



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

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

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES!

Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 PM
Sunday: Masses in English 8:00 & 10:00 AM
 Misa en español/Mass in Spanish 6:30 PM
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 AM
Tuesday 5:30 PM
Thursday 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, parish@stamadison.org
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30^a Domingo
DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Jesús le dijo: "Vete; tu fe te ha salvado". Al momento recobró la vista y comenzó a seguirlo por el camino. - Mc 10, 52

30th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. - Mk 10:52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 28, 2018

Trigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
28 de Octubre de 2018

From the Desk of Fr. Bart

All Saints Day Nov. 1 and All Souls Day Nov. 2

During the month of November, we are called in a special way to remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest. November begins with these two Solemnities remembering all the holy men and women who have gone before us to the heavenly banquet. As Catholics we remember the Saints and the souls of the faithfully departed because we believe all the ties that bind us together on earth, do not unravel with death. The Saints are in Heaven and they can intercede for us and help us from Heaven. Whenever we gather for Mass, we know that the Saints, Angels, and all who have gone before us are also present around the Altar. Let us rejoice in all the men and women, blessed in the eyes of the Lord, who celebrate the heavenly liturgy.

All Saints Day Mass is a joyous celebration of those faithful disciples who have died in Christ and now share the fullness of glory. As members of the Catholic Church we believe in the Communion of Saints. What good is the Bible if no one has ever lived out the Gospels? The Saints live out the Gospels in extraordinary ways. They are our role models, our inspiration, and our friends. We do not worship the Saints, we venerate them and pray to them to ask them for their help. The Saints are our family who help us live for Jesus Christ. We are not alone in our faith journey. Who are some of your favorite Saints? What Saints do you pray to for help? What Saint most inspires you in your faith life?

All Souls Day Mass continues the Catholic tradition of praying for all of our beloved deceased and for all the souls who have died. As suggested in Sacred Scripture, “The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them (Wisdom 3:1).” Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, died for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). He is the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in Him, even if they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Him, will never die (John 11:25-26). Their victory and new life encourages our fidelity so that we too can experience the fullness of glory when our time on earth is completed. We also remember the souls in purgatory and pray that they may complete their purification and enter into their eternal reward.

All Saints Day Mass Schedule

All Saints Day, is a Holy Day of Obligation. All are invited to celebrate Mass at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, or 6:30 PM on Thursday, November 1. Please note, due to the Lighting Project in our Church, all Masses for this Holy Day will take place in the Social Hall.

All Souls Day and November Remembering Masses

During our All Souls Day Mass on Friday, November 2, at 6:30 PM, we will be having our annual Remembering Ceremony, as we remember those from our parish who were born into eternal life during the past year. Families are also invited to add their loved ones' names who have died, into our November Book of Remembrance by the display of candles near the sanctuary. You are also welcome to use the form on page 6 in the bulletin to write down your deceased loved one's names and return it to the basket in the Gathering Area. During the month of November these names will be remembered at all of our Masses in a special way. Our prayers and sympathy go out to all of our members who are grieving the loss of a loved one. May we take comfort in our faith in Jesus Christ, as Saint Augustine reminds us, “Happy the family who has someone in heaven above watching over those of us here on earth below.”



Prayer for Life

For the U.S. Catholic bishops:
May the Lord grant them strength
to be holy shepherds in protecting
and leading their sheep;
We pray to the Lord:



Por los obispos católicos de EE. UU.:
que el Señor les conceda fortaleza
para ser pastores santos en la protección
y guía de sus ovejas;
roguemos al Señor:

Prayer for Justice

For the U.S. Catholic bishops:
May the Lord grant them the courage
to speak out against injustice and
all that threatens the life and dignity
of the human person;
We pray to the Lord:

Por los obispos Católicos en los Estados Unidos:
Para que el Señor les de la valentía
de hablar en contra de la injusticia y
de todas las amenazas que existen con respecto
a la vida y dignidad de cada ser humano;
Roguemos al Señor:

Our Call to Vote

“In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.” This statement comes from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the document, *The Challenges of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. As we approach Election Day, Nov. 6, we encourage all to exercise their right and moral obligation to vote. To help you form your conscience when deciding which candidate to vote for, see the Bishops' document on line at usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship. There is a wealth of information available to you as you prepare to vote. You can check MyVote.wi.gov to see your registration status, find your polling place, examine a sample ballot, find a listing of your current elected officials, request an absentee ballot or check your request's status.

Rosary for Life in October

You are invited to come 30 minutes before **each of the weekend Masses during October** to pray the Rosary. Special meditations guide us as we pray for a wide spectrum of life issues.

40 Days for Life

All ages, including families, are invited to sign up for a shift at 40 Days For Life, a 24-hour-a-day prayer vigil to end abortion. St. Thomas Aquinas is committed to praying on Thursdays for two one-hour shifts, from 5–7 PM. Signup sheets and more information is in the Gathering Area. For more information go to 40daysforlife.com.

Fr. Bart's article is continued on the next page

Reflection from Deacon Lawrence Oparaji



Today's Gospel reminds me of a friend growing up, Abraham. Abraham is blind but popular, popular because of his joy. Every Sunday, he dances the most in Church, he is active in various societies within the Church and just possesses this pure joy. It was not uncommon to hear parishioners say:... Look at Abraham, he is not able to see, but he rejoices in Christ even more than I do.

I remember asking Abraham one Sunday about what brings him so much joy, despite not being able to see. His response was "It is all Jesus, I might not see but He sees me and loves me." How beautiful! Abraham has what we might call a spiritual sight, he was not able to see with his eyes, but he saw with his heart, just like Bartimaeus in today's Gospel. He could not see Jesus with his eyes, but his heart moved him to cry out to Christ.

Notice that in Bartimaeus' blindness, he saw Jesus' mission as "son of David." In his own blindness he even saw better than many who were gathered around Jesus. Bartimaeus' blindness might have been a physical one in a literal sense, but in a spiritual sense he had sight, and those around him were blind spiritually because of ignorance, which is why they tried to shut him up. We too have blind spots in our spiritual life, where we are spiritually blind and our spiritual sights have been hindered by a host of things, but today Christ is reaching out to us and asking us to have faith. As Heb. 11:6 says "...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

So, as we worship today, let us ask God for the gift of pure joy, which comes from knowing Him. Let us also ask Him to open up the eyes of our heart, our spiritual eyes, so that we might see Him clearly and love Him deeply.

Catholic Herald Subscriptions

Many parishioners may not be aware that we are required by the Diocese, to send a *Catholic Herald* subscription to each family, unless you choose to opt out.



As a consequence, we pay over \$21,000 annually for those subscriptions, which is a significant line item in our budget.

Currently, contributions for those subscriptions amount to less than \$3,000 annually. Please help us close this \$18,000 gap in our budget by using the *Catholic Herald* Envelope in your envelope packet next February with your \$20 subscription payment.

Thank you for your help and support in managing our budget.

Fr. Bart's article is continued from the previous page

Our STA Vision Plan

It has been two years since we opened ourselves to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and began focusing on becoming an evangelizing parish of missionary disciples!

In 2016 we began by considering our own personal relationship with Jesus Christ and learning more about the meaning of His life, death, and resurrection. To evangelize others, to share our joy of knowing Jesus, we must first be evangelized ourselves.

As ways of helping our parishioners deepen their relationship with Jesus, we offered the "Heart of our Faith" retreat and started using Alpha. As we go into the future, I hope that more and more people will experience Alpha, as it is the first step in beginning or deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. Deepening this foundation of loving Jesus is like tilling the soil so that our efforts in discipleship can take root in our hearts, homes, and community. In fact, next year, in the fall of 2019, I will be making Alpha a requirement for every family who participates in our religious education program.

Last year we offered our first Relit Seminar, learning concrete ways to share our faith and the joy of knowing Jesus. The parish also made the voyage to the "Digital Continent" where we put our inviting message out into social media by making our website more appealing, increasing our use of our Facebook page, and adding Instagram and YouTube accounts.

This year, as we continue moving forward, we are deepening our focus, from loving God to loving others. We strive to reclaim Sunday as the center of our life as a community of disciples. Our Discipleship Committee is developing a new plan for greater hospitality at our weekend Masses. Our Pastoral Council is developing a new plan to enhance the way we welcome newly registered parish members. Starting in late January, we will be introducing small faith groups as a way to encourage and support each other in living out our discipleship. And, as the culmination of the year, on Divine Mercy Weekend, we will welcome internationally known, Spirit-filled presenter, Deacon Keith Strohm to lead us in a parish mission April 29 - May 1, 2019.

The Second Vatican Council, Popes St. Paul VI, St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and now Francis, have been boldly challenging us to actively promote the Good News of the Gospel in the New Evangelization. I ask you to remember the efforts of the entire STA parish in your prayers. I ask you to be deeply faithful to Christ and the Church and to become involved wherever and whenever you can. Begin by participating in Alpha. Consider attending Relit. Sign up for a small group in January. Experience Jesus in new and surprising ways. Reach out to others to share what you have experienced. You are needed! You are vital to this essential endeavor of the universal Church, not just of St. Thomas Aquinas parish.

May the Holy Spirit bless all of these efforts and work through us and way beyond us to accomplish God's will in these matters at this time in history and in this place.

Vision Statement: A Catholic parish where people experience Jesus Christ in a way that changes how they live.

Mission Statement: We are a Catholic, Evangelizing Community made up of Missionary Disciples of Jesus Christ that is fully engaged and fully alive. We grow in our love for God and others and share our love for Jesus Christ through prayer, celebration, inviting, welcoming, serving, and catechizing.

Discipleship with Holly Irving

Midweek Recharge

Faith is believing in something even though you may not be able to see it. Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore. But, if you focus on the positive, not the negative, on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common and you will see God's active presence in your daily life. Take some time this week to count the many miracles that happen each day!



Memorial Gifts

Many families give memorial gifts when a loved one passes away. Our memorial fund helps our parish to purchase items needed for Mass. Often we will keep it in reserve until we really need an item. Please consider naming St. Thomas Aquinas as a beneficiary of you or your loved one's Memorial Gifts.

We would like to thank Marilyn Schaefer's family for remembering St. Thomas Aquinas Parish as a recipient of memorial gifts! Eternal Rest Grant unto Marilyn, O Lord.

International Combined Collection

This weekend, the International Combined Collection is being conducted across the Diocese. Enclosed in this bulletin is a brochure explaining all of the individual collections and an envelope to make your donation. Please consider how you can make a difference in the lives of so many.

October 29 Young Adult Night

The STA Young Adult community invites you to connect more to our Catholic faith, as well as to other young adults. Join the young adults on Monday, October 29, 7-9 PM, as we continue to explore JustFaith: Living Compassionately - Caring for the Poor - a program which will challenge us to look with new eyes at the relationship between our faith and our responsibility to take care of the poor among us. In our world of consumerism and excess, we invite you to grow and deepen in awareness of the reality of poverty in the U.S. and globally. Join our active young adult community as we commit to dialogue, active listening, and spiritual practices to grow in our awareness of and response to society's needs.

Intergenerational Play Group

Help brighten the lives of the elderly in our community by joining an intergenerational play group, happening once a month at Oakwood Village.



Kids from newborn to age 5 with their parents (moms or dads) will join a group of residents for a time for song and dance led by Oakwood staff. The next visits will be **Monday, November 5 and December 3 at 10:30AM**. Space is limited, so if you are interested in sharing your cutie-pie, email **Alison at robak717@gmail.com** with questions or to sign up.

Weekly Stewardship of Treasure

October 20 and 21

Offertory	\$13,647
Direct Deposit Offertory.....	\$30,620
Building Fund / Capital Improvement.....	\$1167
Respect Life	\$861
Visiting Missionary	\$1,130
International Combined Collection	\$1,760

Thank you for your generosity and support of STA!

Counters Schedule

Monday, October 29

Don Mahoney and Sara Marx

Monday, November 5

Phyllis Reindl and Dick Ihlenfeld

Calling all Prayer Warriors

Our beloved pastor, Fr. Bart, like all priests, is in need of our continued prayers. The Seven Sisters Apostolate at STA is looking for three women who would be willing to offer an hour of prayer each week for Fr. Bart and his intentions. This is a beautiful ministry! For more



information visit: sevensistersapostolate.org . Contact **Alison Robak at robak717@gmail.com** if you're interested.

STAY CONNECTED

SUBSCRIBE TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS' CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE	FOLLOW FR. BART ON TWITTER AT @FRBART01	FACEBOOK.COM/STAMADISON/	INSTAGRAM.COM/STAMADISONWW/

WEBSITE: STAMADISON.ORG

INTERESTED IN PARISH WIDE EMAILS? SEND AN EMAIL TO PARISH@STAMADISON.ORG AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO OUR LIST!



Sunday, November 4,

This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday, October 30

The Marian Prayer Cenacle Group, Library 6:00 PM
Fun Raising Meeting, Lower Conference Room 6:30 PM

Wednesday, October 31

Toddler Time, Nursery and Upper Conference Room 9:00 AM
No Choristers Rehearsal, Upstairs Music Room
No Elementary RE

Thursday, November 1

All Saints Day Masses 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 6:30 PM
Spanish Rosary 6:00 PM
Parish Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Friday, November 2

Remembrance Mass for the Faithful Departed 6:30 PM
SVdP Meeting, Bride's Room 6:30 PM

Saturday, November 3

Baptism Prep Class 10:30 AM
Confessions 3:15 PM

Sunday, November 4

SVdP Meeting, Library 9:00 AM
Confessions 9:00 AM

Care Facility Liturgies This Week

Oakwood: Friday, November 2, Rosary

Brookdale: Friday, November 2, Word and Communion

Sebring: No Service this week

Resources for Human Needs

www.momhelps.org/: Middleton Outreach Ministry (food, housing, utilities, clothing)

www.womenscarecenter.org/Madison.html: Women's Care Center (counseling, ultrasounds)

www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/: Catholic Charities (adoption, aging services, developmental disabilities, counseling, substance abuse treatment, etc.)

www.cmcmadison.org/: Catholic Multicultural Center (food, health services, education, job development, immigration legal help)

abuseintervention.org/: Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (crisis response, emergency shelter, support groups)

www.silentnomoreawareness.org: Abortion recovery help

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: Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County (free residential maternity and parenting program)

National Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255

National Hotline Number for Sex Trafficking phone 888-373-7888 text "help" to 233733

Music & Liturgy by Greg Buchberger, Director of Music Ministries



Join the Christmas Choirs!!!

We are seeking students and adults to help us celebrate our Christmas Masses with some extra festivity! If you like to sing but cannot commit to the choir for the entire year, this opportunity is for you! Please consider joining us!

Choir for Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass (9:00 PM) and Epiphany Lessons and Carols

Students in grade 7 and up, and adults are all welcome and encouraged to join us for our celebration of Midnight Mass and Epiphany Lessons & Carols. This choir will lead music for 45 minutes before Midnight Mass begins, starting at 8:15 PM on Christmas Eve. We will also present a program of Lessons and Carols on **Sunday, January 6 at 1:00 PM** for all in our parish, neighborhood, and community to attend.

Anyone interested in singing for Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass (9:00) is asked to attend 3 of the Rehearsals in December (Thurs., Dec. 6, 13, 20) from 6:30 – 9:00 PM in addition to at least 2 of the Rehearsals in November (Thurs., Nov. 8, 15, Tues., Nov. 20, Thurs., Nov. 29) from 7:30 – 8:30 PM.

All those who commit to sing for Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass are also asked to attend and sing for Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 6 at 1:00 PM. Please mark your calendars now so that you are able to be in attendance!

Children's Choir for Christmas Eve – 4:00 PM Mass

Students in grade 4 and up are invited to join our STA Choristers for our Christmas Eve Children's Mass. Rehearsals are on Saturdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM here at St. Thomas Aquinas! Mark your calendars now! More information to come!

For more information, contact Greg at 833-2600 x869 or greg@stamadison.org.

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All Souls Day

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass please remember:

*Remember, Lord, those who have died and have gone
before us
marked with the sign of faith...*



Dia de los Difuntos

Recordemos Los Fieles Difuntos:

*Acuerdate tambien, Senor,
de tus hijos que nosh an predeido
en la fe...*

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, October 27

4:30 PM Scott Sawyer ☩

Sunday, October 28: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

8:00 AM Cora and Angelo Tuccinardi ☩

10:00 AM Living and Deceased Members of the Emil and Bernadine
Lauber Family ☩

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Monday, October 29

8:30 AM Mollie Van Wagner ☩

Tuesday, October 30

5:30 PM Jerry Conwell ☩

Wednesday, October 31

8:30 AM Elizabeth Armiak ☩

Thursday, November 1: All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:30 AM Elizabeth Williams ☩

12:10 PM Michael and Kim Thompson ☩

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Friday, November 2: All Souls

8:30 AM Tom Church ☩

6:30 PM For the Deceased of St. Thomas Aquinas

Saturday, November 3

4:30 PM Bee Freitick ☩

Sunday, November 4: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; National Vocation Awareness Week

8:00 AM Richard Skubal ☩

10:00 AM Kevin McGinley ☩

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Readings for the Week of October 28

Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

Monday: Eph 4:32--5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Eph 5:1]/Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-32/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [1a]/
Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 13:22-30

Thursday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 6]/1 Jn 3:1-3/
Mt 5:1-12a

Friday: Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1 or 4ab]/Rom 5:5-11 or
Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11

Next Sunday: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/Heb 7:23-28/
Mk 12:28b-34

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Ask Fr. Bart: What Does It Mean to Pray for the Repose of Someone's Soul

Recently I received this question: We often pray for “the repose” of someone’s soul. Can you explain what this means?

Repose of the soul means rest for the soul. It is when we are interceding for the poor souls in purgatory praying that they may find rest in God. In other words, we pray that they finish their time of purification and enter into the eternal rest which is Heaven.

This also explains why we offer Mass for the repose of souls. According to Catholic Straight Answers Website:

The practice of offering the holy Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased originates in the early church. The catechism teaches, “From the beginning the church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God” (No. 1032).

Old Testament Roots

Praying for the repose of the souls of the deceased is rooted in the Old Testament. Judas Maccabees offered prayers and sacrifices for the Jewish soldiers who had died wearing pagan amulets, which were forbidden by the Torah. II Maccabees reads, “Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out” (12:43). Continuing, “(Judas Maccabees) took up a collection among all his soldiers, ... which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin” (12:46).

The Church Teaches on the Communion of Saints and Praying for the Dead

In light of the saving work of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that when a person dies, he faces his particular judgment and must render an account of his life. If that person has died fundamentally believing in God and in a state of grace, but with venial sins and the hurt caused by sin, then God in His divine love and mercy will first purify the soul. After this purification has been completed, the soul will have the holiness and purity needed to share in the beatific vision in heaven.

The faithful here on earth can help those souls undergoing purification. The Vatican Council II affirmed: “This sacred council accepts loyally the venerable faith of our ancestors in the living communion which exists between us and our brothers who are in the glory of heaven or who are yet being purified after their death.” (“Dogmatic Constitution on the Church,” No. 51). Therefore, just as we pray for each other and share each other’s burdens now, the faithful on earth can offer prayers and sacrifices to help the departed souls undergoing purification, and no better prayer could be offered than that of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical “*Mirae Caritatis*” (1902) beautifully elaborated this point and emphasized the connection between the communion of saints with the Mass: “The grace of mutual love among the living, strengthened and increased by the sacrament of the Eucharist, flows, especially by virtue of the sacrifice (of the Mass), to all who belong to the communion of saints. For the communion of saints is simply ... the mutual sharing of help, atonement, prayers and benefits among the faithful, those already in the heavenly fatherland, those consigned to the purifying fire, and those still making their pilgrim way here on earth. These all form one city, whose head is Christ, and whose vital principle is love. Faith teaches that although the august sacrifice can be offered to God alone, it can nevertheless be celebrated in honor of the saints now reigning in



heaven with God, who has crowned them, to obtain their intercession for us, and also, according to apostolic tradition, to wash away the stains of those brethren who died in the Lord but without yet being wholly purified.” Therefore, the offering of Mass and other prayers or sacrifices for the intentions of the faithful departed are truly good and holy acts.

The Early Church

Please note that this belief not only has its origins in our Old Testament roots but also in the early history of the Church. Inscriptions uncovered on tombs in the Roman catacombs of the second century evidence this practice. For example, the epitaph on the tomb of Abercius, bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia (d. 180), begs for prayers for the repose of his soul. Tertullian in 211 attested to observing the anniversary of death of the faithful departed with prayers. Moreover, the Canons of Hippolytus (c. 235), one of the earliest missals, explicitly mentions the offering of prayers for the dead during the Mass.

The testimony of many of the Church Fathers also beautifully supports this belief: For example, St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386), in one of his many catechetical discourses, explained how at Mass both the living and dead are remembered, and how the eucharistic sacrifice of Our Lord is of benefit to sinners, living and dead; and St. Ambrose (d. 397) preached, “We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord.”

When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. Most importantly we always should remember our own dearly departed loved ones in the holy Mass and through our own prayers and sacrifices to help in their gaining eternal rest. Especially as we celebrate the feast of All Souls (Nov. 2), let us keep in our prayers all of our faithful departed.



Bereavement Ministry Series

Each year the Madison Westside Catholic Parishes invite those who are grieving to a Bereavement Ministry Series at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. The six-session series begins November 19, 2018, meeting 6:30– 8:00 PM. This series is designed for those who have lost a loved one and are searching for a place to share their grief within the context of their faith. Participants are invited to share their grief experience in a supportive, listening environment. Session facilitators are parish staff members.

Whether your loss is recent or some time ago, if you are feeling the need for spiritual support on your journey through grief, we invite you to attend this series as we move through the holiday season. Some of the topics included in this series will be:

- Understanding the Emotional Experience of Grief
- Surviving Stress & Loneliness
- Special Kinds of Grief/Handling Holidays
- Finding the Hope of Our Catholic Faith
- Making Memories... Keeping Memories

Brochures are available at our parish office. To register for the upcoming series, please complete the registration form in the brochure or **contact Erik Gyr, erik@stamadison.org or 608-833-2600**. Please register before November 15. Come, take a new step on the journey through grief to new life.

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