wednesday after Mass

**Morning Prayer:** Thursday after Mass

**Rosario en español:** Thursday, 6:00–7:00 PM

**Rosary in English:** Friday, 8:05 AM

**Adoration:** Monday, 2:00–4:00 PM

Tuesday, 4:30–5:25 PM

Friday, 9:00–10:00 AM

## Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. Bart Timmerman, 833-2600

**Pastoral Associate:** Erik Gyr, erik@stamadison.org

**Music Ministries:** Gregory Buchberger, greg@stamadison.org

**Director of Evangelization and Parish Outreach:**

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**Middle/High School:** Dominick Meyer, dominick@stamadison.org

**Children & Families/Hispanic Ministry:**

Lorianne Aubut, lorianne@stamadison.org

**Director of Discipleship:** Holly Irving, holly@stamadison.org

**Business Manager:** Patrick O'Loughlin, patrick@stamadison.org

**Facilities/Community Minister:**

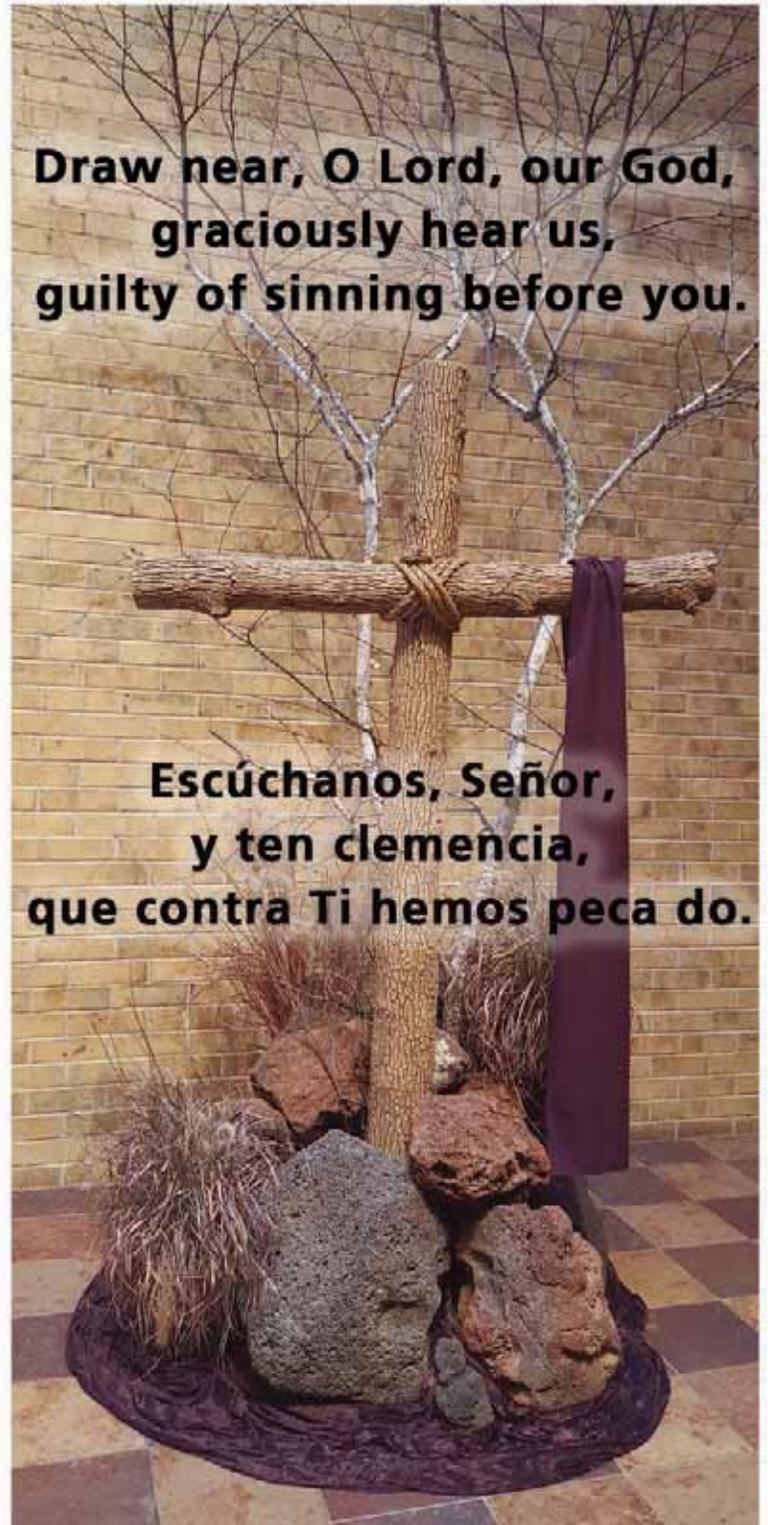
Ismael Covarrubias, ismael@stamadison.org

**Administrative:**

**Main office:** Mary Bailey, mary@stamadison.org, 833-2600

**Main office/bulletin:** Clarice Hinrichs, clarice@stamadison.org

**RE/Stewardship:** Terri Kopplin, terri@stamadison.org, 833-2606



**Draw near, O Lord, our God,  
graciously hear us,  
guilty of sinning before you.**

**Escúchanos, Señor,  
y ten clemencia,  
que contra Ti hemos peca do.**

**First Sunday of Lent  
February 18, 2018**

**Primer Domingo del Cuaresma  
18 de Febrero de 2018**

## From the Desk of Fr. Bart

### First Sunday of Lent: Inviting Jesus Into Our Lives

I chose “*Inviting Jesus Into Our Lives*,” as the theme for our Lenten Journey in 2018 to have us focus on the priority of Jesus Christ! Everything in our lives revolves around and returns to Christ: Relationships, theology, politics, art, philosophy, all find their center in Christ. Jesus is the Lord, risen from the dead, and therefore, our whole life has to be situated around Him.



This is how Pope Francis describes our life in Christ in his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*: “The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.” This Lent I want to echo these words of the Holy Father and ask each one of us to invite Jesus into our lives. Jesus will fill you with joy! (EG 1)

As we begin Lent please take to heart, this invitation of Pope Francis, “I invite all Christians everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since ‘no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.’ (EG 3)”

As we make our Lenten Journey, invite Jesus into your heart each morning and grow in your relationship with Him. During Lent, we can read the Gospel from the daily Mass and see how Jesus is speaking to us in the Scriptures. We can also take the time to turn away from our sins and open our hearts to receive God’s grace and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can participate in devotions such as the Stations of the Cross, Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Rosary. There are many ways we can invite Jesus into our lives and grow in our relationship with Him during Lent. It all begins by taking the first step and coming to Jesus with an attitude of worship and trust, and allowing Jesus into our lives!

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Recently a parishioner asked me how often they should go to Confession. I thought this would be a good item to discuss in my column. The technical answer is that we need to go whenever we have committed a mortal sin. We should not receive Communion again until we have been reconciled to Christ through the Sacrament of Confession. The better answer is that we should go regularly. Confession is a sacrament, and participation in all sacraments provides us with grace that helps us conform our lives to Christ. Too often we regard Confession as something we *have* to do, rather than something we *want* to do. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a direct, personal encounter with the risen Christ, by which one should experience pardon and peace, not agitation and anxiety. The purpose of confession is to unburden oneself of moral guilt and free oneself from sin. If you have no serious sins to confess, you have no obligation to go to confession. But it is helpful to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation with reasonable frequency. These are sometimes called “devotional confessions.” Even though you may have no serious sin to confess, you always can benefit from the grace of the sacrament (by which you directly encounter the merciful, forgiving Christ). Regular participation in the Sacrament of

Fr. Bart’s article is continued on the next page **2**

## Prayer for Life

In this Lenten season, may God  
show us the way of compassionate  
respect for all human life;  
We pray to the Lord:



En este tiempo de Cuaresma,  
para que Dios nos muestre el camino  
del respeto compasivo por toda vida humana;  
roguemos al Señor:

## Justice and Peace Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 6:00-7:30 PM

The Justice and Peace Committee will meet this coming Tuesday at 6 PM in the Lower Conference Room. We will discuss plans for our upcoming program on Immigration, with updates from the groups working on Care of Creation, Respect Life, and Sex Trafficking.

We will then brainstorm on social justice issues that we plan to focus on next year (September 2018 through May 2019). Our programs are designed to educate and inspire action on our rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching.

All are welcome to join us and share their ideas.

## Praying With Scripture: Lectio Divina

Next session:  
February 21,  
10:30-11:30 am



Have you ever wanted to get more out of the Sunday Gospel? Join a small group of parishioners who are going to put into practice their study of the ‘how to’ of *lectio divina*. The group will be meeting in the parish library on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month (and the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday if there is one) to spend time with the coming weekend’s gospel. All are welcome. No previous experience is needed, simply a desire to let God’s word speak to your heart.

Love God.

Love Others.

Make Disciples!

## Reflection from Seminarian, Michael Wanta

The Madison seminarians studying in Rome recently spent a week of vacation together before the start of the spring semester. It was a



relaxing time filled with conversation, communal prayer, and some good home-made meals. But in the midst of this I was reminded that “One does not live on bread alone.” I was reminded of the beauty and need for personal silent prayer. I found the days to be more joyful and focused when I made this time of silence with God a priority. But it required me to sacrifice some time with my brothers and to go out in search of God, to be attentive to His word.

During Lent we think of giving stuff up, especially fasting and almsgiving (the spiritual and corporal works of mercy) but the life of these actions is prayer. It is the sharing in God’s love (charity) which gives us the strength to fast and the generosity and concern to give alms. If we wish to share in His charity, we must ask for it. We must go off into the desert with Christ, in search of God’s subtle voice.

It was an ancient custom in Rome for the Pope to travel to different churches in the city for each day of Lent. These were little pilgrimages to be with the people and prepare for Easter. Although the papal custom fell away, some still follow the tradition, including my seminary. Thus, each day we will march off in silence to one of these churches. We will make little pilgrimages in search of God’s word.

This Lent, let us make an effort to listen—to pray. How will we search for God? How can we become more aware of God’s action in our lives? Whatever we do for Lent, let us foster habits that remain with us not only during these forty days, but for our lives. Let us renew our Christian faith with the nourishment of God’s word.

*Fr. Bart’s article is continued from the previous page*

Confession is a good way to weed out the destructive habits that ultimately lead us into mortal sin. Try now to think of confession as a sacrament of pardon and peace. It is quite literally a sacrament of reconciliation. And it always presents one with an opportunity to express their thanks to God - something, by the way, that one can never do too often. I told the parishioner that a Practicing Catholic should go to Confession at least once or twice a year, especially during Advent and Lent. I would recommend going at least four times a year. As a priest, I try to go once a month; I have a regular Confessor whom I visit once a month.

During Lent we have many opportunities for people and families to celebrate this sacrament. Please see the schedule for dates and times on page 7. At all weekend Confession times, we will have two priests available to make it even more convenient for you. I will gladly take the time to help you make a good Confession, if you have not been to Confession for a while. Making a good Confession is the best way to observe Lent and prepare to renew our Baptismal Promises at Easter.

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## Living With The Saints

**February 21** St. Peter Damian (1007-1072) had many talents and was a generous man, not only donating to the poor but dining with them at his own table. He was a great teacher and preacher and for this he was given the title of Doctor of the Church. Consider how you respond when meeting someone with severe needs of any kind. Do you acknowledge and welcome them or do you judge them?

**February 22** Today’s feast bears the unusual name, the Chair of Peter. The feast has been celebrated by the Church since at least the middle of the fourth century. The Latin word for chair is *cathedra* which gives name to *Cathedral* as the place housing the chair of a Bishop. This feast also celebrates the unity in the Church through the College of Bishops. Today is a good day to pray for the pope and bishops.

**February 23** St. Polycarp (69-155) was a disciple of Saint John himself. Because he lived at a time when the Apostles themselves were being martyred, he worked to make sure that the true message of Jesus was not changed by the feelings of the times. He was a stalwart teacher and was martyred for the faith. St. Polycarp is considered the first martyr to have a “cultic following,” which means that those who followed him continued to venerate him long after his martyrdom.

## Online Lenten Resources for a Grace-Filled Lent

### The Ignatian Workout for Lent: An Online Retreat

[ignatianspirituality.com/lent/the-ignatian-workout-for-lent-an-online-retreat](http://ignatianspirituality.com/lent/the-ignatian-workout-for-lent-an-online-retreat)

### Holy Heroes Lenten Adventure

[holyheroes.com/Holy-Heroes-Lenten-Adventure-s/37.htm](http://holyheroes.com/Holy-Heroes-Lenten-Adventure-s/37.htm)

### Bishop Robert Barron, Word on Fire

[wordonfire.org/](http://wordonfire.org/)

*February 11, 2018 bulletin contains more details on these sources.*

### USCCB Lenten Resources

[usccb.org/readings](http://usccb.org/readings)

### Xt3 Lent Calendar 2018

[xt3.com/lent/](http://xt3.com/lent/)

### Matthew Kelly, Dynamic Catholic

[dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentenver](http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentenver)

## V Encuentro: A Pastoral and Evangelization Effort

By Lorianne Aubut, Coordinator of Elementary R.E. and Hispanic Ministry



As our Latino Community continues to work towards the Diocesan V Encuentro on March 11th, let's continue praying and uplifting in Spirit their efforts to make this a successful and fruitful event and movement in our diocese, our region, and our nation.



Mientras la Comunidad Latina continúa trabajando hacia el V Encuentro Diocesano el 11 de marzo, continuemos orando y levantando en Espíritu su arduo esfuerzo para que este evento y movimiento sea uno exitoso y productivo en nuestra diócesis, región, y nación.

## Faith Paint Night

Last week we had a guest join us, Sarah King. She led a group of youth through a night of prayer, fun, and paint! Here is a picture from our night and the beautiful works of art that God helped these young ladies create. It is a great reminder of how the Holy Spirit will direct our paths in life when we allow it!



## Weekly Stewardship of Treasure

### February 4

Envelope Offerings .....	\$9,202
Offertory .....	\$1,428
Children's Offerings.....	\$91
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$10,721</b>
Building Fund .....	\$180
Capital Improvement Fund .....	\$45

**Thank you for your generosity and support of our mission at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish!**

### Counters Schedule

**Tuesday, February 20**

**Aeki Baik and Barbara Rudin**

**Monday, February 26**

**Mary Neuhauser and Carol Sawyer**

## Discipleship with Holly Irving

### Discipleship Moment

*"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...."*

- MARK 1:14



Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following the life of *a disciple* takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God's will always gives us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

### Discipleship Is

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his listeners to do two things: to believe in the Good News and to repent. A disciple is called to repent: to acquire an openness to begin anew, to change existing attitudes and habits, and to act with faith in the Gospel. In this season of Lent, now is the time to ask ourselves whether or not we truly believe in the Gospel; and if we do, to what extent are we willing to change our prevailing habits and be more faithful to the Gospel?

(Based on ICSC)

### Estate Planning

Consider your Catholic responsibility to be a wise steward of the gifts God has given you. How will your gifts (assets) be passed on to those you love and care for when you die, including your parish? Planning now will help those we love live peacefully in the future and provide resources to go to the things that matter to you. **Call Holly Irving at 833-2600** for an estate planning booklet.

### Catholic Herald Newspaper

Thank you for your donation towards the cost of the Catholic Herald. It really helps us! If you have not contributed toward your subscription, you can still do so. Just write a check for \$15, write "Catholic Herald" in the memo line, and put it into the collection basket.

### Ministry of the Week

The parish of St. Thomas Aquinas would like to acknowledge and thank the people who assist the priest distributing the Precious Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion! If you believe God is calling you to this particular ministry, please contact **Holly Irving at 608-833-2600 or [holly@stamadison.org](mailto:holly@stamadison.org)** for orientation and training.



## Middle School and High School Ministry



### Frassati Fest

Our students joined 400 others to learn about building their relationship with Christ over a weekend of prayer, keynote speakers, question and answer opportunities, and of course a heavy dose of the sacraments and sacramentals. We had Adoration, we prayed the rosary, we had the chance for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass! They also enjoyed time at the water park, planned games, spent time getting to know other Catholic youth, and had a wicked awesome dance party after Adoration. Don't just take it from me. Here are some words from John, a student who attended: "Frassati Fest was awesome. It was a time where I could be around Catholics just like me and get to know God better. It helped me learn the troubles that I have to face as a Catholic and how I can overcome them with God's help."

### Feed My Sheep

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Families,  
Our Parish is again participating in Feed My Sheep, a food packaging event at the Catholic Multicultural Center on Saturday, March 17. We are now collecting donations to raise money to pay for the ingredients and shipping costs of the meals. One tube of quarters or \$10 will feed a family for 40 days! Along with 9 other area churches, last year we packaged over 100,000 meals! Volunteers can sign up to help package the meals online at [www.feedmysheepmadison.com/](http://www.feedmysheepmadison.com/)



**Please return filled Ewe Tubes by March 4** to the Feed My Sheep collection box in the Gathering Space. Cash or checks (payable to St. Thomas Aquinas) roll up nicely in the tubes, too!



### Pancake Breakfast

Our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser was a huge hit! Our youth cooked and served over 250 people pancakes, sausage, eggs, drinks and fruit with a serious helping of love and joy! Thank you to all who volunteered and donated to our program. With your donations we raised over \$600 that will help our students encounter Jesus through many different adventures!



# Inviting Jesus to Be a Part of Our Lives!

## Spiritual Reading for Lent Suggestions from the Diocese of Madison

The Forty Days of Lent provide an excellent time to read a book to deepen your spirituality. If you would like to suggest a book, please email [pgorman@straphael.org](mailto:pgorman@straphael.org).

### **Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of Faith.**

Bishop Robert Barron. (Image Publishing; sold by Random House) Bishop Barron address the heart of Catholicism from a unique perspective—that of beauty. The book contains many interesting stories, biographies and images.

### **Faith: The Spiritual Thoughts Series.** Pope Benedict.

(USCCB Publishing) This is one of a series of short and easy-to-read books by Pope Benedict XVI. There are 15 other titles in this wonderful series. Check them out at [www.store.usccb.org](http://www.store.usccb.org).

### **Lent and Easter with the Church Fathers.**

Marco Pappalardo, editor. (available from the USCCB Publishing) There is a brief reflection for each day of Lent and Easter drawn from the homilies and writings of the great saints of the early Church/

### **Pope Francis Wisdom on Love: Practical Advice for Families.** Pope Francis (USCCB Publishing)

Pope Francis frequently speaks about family life in practical and down-to-earth words. This compiles many of his homilies and speeches. The

**Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth.** Scott Hahn. (Doubleday) An inspiring look at the Mass which will begin to open up the riches of our liturgy.

**The Mystery of the Cross.** Cardinal Basil Hume. (Paraclete Press) Cardinal Hume offers a series of short reflections for personal devotion.

**The Name of God is Mercy.** Pope Francis. (Random House) Pope Francis offers reflection on God's mercy and how we can best accept it with humility.

**The Road of Hope: A Gospel from Prison.** (Venerable) Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. (Pauline Books and Media) Cardinal Nguyen was captured and jailed on his way to Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), where he was to be their Bishop. He lived in deplorable conditions in prison for 13 years, but he never gave up hope. In fact, he found a way to smuggle inspiring messages each day to the Vietnamese people.

**The Simple Wisdom of Pope Francis.** Pope Francis. (USCCB Publishing) Four short volumes are filled with selections from Pope Francis' talks at his weekly audiences. You can purchase one volume or all four.

## Reading & Praying for 1% of Your Day 14 Minutes and 24 Seconds (1% of 1 day)

### **How you spend that time could change your life.**

During Lent we are challenging you to read and pray with the Gospel daily. All the readings for the week, including the Gospel, are on the last page of every bulletin. Here are some ideas for how to pray in about 15 minutes.

### **Ask / 3 Minutes**

Begin in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Take a moment to be still, rest, and know that Jesus is here. Ask Jesus to help you get to know Him during this prayer time

### **Seek / 7 Minutes**

Read the day's Gospel.

Seek to know Jesus by reflecting on what He said; what He did, how He interacted with others; and how He felt. Re-read the passage.

Speak to Jesus about what it means for you

Ask Him what He wants you to know

Take a few minutes to listen

### **Knock / 5 Minutes**

Ask for what you need and what others need

Thank Him for being with you today

Close with an Our Father.

End in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## Penitential Disciplines of Lent

The Christian faithful, during Lent, are clearly conscious of the need to turn the mind towards those realities which really count, which require Gospel commitment and integrity of life which, through self denial of those things which are superfluous, are translated into good works and solidarity with the poor and needy (Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, #125).

In addition to choosing their own penitential practices, Catholics are also asked to observe the practices of fast and abstinence during the 40 days of Lent. The Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations are as follows:

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other smaller meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

# Inviting Jesus to Be a Part of Our Lives!

## Adoration

Mondays: 2:00–4:00 PM in Chapel  
Tuesdays: 4:30–5:25 PM in Chapel  
Fridays: 9:00–10:00 AM in Chapel

## Prayer and Reflection

Lent Evening of Reflection: Tuesday, Mar. 20, 6:00–7:30 PM

## Confession During Lent

Tuesdays, 2/20–3/13, 3/27, 6:00–6:45 PM  
During Lent Evening of Reflection  
Tuesday, March 20, 6:00–7:30 PM  
Saturdays, 2/17–3/24, 3:15–4:15 PM  
Sundays, 2/18–3/25, 9:00–9:45 AM

## Confession in Spanish

Sunday, March 18: 7:30–8:30 PM

## Stations of the Cross *(no incense)*

Stations in English: Friday, 3/23, 3:00 PM  
Tuesdays, 2/20–3/13, 6:00 PM  
Stations in Spanish (El Viacrucis)  
Thursday, 3/15, 6:30–7:30 PM  
Sunday, 3/18, 7:30–8:30 PM

## Holy Week Schedule

Passion Sunday, March 25: Masses Saturday at 4:30 PM  
Sunday at 8:00 AM and  
10:00 AM with procession from Social Hall  
Sunday, 6:30 PM (en español/ in Spanish)  
Monday of Holy Week, March 26: Mass at 8:30 AM  
Tuesday of Holy Week, March 27: 5:30 PM Mass at STA  
Diocesan Chrism Mass, 7:30 PM at St. Maria Goretti  
Wednesday of Holy Week, March 28: Mass at 8:30 AM  
Holy Thursday, March 29: **No** 7:30 AM Mass  
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 PM  
*(heavy incense, bilingual/bilingüe)*  
Good Friday, March 30: **No** 8:30 AM Mass  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 1:00 PM  
*(no incense, in English)*  
Servicio de Viernes Santo, 3:30 PM *(en español/in Spanish)*

## Easter Masses

Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday, March 31, 8:00 PM  
*(incense, bilingual/bilingüe)* **No** 4:30 PM Mass  
Easter Sunday, April 1, **No** 6:30 PM Mass  
8:00 AM and 10:00 AM in Church *(incense)*  
10:15 AM in Social Hall *(no incense)*,

## Pope Francis' Guide to Lent: What You Should Give Up This Year

By Christopher J Hale February 18, 2015 at  
[time.com/3714056/pope-francis-lent-2015-fasting/](http://time.com/3714056/pope-francis-lent-2015-fasting/)

Christians around the world mark the beginning of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. This ancient day and season has a surprising modern appeal. Priests and pastors often tell you that outside of Christmas, more people show up to church on Ash Wednesday than any other day of the year—including Easter. But this mystique isn't reserved for Christians alone. The customs that surround the season have a quality to them that transcend religion.

Perhaps most notable is the act of fasting. While Catholics fast on Ash Wednesday and on Fridays during the Lenten season, many people—religious or not—take up this increasingly popular discipline during the year.

But Pope Francis has asked us to reconsider the heart of this activity this Lenten season. According to Francis, fasting must never become superficial. He often quotes the early Christian mystic John Chrysostom who said: "No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

But this isn't to downplay the role of sacrifice during the Lenten season. Lent is a good time for penance and self-denial. But once again, Francis reminds us that these activities must truly enrich others: "I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt."

So, if we're going to fast from anything this Lent, Francis suggests that even more than candy or alcohol, we fast from indifference towards others.

In his annual Lenten message, the pope writes, "Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience."

Describing this phenomenon he calls the globalization of indifference, Francis writes that "whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades." He continues that, "We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own."

But when we fast from this indifference, we can begin to feast on love. In fact, Lent is the perfect time to learn how to love again. Jesus—the great protagonist of this holy season - certainly showed us the way. In him, God descends all the way down to bring everyone up. In his life and his ministry, no one is excluded.

"What are you giving up for Lent?" It's a question a lot of people will get these next few days. If you want to change your body, perhaps alcohol and candy is the way to go. But if you want to change your heart, a harder fast is needed. This narrow road is gritty, but it isn't sterile. It will make room in ourselves to experience a love that can make us whole and set us free. Now that's something worth fasting for.

## Young Adult Connections

Open to marrieds and singles in their 20s and 30s, the Young Adult group at St. Thomas Aquinas gathers for conversation and fellowship twice a month (with a few extra fun events).

The best way to stay informed is to be on the YA email list. To be added to the list, please contact **Jennifer Ludtke at 833-2606 or [jennifer@stamadison.org](mailto:jennifer@stamadison.org)**. You can also stay informed on **[facebook.com/STAMadisonYA](https://www.facebook.com/STAMadisonYA)**



- ◆ The STA young adults will be going to a Lenten fish fry at St. Peter's in Ashton on **Friday, February 23**. St. Peter's is widely considered to have the best church fish fry in the area, so we hope you'll be able to join us! We'll get in line for a table at 5:45 PM at the entrance of the school next to the church (7129 County Road K, Middleton). **RSVP to [pnewhouse@wisc.edu](mailto:pnewhouse@wisc.edu)**
- ◆ Young Adults also meet on the first and third Monday nights. Our next gathering is **Monday, February 19, from 7-9 PM** in the Gathering Area. Each evening stands on its own, so come and join us anytime! The group is watching and discussing "Symbolon: The Journey of Faith." Our topic on 2/19 is Mary and the Saints.
- ◆ The group is heading out to dinner at **Cafe Hollander** (in Hilldale Mall) on **Monday February 26 at 7 PM**. If you'd like to come along for some great food and fellowship, **RSVP to [t.holle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.holle@sbcglobal.net)**

## Toddler Time

Toddler Time, a group for mothers with little ones (babes-in-arms through 4 years old) is held every Wednesday morning in the nursery, from 9-10 AM.

This Wednesday morning group provides a great opportunity for networking and sharing of favorite 'best practices and resources.' It gives us a chance to talk with other grown-ups about parenting with faith, plus gives our little ones a chance to make a positive parish connection and play with other little ones with the safety of mom being right there. No RSVPs are needed; come when you can and as you are!



## 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal

Please prayerfully consider making a pledge payable over 5-months to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Your gift will help enable the Diocese to reach its goal and provide grant opportunities for Catholic schools, religious education programs and assisting distressed parishes in need. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish, diocese and the work of the Church throughout the world.



## Music & Liturgy By Greg Buchberger, Director of Music Ministries



As we enter into these days of the Lenten Season, I encourage each of you to make a renewed commitment to truly praying the Mass. We can easily get into the routine of going through the motions, and not really thinking about what we are doing when we come to pray. I encourage each of you to really consider and pray the texts that we sing. Whether or not you consider yourself a singer, as an active participant at Mass, it's important to pray the texts that we sing! These songs that we sing are all about the text. This is a very real part of our prayer. Join us in opening your heart during this season of prayer.

### Each weekend during our Lenten Season, we will begin our celebration by singing:

Return to God with all your heart. Surrender and be free. With humble hearts we cry to you: have mercy on us Lord; Forgive our sin, we pray, we pray.

### We then come to God in the Penitential Rite and pray together the *Kyrie Eleison* (Lord, have mercy) in Greek.

Lord Jesus, you make us a new people. *Kyrie Eleison* (Lord Have Mercy).

Lord Jesus, you speak your Father's word and we are free. *Christe Eleison* (Christ Have Mercy).

Lord Jesus, you raise your hand and we are healed. *Kyrie Eleison* (Lord Have Mercy).

### During our Universal Prayer (General Intercessions/ Petitions), we raise our response to each petition in sung prayer.

Kyrie, Kyrie, Eleison. (Lord, Lord, have Mercy)

In addition, we will be singing the Mass of Charity and Love by Steven Warner which we learned last year during Lent. This setting for the fixed parts of the Mass is based upon the chant "Where Charity and Love Prevail" by Paul Benoit, OSB. The music can be found on the purple handouts in the pews, along with some of the other responses that we will be using.

Occasionally I am asked why we do so much singing during Mass... Mother Church continually reinforces the ideal of more singing and more sung prayer, especially through the lens of progressive solemnity. The more sacred or important a celebration is, the more we should sing. But WHY!? The Church teaches that our prayer is more vibrant and highly exalted to God when the texts that we prayer are sung. It helps us to lift our minds AND our hearts to the heavenly realm, to raise our intensity of prayer, and to join the angels and saints in heartfelt prayer and praise.

As we begin this Lent, let us dedicate ourselves to growing closer to God, to Jesus his Son, and to sharing our joy and love for God with others. A blessed Lent!



## We Pray for Our Loved Ones

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- CPL Alyssa Rivera, cousin of Fr. Bart Timmerman
- Major Stuart Mark Slattery, grandson of Thomas & Loretta Slattery
- Steven Thomas, brother of Linda Galang
- SGT Jack Vilim, nephew of Mary Crave
- A1C Blake E. Westbrook, grandson of Diane Genske



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## This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

### Monday, February 19

- Men's Integrity Group, Library ..... 6:30 PM
- Young Adults, Gathering Area ..... 7:00 PM

### Tuesday, February 20

- Justice and Peace Meeting, Lower Conference Room ..... 6:00 PM
- Lenten Confessions ..... 6:00–6:45 PM
- Stations of the Cross ..... 6:00 PM
- Men's Evening of Recollection, Chapel..... 6:00 PM
- SVdP Conference Meeting, Upper Conference Room..... 6:30 PM
- Building and Grounds Committee Meeting, Fireside Room ..... 7:00 PM

### Wednesday, February 21

- Toddler Time, Nursery and Upper Conference Room ..... 9:00 AM
- Lectio Divina*, Library ..... 1:00 PM
- Choristers Rehearsal, Music Room..... 5:00 PM

### Thursday, February 22

- Choir Rehearsal, Social Hall ..... 6:30 PM
- Lord Teach Me to Pray, Lower Conference Room..... 7:00 PM

### Friday, February 23

- Bible Study, Library..... 9:00 AM

### Saturday, February 24

- Relit follow-up, Upper Conference Room ..... 9:30 AM
- Middleton / Taduyo Uy Wedding ..... 2:00 PM
- Lenten Confessions (2 Priests)..... 3:15 PM

### Care Facility Liturgies This Week

**Oakwood:** Friday, February 23, Mass

**Brookdale:** No liturgy this week

**Sebring:** Sunday, February 25, Word and Communion

### Resources for Human Needs

- [www.momhelps.org/](http://www.momhelps.org/): Middleton Outreach Ministry (food, housing, utilities, clothing)
- [www.womenscarecenter.org/Madison.html](http://www.womenscarecenter.org/Madison.html): Women's Care Center (counseling, ultrasounds)
- [www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/](http://www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/): Catholic Charities (adoption, aging services, developmental disabilities, counseling, substance abuse treatment, etc.)
- [www.cmcmadison.org/](http://www.cmcmadison.org/): Catholic Multicultural Center (food, health services, education, job development, immigration legal help)
- [abuseintervention.org/](http://abuseintervention.org/): Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (crisis response, emergency shelter, support groups)
- [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org): Abortion recovery help
- [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com): Project Rachel (Abortion recovery help)
- Madison Al-Anon Hotline:** support for families and friends troubled by someone else's drinking or drug use—608-255-5181
- [www.elizabethhousedane.org](http://www.elizabethhousedane.org): Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County (free residential maternity and parenting program)

## Marriage & Family Planning

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

"He cured many who were sick with various diseases." Is your marriage suffering from lack of communication or kindnesses? Are you looking for a way to bring your marriage back to its fullness. Jesus can cure all! The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are **March 16-18 in Madison, WI or April 20-22 in Brookfield, WI.** Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: **alifetimeoflove.org** or call **(888) 574-5653.**

### Natural Family Planning Education

Are those special feelings and interactions with your spouse becoming routine? Learn how to **really** communicate and revitalize those feelings by attending a Natural Family Planning course. Taught by certified teaching couples in a 3-class series (Classes 2 & 3 TBD at Class 1), Class 1 starts as follows:

**St. Paul Catholic University Center: February 17: 1 PM**

**Our Lady Queen of Peace: March 10, 10 AM and June 3: 10 AM**

**Holy Name Heights: April 8, 1 PM and May 12, 10 AM**



### The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is Ready to Ease Your Spring Cleanout

The groundhog said just a few weeks 'til spring! If you have spring cleanout on your list of not-too-fun tasks, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can help you

finish the job with seven convenient and staffed drop-off locations or a free home pick-up!

St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores accept gently used clothing, furniture, household goods, linens, art, craft supplies, toys, books and games and much more. Donated items are sold in the stores to support the food pantry, free pharmacy, and housing programs for Dane County residents.

Clothing, furniture, beds and household goods are given out for free through the voucher program that supplies people living with very low incomes with life's basics.

When you donate to "St. Vinny's," you're doing three important things: de-cluttering your home for a fresh spring start, keeping useful things out of the landfill and helping someone else build a better life.

Drive-through and drop off at any of the seven St. Vinny's stores in Dane County or call for a free home pickup: 608-278-2920. Check the website for more info: [www.svdpmadison.org](http://www.svdpmadison.org)

## Mass Intentions for This Week

### Saturday, February 17

4:30 PM Ray Galvin ☩

### Sunday, February 18: 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Arthur Mann ☩

10:00 AM Eric Bedward ☩ and his parents Brian and Judy Bedward

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

### Monday, February 19

8:30 AM Helen and William Mianowski ☩

### Tuesday, February 20

5:30 PM Robert Mello ☩

### Wednesday, February 21: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM Mary Kay Dorais ☩

### Thursday, February 22: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

7:30 AM Dominick Andrew Giorgi ☩

### Friday, February 23: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

8:30 AM Larry Gerczak ☩

10:00 AM Damien Hoepfer ☩ at Oakwood

### Saturday, February 24

4:30 PM James Shampo ☩

### Sunday, February 25: 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

10:00 AM Tom Keber ☩

6:30 PM Margarito Dávila ☩

## Readings for the Week of February 18

**Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

**Next Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/

Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

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