



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,

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Lawrence Oparaji, 833-2600

Pastoral Associate: Erik Gyr, erik@stamadison.org

Music Ministries: Gregory Buchberger, greg@stamadison.org

Director of Evangelization and Parish Outreach:

 Jennifer Ludtke, jennifer@stamadison.org

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

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 Ismael Covarrubias, ismael@stamadison.org

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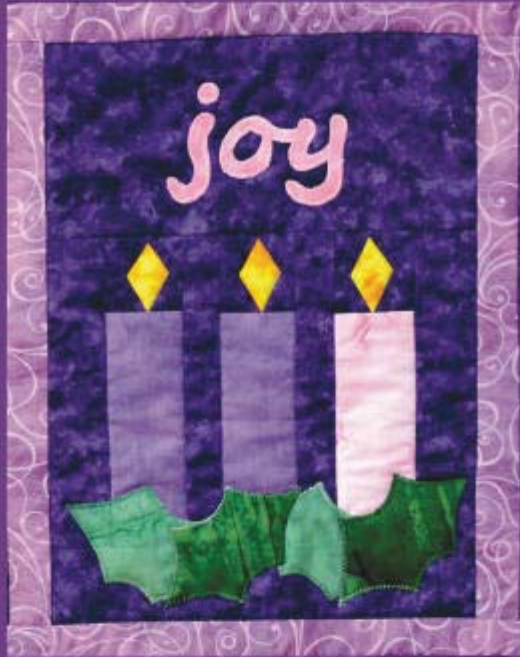
Main office: Mary Bailey, mary@stamadison.org,

RE/Stewardship: Terri Kopplin, terri@stamadison.org,

Communications/Hospitality:

 Clarice Hinrichs, clarice@stamadison.org

**“Rejoice in the Lord always...
Your kindness should be known to all”**
Philippians 4:4-5



**“Alégrense siempre en el Señor ...
Que la benevolencia de ustedes
sea conocida por todos.”**
Filipenses 4:4-5

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018**

**Tercer Domingo de Adviento
16 de Diciembre de 2018**

From the Desk of Fr. Bart

Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday!

This Advent, our parish family is getting ready for company! Each week, we are exploring the theme of Welcome and Hospitality. By being a welcoming and hospitable parish we can evangelize! We can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others! We want to be very intentional about being more welcoming and more hospitable.



The First Sunday of Advent, we reflected on the theme:

Being Prepared- Stand Upright.

From the direction of Jesus in Luke 21:28, even in the midst of trials and fearful events in our world, Jesus asks us to stand up and be ready to share the Good News of Salvation with others.

Here at St. Thomas Aquinas, we want to welcome and reach out to those who will be joining us for Christmas Mass. We hope to be able to engage them, even if it is for just a moment, into the life of our parish family. This is everyone's responsibility as disciples of Jesus Christ.



Last week for the Second Sunday of Advent we reflected on the theme: Straighten the Way.

We want to be like John the Baptist and make straight the way of the Lord. We want to reach out to others, accompany them, and help them clear a path for Christ to be born in their hearts this year. This calls our parish to be not just welcoming, but also inviting. When was the last time you invited someone to attend Mass with us at STA? There is a difference between private faith and personal faith. Our faith is personal, but it cannot be kept private if we are to live out our Baptismal calling by sharing our love for Jesus with others. Inviting others involves taking risks. Who will you invite to join us?



This week for the Third Sunday of Advent we reflect on the theme: Rejoice and Walk Together.

John the Baptist, the great Advent Saint, calls us to a life of justice and mercy to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. In this life of justice and mercy, we are called to walk with others, sharing with them what we have, caring for their needs, and being satisfied with the gifts God has given us. When we walk with others, we can lead them to Jesus, we can be like John the Baptist and point them towards Christ, as He comes into our world to save us. Everyone can walk with others and serve others. Our goal is to walk with others so that we can bring them to Jesus. Then Jesus can convert them, Jesus can save them.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent theme is:



Embrace and Offer Hospitality.

Celebrating a Catholic Christmas at STA

Please note our Christmas Mass Schedule. We will continue to offer three Masses on Christmas Eve to ease parking lot congestion and over-crowding at the 4:00 PM Mass, along with two Masses on Christmas Day. The Eucharist nurtures in us and in our parish, a closer relationship with Jesus. The readings for our Christmas Masses give us a deeper appreciation for what God has done for us and the whole world in Christ. Thank you to all who have worked to prepare for our Christmas Masses especially our STA Staff, musicians, choirs, decorators, liturgical ministers, and all who are participating in our Advent journey by attending our Masses and Reconciliation. May those who attend our Christmas Masses be touched by the love of God and the miracle of the Incarnation, through the beauty of our Masses!

Thank You!

Thank you for your great response to our Christmas Food Baskets Project. Again this year we were able to package and deliver food to families who struggle with hunger in our neighborhood. The funds raised through our cookie sale helped to add fresh, healthy foods to the

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



Prayer for Life

For unborn children:

That by the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, their human dignity will be recognized, respected, and protected by all from the moment of conception;

We pray to the Lord:

Por todos los niños que no han nacido:

Que por la intercesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, su dignidad humana sea reconocida, respetada, y protegida por todos desde el momento de la concepción;

Roguemos al Señor:



Prayer for Justice

For unborn children:

That they may be given life so that through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe they may become beacons of light in a world fraught with injustices.

We pray to the Lord:

Por todos los niños que no han nacido:

Para que se les de vida y a través de la intercesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe ellos sean rayos de luz para el mundo que vive tanta injusticia;

Roguemos al Señor:

Confessions During Advent

Saturdays: 3:15–4:10 PM

Sundays: 9:00–9:50 AM

Tuesday, December 18, 6:00 –7:30 PM

Christmas Masses

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Christmas Eve, Mon., Dec. 24

4:00 PM, *Children's Mass with pageant no incense*

6:30 PM, *Vigil Mass bilingual/bilingüe, no incense*

9:00 PM, *Mass during the Night*

Prelude and carols at 8:15 PM

Christmas Day, Tue., Dec. 25

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Holy Family, Dec. 29 and 30

Regular weekend Mass schedule

Mary Mother of God, Jan. 1

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, December 31, 5:30 PM

Tuesday, January 1, 9:00 AM

Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 5 and 6

Regular weekend Mass schedule

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 6, 1:00 PM

Reflection from Seminarist, Michael Wanta



Our liturgy today reminds me of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday and our own hearts start to warm with the realization that Christ who is coming is now so very near. Today there are references to God's presence among us, to trust in him which gives peace and joy, to his love which burns away our impurities, and to his love which renews us. Among all of these, the quote from Isaiah in the responsorial today hits a core explanation of the heart of Jesus: "With joy you will draw water from the fountain of salvation." In *Haurietis Aquas*, Pius XII uses this image to tell of the treasure ready and waiting for us in the heart of Jesus.

Pius XII tells us how the Sacred Heart is the supreme image of God's love for us. The Sacred Heart shows us that Jesus does not only share in the Divine Love with the Father, a love which flowed over into the absolute gift of creation; and Jesus does not only love us with a rational, self-sacrificial, human love; but also with an emotional, passionate love. His heart was weighed down with compassion for the poor, lame, blind, and those without a shepherd. His heart mourned the death of his friend. It was sorrowful unto death since we were trapped in the slavery of sin, and it was pierced upon the cross to free us.

Having heard this good news, we might ask along with the people in the Gospel: "What should we do?" Confide in Him. His heart has been opened for us upon the cross and remains open to us especially in the Eucharist. He wants to hear our pains and joys. His heart which endured so much during His earthly life and still now from heaven, wants to console us with His love. He wants us to experience the joy that it is to know and love Him as we are known and loved. Find a picture of The Sacred Heart, seek out the treasures of His Heart! Experience His love for you. Rejoice!



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

baskets. Thank you to those who packaged the food on Friday evening and those who delivered baskets Saturday morning. A special "thank you" to Dennis and Sara Marx and Joe and Rita Balice for their leadership and all who helped organize this event.

End of Calendar Year Giving

The last regular Sunday offertory collection for 2018 will be the weekend after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family, December 29 and 30. I am confident that we will all do our best to help our parish meet our financial commitments. If you are able, this is the time to complete the pledge you made last year. For you to receive a 2018 deduction for your contributions, we offer the following guidelines:

- Hand-delivered contributions must be received in the parish office no later than noon on Monday, December 31, 2018.
 - Mailed contributions must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2018.
- If you have questions about making a gift to the parish or about your pledge balance, please call Patrick O'Loughlin at our parish office between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Thank you so much for your great generosity towards our STA Parish!

Advent Night for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday, December 18, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

One key principle of Evangelization is that we cannot give what we do not have. If we want to attract others and invite them into a life-changing relationship with Jesus, we need to be the best and strongest follower of Jesus we can be. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps in so many ways to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and be in the state of grace. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus into our world, into our hearts, and at the end of time, you are invited to celebrate this Sacrament of healing and grace. This Tuesday, Dec. 18, we will have an opportunity with visiting priests, to celebrate this Sacrament. Once we have received the mercy and grace of Jesus, we can share it with others.

Reflection from Deacon Lawrence Oparaji



Today the candle and vestments are rose because it is Gaudete Sunday. The word "gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice", and we rejoice because Christmas and our final beatitude in heaven draw closer. We are halfway through Advent and the Church wants us to rejoice!

The word "joy" appears several times in today's readings. Jesus comes to save us, to restore our communion with God, and to guarantee us the plenitude of joy and the security of everlasting communion with God. That is the reason for our joy; a joy founded on hope. Not the blind optimism of the modern secular world, but the sure, redemptive hope that we will see the Lord face-to-face and His name will be written on our foreheads. This is hope based on the promise of the One whose word is "yes" and "amen." So we rejoice in the certainty of the promise coming to fruition, and we echo the words of St Josephine Bakhita: "I am definitively loved and whatever happens to me—I am awaited by this Love." This is the message of Christmas which resonates around the Christian world.

What is special about Christian Joy? The distinguishing factor is its connection to the afterlife. It is inseparably linked to our hope in the beatific vision, not determined by the way things are here on earth. Unlike the secular "joy" which is geared towards and almost synonymous with pleasure, our Christian joy transcends the sufferings of earthly life. That is why the holy martyrs would march to their death singing songs of praise. St Charles Lwanga, as he was burning at the stake, said to the guard: "It is as if you are pouring water on me. Please repent and become a Christian like me." St Ignatius of Antioch, as he neared his martyrdom, wrote a Letter to the Romans saying: "Allow me to be eaten by the beasts, which is my way of reaching God. I am God's wheat, and I am to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, so that I may become the pure bread of Christ." That is the unique character of Christian joy, joyful in suffering, joyful in the face of death, and joyful all the time. Christian joy never succumbs to hardship but rather embraces it as a stepping stone to glory.

May the joy of Christ fill our hearts and mind this Advent season and forever! Amen.



Journey Groups

Have you ever wished you had more Christian friendships, or were in a group where you could talk honestly about what it looks like to believe in Jesus? A place where, no matter where you are on the

journey, you can know that are not walking alone.

St. Thomas Aquinas will launch parish “Journey Groups” in January. These small groups will meet weekly from the end of January through mid-March. Journey Groups are informal gatherings of parish members and friends who come together to explore our experiences of Jesus Christ using scripture, discussion, prayer and short video clips. We are so excited about this opportunity to not only grow in our love of God, but our love of others! Please watch the bulletin and your email for sign-up and group information in early January. There will be a variety of times, days of the week, and locations to choose from.

ABLAZE

Passionately Pursuing Christ and a Life of Purpose

We were created for an eternal life filled with peace, joy, freedom, and communion with God and each other. How can we respond to this gift? What holds us back? What are we called to once we embrace that relationship with Jesus?

During this special 3-night event of parish renewal, we will have the opportunity to respond to God’s invitation to a relationship and to live out the Kingdom life we receive in the Spirit.

Deacon Keith Strohm, who will be leading us at this event, is a friend of Fr. Bart and a well-known international speaker and conference keynote who has helped tens of thousands of men and women hear the Gospel message and encounter the mercy, love and power of Jesus Christ.

Mark your calendar! Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Evenings, April 29 - May 1, 2019

¿Sabías que estos miembros del personal hablan español?

Did you know these staff members speak Spanish?

Lorianne Aubut Fr. Bart Timmerman
 Jennifer Ludtke Greg Buchberger
 Mary Bailey Terri Kopplin Ismael Covarrubias



Discipleship with Holly Irving

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Planning for death is a natural as planning for life. Having a will is good stewardship of your assets. Take care of your family, and please consider our parish family in your preparations, too.



Midweek Charge

We are a week away from Christmas! Make your week special by coming to our Evening of Confession on Tuesday, December 18, 6:00–7:30 PM, and bathe in God’s mercy.

Bake Sale!

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year’s Bake Sale a success! Thanks to the organizers, Grace Phelps, Diane Katalenich, Joanne Peterson, and Rosemary Neu. I also want to thank everyone who helped with the sign ups and selling the baked goods. The proceeds benefit our Food Basket Project!

Prayer Chain

Prayer is powerful. There are many parishioners who pray daily for the needs of others. If you, a loved one, or a friend are in need of prayers please contact **Holly at 833-2606 or holly@stamadison.org**

If you would like to pray for the people in need, please **contact Holly at 833-2606 or holly@stamadison.org..**

The prayer chain is very long by the end of December, so in January I take everyone off the prayer chain. If you know someone who needs to remain on the prayer chain, please contact **Holly at 833-2606 or holly@stamadison.org..**

Weekly Stewardship of Treasure

Immaculate Conception 8/9

Offertory \$1,727

December 8/9

Offertory \$16,916

Building Fund / Capital Improvement \$392

Thank you for your generosity and support of STA!

Counters Schedule

Monday, December 17

Bernice Bariola and Dan Gronemus

Monday, December 24

Don Mahoney and Sara Marx

Monthly Envelope and Offertory Income				
Actual vs. Budget				
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Year to
July	\$95,106	\$97,885	\$2,779	\$2,779
August	\$86,149	\$87,886	\$1,737	\$4,516
September	\$103,865	\$95,147	(\$8,718)	(\$4,202)
October	\$96,981	\$88,898	(\$8,083)	(\$12,285)
November	\$102,566	\$96,798	(\$5,768)	(\$18,053)



We Pray for Our Loved Ones

SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES

- CW4 Steve Artz**, brother of Sue Ziegler and Judy Rossa
- SSG Michael Bosold**, nephew of Sharon Michel
- SFC Enrique Andres Cervantes**, cousin of Maria McHugh
- A1C Margarita Clayton**, Sister of Tina Hutchison
- Major Tim Doll**, nephew of Jerry and Mary Ann Doll
- A1C Colin Donovan**, cousin of Pat Korger
- Lt. Colonel Michael Everton**, brother of Jennifer Doering
- Captain Alex Harms**, son of Bruce and Judy Harms
- Airman First Class Brianna Herreid**, granddaughter of Ken and Joyce Niesen
- SPC Shalice Hood**, friend of Alyssa Rivera
- A1C Nicholas Jones**, grandson of Mary and Gordon Samuelson
- SSGT Mark Jurakovich**, brother of Gina Levesque
- LT Bradley Kirschbaum**, grandson of Tom and Sally Ellis
- SSGT Mike Levesque**, brother of Chad Levesque
- CPL Alyssa Rivera**, cousin of Fr. Bart Timmerman
- Major Stuart Mark Slattery**, grandson of Thomas and Loretta Slattery
- Steven Thomas**, brother of Linda Galang
- SGT Jack Vilim**, nephew of Mary Crave
- SGT Ian Bush**, nephew of Patrick and Kathy Taddy
- SGT Jason Voss**, nephew of Gary and Nancy Kubat

Please let Mary or Clarice (833-2600) know if there has been a change to the status of your family member.

This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

Monday, December 17

- Young Adults, Gathering Area.....7:00 PM
- Men's Integrity Group, Library7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 18

- Men's Evening of Recollection, Library6:00 PM
- Discipleship Meeting, Lower Conference Room.....6:30 PM
- Night of Confession, Church6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 19

- Toddler Time, Nursery and Upper Conference Room.....9:00 AM

Thursday, December 20

- Spanish Rosary.....6:00 PM
- Christmas Choir Rehearsal, Church.....6:30 PM

Saturday, December 22

- Choristers/Children's Christmas Choir, Music Room10:30 AM
- Confessions3:15 PM

Sunday, December 23

- Confessions9:00 AM

Care Facility Liturgies This Week

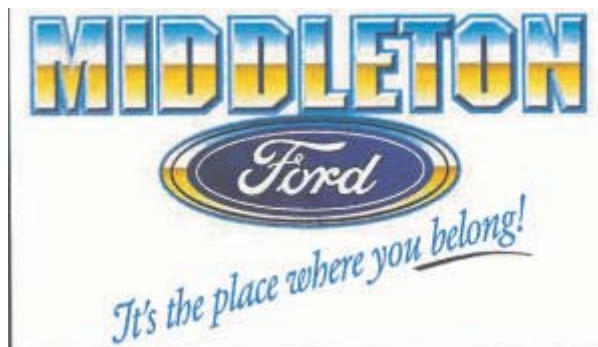
- Oakwood:** Friday, December 21, Rosary
- Brookdale:** Friday, December 21, Word and Communion
- Sebring:** No Service this week

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

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Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, December 15

4:30 PM Gilbert Schlimgen ☩

Sunday, December 16: 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Jerry Conwell ☩

10:00 AM Deceased Members of Sosnowski and Fejdych Families ☩

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Monday, December 17

8:30 AM Bishop Robert C. Morlino ☩

Tuesday, December 18

5:30 PM Rose Marie Walch ☩

Wednesday, December 19

8:30 AM Norman and Huquette Ayoub ☩

Thursday, December 20

7:30 AM Ruth Hellenbrand ☩

Friday, December 21: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM Patricia and Deceased Members of the Schwoegler Family ☩

Saturday, December 22

4:30 PM Stella and Michael Keyes ☩

Sunday, December 23: 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Mary Kay Dorais ☩

10:00 AM Marie Medina

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Readings for the Week of December 16

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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Love God.

Love Others.

Make Disciples!

We are a Catholic parish where people experience Jesus Christ in a way that changes how they live.

Prayer for Human Development

God, you are the source of all virtue.

Without you, nothing can flourish
and nothing can be gained.

Help us to see the need for justice in this world
and to work to bring about your kingdom here on earth.

Help us to see
that we cannot feed a soul unless we first feed the body.

Help us to know that we cannot build your kingdom unless
fairness and righteousness is sought after
more than wealth.

Help us to hear
the cries of the hungry, the poor, and the hopeless,
so that we may bring your integrity in their lives.

Give us the grace to persevere
even when injustice seems unconquerable,
and fairness a hopeless dream.

For as your followers, we are called to divine faithfulness,
not worldly success.

Amen.

Young Adult Connections

On December 17 from 7-9 PM, all are welcome to a 'special session' of our Young Adult night. We will be discussing the future direction of young adult ministry here at the parish, looking at some exciting possibilities for being part of the parish's evangelization efforts. Bring your favorite holiday goodies to share!

The diocesan-wide young adult basketball open gym is back for another season!!! We will be playing Mondays from 7 to 8:30 PM at Blessed Sacrament School in Madison (we started December 10). Come as often as you can. There will be full- and half-court games as well as other activities like lighting and 21. Show up if you're interested in playing!

Here's 5 easy and practical suggestions for being hospitable at Mass:

- Sit in the middle of the pew right away so that those who come later can easily join you.
- If you need to be at the end of a pew, and someone wishes to enter, stand up and usher them in with a smile.
- Park in the lower tiers of the parking lot to leave room for those with small children or mobility issues.
- If someone doesn't have a missal or song book, give them yours or look on together.
- Hand back dropped toys to little ones with a smile and a wink for mom and dad.

And for extra credit: Introduce yourself to someone new, saying "Hi! I don't remember meeting you before. Have you been coming to Mass here long?" If they are visiting, or new to the parish, welcome them enthusiastically and let them know how much you are glad to have them here.

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